



Adoption Council of Ontario

How to Adopt In Ontario

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Every child deserves a loving family. Many families are interested in adopting a child AND have what a child needs – a loving, nurturing family environment and the ability to provide a child or children with attention and guidance they need to grow. Adoption is a big step, and naturally, hundreds of questions come to mind. You may want to know:

- What is adoption and is it right for me?
- What kinds of children are available for adoption?
- How much does it cost and will it take a long time?
- What kinds of questions will I have to answer about myself and my family?
- How do I get started?

Adoption can be a long and sometimes bumpy journey. But the rewards can be truly wonderful. This guide is intended to give you some basic information about the process of adoption to get you started on the journey.

Adoption is a permanent, legal transfer of all parental rights from one person to another person or couple. Adoptive parents have the same rights and responsibilities as parents whose children are born to them. Adoptive parents are real parents!

Types of Adoption

There are three types of non-relative adoption in Ontario:

- Public adoption through a Children's Aid Society
- Private adoption through a licensed agency or individual
- International adoption through a licensed non-profit organization

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is responsible for all adoptions in Ontario. Children available for adoption are placed through a Children's Aid Society or a private adoption licensee/ agency. Relative or step-parent adoptions are handled by the family court - contact a lawyer or court house for details. <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/cadaddr.asp>

There are two kinds of adoption involving children living in Ontario: **public** and **private**. Adoptions done through a Children's Aid Society (CAS) are called public adoptions. CAS's have the authority to review and approve their own adoption placements. Private adoption is carried out by individual licensees or agencies licensed by the Ministry. Approval of private adoptions is done by the Ministry. There are some differences in procedure between public and private adoption, but in either case the child's welfare is the most important consideration.



Every Child Deserves a Forever Family.

www.adoption.on.ca

