

## Frequently Asked Questions: ADOPTION

---

### **What is adoption?**

Adoption is the permanent home option for children who have been in foster care. Children are legally free for adoption only after the court has terminated the parental rights of the birth parents.

### **Who are the children awaiting adoption?**

Children in care range in age from 0 to 21 and frequently have siblings who must remain together. More than half are of minority decent. Some of these children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities ranging from mild to severe. Children enter foster care due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. All have endured the trauma of being separated from their families. Just as each child is an individual, the challenges in meeting their needs will vary, but they all need patience, understanding and unconditional love.

### **Do I have to be married to become an adoptive parent?**

You do not have to be married.

### **Do I have to own my own home to become an adoptive parent?**

You do not have to own your own home; in fact, many adoptive parents rent their residence.

### **What are the age requirements to become an adoptive parent?**

The minimum age is 21. There is no maximum age limit.

### **What type of support services are provided after a child is placed in my home?**

Adoptive parents who are employed or enrolled in school full time may be able to receive childcare services

### **What are the training requirements for becoming adoptive parents?**

You are required to complete a 27 hour pre-service program called Specialized Training, Assessment, Resources, Support and Skills (STARS), plus an additional 12 hours of specialized training. In two-parent homes, both parents must complete the required number of training hours.

### **Do I have to foster before I can adopt?**

No, you do not have to become a foster parent before you are able to become an adoptive parent.