

Older Child Adoption through the State and Intercountry Adoptions were discussed in Adoption Options Part One.

DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION

Domestic infant adoptions are the type of adoption most people think of when speaking about adoption. They are completely voluntary, and no foreign government is involved.

Typically, the process for adoptive families consists of a Home Study, the preparation of a profile, and then the waiting time. Most expectant parents select the family who will adopt their child. Once the child is born, the birthparents generally revisit their decision to make sure this is the best option for them and for their child.

1. What are the differences between open, semi-open, and closed/confidential adoptions?

The issue among these types of adoptions really has to do with how much “openness” and contact there will be in the adoption.

Open Adoption could include the exchange of the last names, addresses, e-mails, and phone numbers of the adoptive parents and birthparents. There is a plan for ongoing contact.

Semi-Open Adoption uses a third party to exchange letters and photos.

Closed/Confidential Adoption does not involve an exchange of any information or ongoing contact, although the available birth history, social and medical history, and family history are passed on to the adoptive family before placement.

Adoptive parents need to remember that the social and medical history of a child is very important. They could help children understand more about themselves, like their musical interests or talents, personal likes and dislikes, and their overall disposition. Every child has a right—and a need—for his or her history.

2. What are some typical costs associated with domestic infant adoption?

There are agency fees for social work services and for assessments. An agency will typically charge the adoptive family for the counseling of birthparents and other related expenses. This could include expenses to ensure a healthy pregnancy, such as food, rent, and medical care for the birthmother, as well as legal fees. This is called a pass-through expense. While a Federal Adoption Tax Credit is available for domestic infant adoptions, each family should consult with their professional tax advisor for the specifics about the Federal Adoption Tax Credit (and possible state adoption tax credits) and how it will affect them.

Adoption Options: Part Two

3. Which population of domestic children has the greatest need for adoptive families?

Older children are usually the most difficult children to place in families. Of the approximately 125,000 children available for adoption right now in the United States, most are older children who may be adopted through the State.

4. Relational or Kinship Adoption

This is a type of adoption in which a child is adopted by a family member—grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc.

5. Stepparent Adoption

Stepparent adoption occurs when one of the parents marries another person and then that person legally adopts the child.

6. Embryo Adoption

For more information about adopting cryopreserved embryos, go to www.bethany.org and click on “Embryo Services.”

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