

## THE ADOPTION OPTION

**“Couples often wait years for a baby. Deciding to place a baby for adoption is a wonderful gift.”**

**“How can you encourage women to place their baby for adoption instead of getting an abortion, when so many kids are waiting for homes?”**

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**How do we resolve this apparent contradiction? The problem comes from misunderstanding of the adoption process. Adoption is not one system, but several. Giving a baby up for adoption does not deprive other children of parents, and is an ethical choice for women in crisis pregnancies.**



# Waiting Children, Waiting Parents



**UNDERSTANDING  
ADOPTION AS AN  
ABORTION  
ALTERNATIVE**

# Understanding Adoption

There are two basic types of domestic adoption: private adoption, which is used as an abortion alternative, and adoption from foster care, which involves children in the care of the state.

## PRIVATE ADOPTION

When a woman makes plans to place her unborn child in an adoptive home, it is usually through a private adoption agency or law firm. The child never passes through state custody. This system is primarily used by families who want to adopt infants. The biological mother reviews profiles and chooses one of many waiting families to raise her child. There are always enough families waiting to accommodate the child. In fact, many wait years before being chosen to adopt a baby.

Private adoptions may be:

- Open: The birthmother remains a part of the baby's life
- Semi-open: The birthmother is not directly involved in the baby's life, but receives photos, updates, and/or occasional visits
- Closed: The birthmother and baby have no contact, and adoption records are sealed until the child reaches 18.

## ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE

Most children in foster care were forcibly removed from their original homes by the state, rather than being voluntarily placed for adoption by their parents. Most have been exposed to neglect or abuse by their biological families; many have disabilities. These are the children you hear about in public service announcements, the children who are waiting for a permanent, loving home.

### So why don't all those waiting families in the private system adopt from foster care?

There are a variety of reasons. Many families feel ill-equipped to handle the special emotional and medical needs of foster children. Others want an open relationship with the birth parents, which often isn't possible in foster situations. Some simply have their hearts set on an infant.

One thing is for sure. **Placing a baby for adoption, or adopting a baby, does NOT deny another child the chance for a forever family.**

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

[Adoption.com](http://Adoption.com)

[AdoptionInstitute.org](http://AdoptionInstitute.org)

[AdoptUSKids.org](http://AdoptUSKids.org)

[Bethany.org](http://Bethany.org)

[DaveThomasFoundation.org](http://DaveThomasFoundation.org)

[RainbowKids.com](http://RainbowKids.com)

[Precious.org](http://Precious.org)



## OTHER TYPES OF ADOPTION

International adoption: Adopting a child from a foreign country poses unique challenges, but is very rewarding. International adoption can give children from poverty-stricken countries a better life.

Embryo adoption: In embryo adoption, an embryo left over from in-vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment is implanted into the womb of a biologically unrelated woman. This allows the adoptive family to bond with the baby during pregnancy and birth.