

Who Is Involved?



The Extended Family of Adoption

The extended family of adoption refers to individuals who have a personal connection to adoption. Primarily, this is the First/Birth Parent, Adopted Person and the Adoptive Parent. This is also inclusive of other relatives and family members that are also impacted by the adoption experience (for example, siblings, first/birth grandparents and other family).

First/Birth Parent

This is an individual who has surrendered their parental rights to their child(ren) or a person whose rights were terminated by the state due to concerns for the child's safety and well-being.

Adopted Person

A person who joins a family through adoption and was raised by a non biological parent(s). They may have been raised by a relative (biological or non biological) through the process of kinship adoption.

Adoptive Parent

An individual or couple who has legally adopted a child of whom they are not the biological parent.

Foster Child

A child who is being temporarily cared for by an individual other than their biological parent(s), typically due to child welfare concerns. The child may be cared for by a relative or someone prior unknown to them.

Foster Parent

A person who has been trained and licensed through a state child welfare agency to provide temporary care to a child who is currently unable to be cared for by their biological parent(s).

Case Worker/Social Worker

The individual responsible for working with the members involved in adoption planning. Some states require this individual to have a background and licensure in Social Work to perform these services.

Adoption Agency

An agency that is licensed by the state within which they practice to provide adoption-related services, which may include services related to the placement of a child(ren) for adoption. Agencies can be for-profit or non-profit depending on the requirements of the state they are practicing in. They can be public, private, secular or religious.

Adoption Attorney

A person who is a licensed attorney and specializes in the practice of adoption.

Adoption Facilitator

A non-licensed or approved entity or person that acts on behalf of an expectant parent and/or adoptive parent in connection with the placement of a child for adoption. Most states have regulations in place that impact the use and/or activities of Adoption Facilitators.

Source: www.childwelfare.gov

