

What Is Adoption?

Adoption is the social, emotional, and legal process in which children who will not be raised by their birth parents become full and permanent legal members of another family while maintaining genetic and psychological connections to their birth family.—Child Welfare Information Gateway

What Are the Types of Adoption?



Domestic

Domestic adoption is the adoption of children who reside in the U.S., either through the public child welfare system or private adoption.



Adoption from the Public Child Welfare System

Also referred to as adoption from foster care, this type of adoption occurs for children whom the state has determined that reunification with their first/birth parent(s) is not possible for safety or other reasons. These types of adoptions are arranged by state child welfare agencies or by private agencies under contract with states.



Private Adoption

Can be arranged either through an agency or an attorney. In agency adoption, children are placed through a non-profit or for-profit agency that is licensed by the state to provide adoption services, including the placement of children for adoption. In other types of private adoption, children are placed directly with adoptive parents by first/birth parents or with the help of a facilitator or attorney depending on each state's regulations.



Intercountry

The adoption of children from other countries by U.S. citizens. They are usually arranged through adoption agencies. The US Department of State oversees intercountry adoptions and rules and regulations for this type of adoption differ by country of origin and whether or not the country is a party to the Hague Convention.



Transracial

This is a subgroup of both domestic and intercountry adoption and refers to children who are placed for adoption with families of a different race or ethnicity from the child.



Kinship

An adoption where a relative, such as a grandparent or an aunt/uncle, or a close family friend, adopts the child. They may or may not be biologically related to the child as well.

Source: www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/intro

