

ADOPTION AWARENESS

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Because Every Child Deserves a Family

Things to Know About Adoption:

Traditionally, all adoptions were **CLOSED** adoptions. Today, many adoptions are **OPEN** adoptions meaning the birth-family maintains some contact with the child.

There are **PRIVATE** adoptions (handled by agencies and attorneys) and there are **PUBLIC** Agency adoptions (for example, when a child is adopted from foster care).

Both **DOMESTIC** Adoption (within the US) and **INTERCOUNTRY** Adoption are possible.

Many families consider their adoption stories private. They have nothing to hide they just prefer not to share their personal information.

Even families who are very open with their adoption story might be uncomfortable answering questions about:

- ◇ Birth-family Information
- ◇ Adoption-related Costs
- ◇ Infertility
- ◇ Why they chose international/
domestic/public/private/open/
closed adoption

When talking with any family, your words matter. Here are some terms to avoid when talking with adoptive families:

- ◇ **“Real”** or **“Natural”** — An adoptive parent is a real parent and there’s nothing un-natural about adoption. People usually mean *birth-family* or *biological parent* when using these terms.
- ◇ **“Your Own”** — As in, “Did you try to have a child of your own before adopting?” or “They had two children of their own and then adopted two more.” Again, people usually mean biological.
- ◇ **“Lucky”** — Avoid saying an adopted child is lucky or blessed to have been adopted. Remember, the child was not in control of the situation leading to her adoption. It’s normal for children to have all sorts of feelings about being adopted, including grief over the loss of their birthparent(s).

To learn more about adoption:

- ◇ www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_adoptoption.cfm
- ◇ www.nationaladoptionday.org/media-room
- ◇ www.davethomasfoundation.org
- ◇ www.ccainstitute.org
- ◇ AdoptUSKids.org is a national website featuring children available for adoption from foster care in the US