



Adoption Council of Ontario

Private Adoption

All private adoption placements are referred to the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Private and International adoption unit, for approval.

Each private adoption involves an approved adoption practitioner who is working for the family, a counsellor who is working with the birth parents and an adoption licensee who takes responsibility for managing the placement, submitting material to the Ministry and facilitating the legal processes.

All fees for activities involved in the adoption process are covered by the adoptive family. The Ministry provides clear guidelines about what costs can be billed. Adoption professionals contract directly with families for payment of their fees.

The general process for a Private Adoption placement is as follows:

- ★ Birth parent(s) themselves contact or are referred to a licensee or licensed agency to discuss adoption as an option.
- ★ Birth parent counselling is available at no cost to the birth parents, to provide support and information, review options and determine if adoption is the best choice for their baby. Birth parents also learn about their legal rights and responsibilities.
- ★ Prospective adoptive parents may also contact a private practitioner or licensee to find out about possible placements.
- ★ Adoptive parents would go through a preparation / homestudy process the same as in the public process with an approved adoption practitioner of their choice.
- ★ Applicants may also prepare a picture profile of themselves and submit it to any licensee, licensed agency or Children's Aid Society.
- ★ The couple's adoption practitioner would share a copy of the completed homestudy with a licensee or agency if requested.
- ★ The birth parent(s) review the family profiles given by the counsellor.
- ★ Information from the home study may also be shared.
- ★ The social and medical history of the birth family members is obtained as much as possible.
- ★ Potential adoptive parents review the social and medical history of the birthparent(s) and their families.
- ★ In most cases, once the prospective adoptive parents are selected, they meet the birth parent(s) and birth and adoptive parents have the opportunity to get to know each other prior to and after the baby's birth.
- ★ All information sharing between adoptive applicants and birth parents is non-identifying until parties have agreed to their identities being shared.
- ★ The licensee submits the homestudy and birth parent information and details of the proposal to the Ministry for approval. Approval must be granted prior to the child going home with the prospective adoptive parents. In some cases, the child may need to go to an approved private foster parent home for a short time while legal and other issues are sorted out.

- ★ Adoptive parents may take the child home from the hospital if the Ministry has approved the placement and the birth family requests a direct hospital placement.
- ★ Consent to Adoption forms are signed by the birthparent(s) in the presence of a lawyer, no sooner than 8 days after the baby's birth.
- ★ Birth parent(s) have 21 days after the consent is signed to revoke consent and have the child returned to them
- ★ Once the 21 day revocation period has ended, the adoption practitioner will continue to meet with the family for a six month period of time after which a report on the adjustment of the child in the home will be submitted to the Ministry for approval to finalize the adoption placement. The adoption licensee will support the completion of the related forms and the adoption will be finalized in the family court.

Private adoption practitioners who are approved to conduct homestudies and to supervise adoption placements:

[://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/resources/child/STEL02_179892.html](http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/resources/child/STEL02_179892.html)

List of agencies who are licensed to facilitate private adoptions:

[://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/resources/child/STEL02_179879.html](http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/resources/child/STEL02_179879.html)



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