

## Deciding to Adopt



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## Services

Family Choices, NFPC offers many valuable services to adopting parent(s) including:

- Domestic and International Home Studies
- Adoption Education Classes
- Post Placement Services
- Foster Care Licensing
- Adoption Placement
- Subsidy Processing Assistance
- International Adoption Services
- Interstate Adoption Services
- Other Related Services

### Family Choices, NFPC and You!

Building loving families one home at a time

## Deciding To Adopt

The decision to adopt takes a lot of thought and you will need to address many different questions and feelings. You will encounter many issues and differing feelings throughout the adoption process. There is no one single answer for everyone, this is why every Family Choices, NFPC adoption is different and tailored to the individual needs of the adopting couple, birth parents, and the best interests of the child or children.



When you begin to consider adoption there are many questions you should ask yourself. Your spouse, if applicable, should also ask themselves these questions, and then you should discuss the answers with each other. We suggest you write your answers down on paper first, then discuss them with your significant other. Remember, this is not an all encompassing list, it is a place to start. The questions will be listed later in this brochure, after a discussion about some things to consider when answering them.

You may need to educate yourself, or find out more about some of the question areas, so that you can make a better informed decision. Remember, the staff at Family Choices is here to help you find the information you may need.

The first question you should consider is Why you want to adopt? This can often guide the rest of your considerations as you go through the entire adoption process. Also you will need to consider your family dynamics, the type of adoption you would prefer, and what types of adoptions you are willing or able to do. Things like age, race, nationality, special circumstances or needs, financial considerations, gender, sibling groups, parenting roles and responsibilities, and the risks you are willing to take should be considered now. Keep in mind that children come in all different manners, and many things you might think now about adoption or the kind of adoption you are willing to do may change as you learn more about the adoption process. Education and keeping an open mind are the keys to a successful adoption. Be open and honest with yourself and your significant other when answering these questions, and remember there are no right or wrong answers.

### Questions To Ask Yourself

Why you want to adopt?

On a Scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being highest, how much do you want to adopt?

If you have a spouse or partner, who wants to adopt more, or do you both want to adopt equally?

If one of you wants to adopt more than the other, will this cause conflict in your relationship?

Are you willing to consider Domestic Adoption, International Adoption, or both?

What age child would you prefer to adopt?

Newborn/Infant (0 to 12 months old)

Younger Child (1 year to 5 years old)

Older Child (over 5 years old)

How firm are you on the age(s) selected above?

Are you willing to consider adopting a child of a different racial heritage or a mixture of racial heritages?

Are you willing to consider a child with special considerations or needs? Remember special needs is a broad category, and your adoption specialist can discuss the many different types of conditions that fall into these areas. Many of them are short term and have no or mild long term implications. Special needs in adoption is defined differently than in education. Consider the following:

- No Known Special Needs
- Correctable Special Needs
- Mild Special Needs
- Moderate Special Needs
- Greater Special Needs

What level of openness are you will to consider with birth-parents?

- Completely Open
- Open with reasonable boundaries
- Exchange pictures and letters only
- Completely Confidential

Will you consider twins or sibling groups?

How much time off work can you take during and after the adoption?

Will the costs of adoption be an economic hardship for you?

What kind of family support system do you have, and will they be supportive of an adoption?

What do you feel you can contribute to a child?

**Remember these are only some initial questions you should ask yourself, and the answers may change over time. Many more questions will come up through the adoption process, but remember the staff at Family Choices is here to help.**