

Champions for Children

10 Misperceptions of Adoptive Parents



Misperception #1 – The birthmother just doesn't love her child.

In reality, there are many choices available to a birthmother. Carrying a child through pregnancy and then placing that child for adoption actually shows a lot of love. Other choices she could have made include the termination of her pregnancy.

Misperception #2 – Adoption is the “easy way out.”

Just as parenting is not always easy, there is nothing easy about making an adoption plan. Grief and loss are part of every relinquishment and adoption, and they are never “easy” to deal with. The role of the pregnancy counselor is to help the expectant mother make the best decision for her child. “Best” does not always equal “easy.”

Misperception #3 – The birthmother will never get over the grief of relinquishing a child.

Working through grief and loss is a process that takes time. It is important for the birthmother to have a trained counselor to help her through the process, which varies from individual to individual.

Misperception #4 – In a domestic infant adoption, the birthparent will come back in a few years and take the child back.

The termination of rights of a birthparent is a legal process eliminating the option of a birthparent returning for his or her child. It is also an emotional process, and birthparents who opt for adoption don't want to disrupt it.

Misperception #5 – Kids will get confused in open adoptions.

Children are smarter than we give them credit for. They know who is there with them every day. It is not healthy for the child to be denied his or her history, whether it is a medical history or a family history.

Misperception #6 – I can't love an adopted child like I could a biological child.

Talk to any adoptive parent and they will tell you that this is completely false. Parents will go through a variety of emotions with their biological children and their adopted children.

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Misperception #7 – Only childless couples adopt.

This was basically true years ago when the rules were stricter. However, this has changed. Many couples with children are adopting because they have love to share, and they see the great need so many children have for permanent families.

Misperception #8 – Adopted children will never really attach to their adoptive families.

While there may be issues that children have to deal with, especially if they are adopted as older children, experience shows us that these children can and do attach to their new families. Every experience is unique and reflects the history of the child.

Misperception #9 – It is just too expensive to adopt.

There are fees for services that are incurred by all adoption agencies, and this is why choosing a not-for-profit agency is important. Tax credits and grants are also available for many types of adoptions. Where God leads, God will provide.

Misperception #10 – Every couple adopts for the same reason.

Circumstances and motivations may be different for adoptive families, but the end result is the same: children find a home and a family—forever.

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