

# ADOPTING AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANTS: FAQs

## ARE THERE AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANTS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION?

Yes. Families are needed for newborns and very young infants.

## HOW QUICKLY CAN WE ADOPT AN AA NEWBORN?

If you are an AA single or couple, you can generally expect to take home your new baby within 6-9 months after you complete your home study.

## WHAT IS A HOMESTUDY?

A home study is a report on your readiness to adopt; it includes background checks and education about adoption.

## WHY DO WE NEED A HOMESTUDY?

The law requires that parents have an approved, current home study before adopting.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ADOPTING THROUGH A PUBLIC AGENCY AND A PRIVATE AGENCY?

Public agencies like a local department of social services help families in trouble and protect children by placing them in foster care if needed. Public agencies have the legal right to involuntarily remove children from their biological families and the responsibility to reunify the family, if possible. Public agencies are funded with tax revenue. A private agency like Adoptions Together can take custody of a child only if the child's parents voluntarily agree to terminate their parental rights and place their child for adoption. Adoptions through private agencies are funded through fees charged for their services.



## WHY DOES ADOPTION COST MONEY THROUGH A PRIVATE AGENCY?

A private agency like Adoptions Together does not charge birth parents for the counseling and other services required to place a child for adoption. The cost of birth parent counseling (including those who choose not to place a child for adoption), preparation and approval of an adoptive family and care for the baby during the adoption process are covered through fees charged to the adoptive parents.

## WHAT ARE THE BIOLOGICAL PARENTS LIKE?

Most biological parents choose adoption because they want a better life for their child than they believe that they can provide.

## WILL WE GET INFORMATION ABOUT BIRTH FAMILY HISTORY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ON THE CHILD?

Agencies do their best to collect medical and social information about a child's birth family and share all of this information with adoptive families.

Every Child, Every Family,  
Every Step of the Way

**ADOPTIONS  
TOGETHER**

### **ARE THERE FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTING AN INFANT?**

If the infant you are adopting has profound medical or genetic challenges, a financial subsidy may be available. Also, a federal tax credit is available to help most families who adopt.

### **HOW MUCH INFORMATION WILL THE BIRTH FAMILY HAVE ABOUT US -- THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY?**

Birth families will usually see your profile, a letter and picture presentation you put together to show birth parents who are selecting families. Identifying information is released only when you agree.

### **ARE THE BABIES HEALTHY?**

While many babies are healthy at birth, some have been exposed to drugs and alcohol during pregnancy. While you choose what health risks, prenatal conditions or family-based issues you are open to, it is possible that any child placed for adoption may have an underlying medical or developmental condition that is not known at the time of placement.

### **ARE OLDER CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION?**

Children ages 9 and older in foster care are able to be adopted through our AdoptionWorks program. Fees are lower and in some cases, subsidized.

### **WHAT IS OPEN ADOPTION?**

Open adoption varies greatly. It may involve one meeting between birth and adoptive parents before or after the birth of the child or include regular ongoing contact between the two families.

### **WILL WE HAVE AN OPEN ADOPTION?**

Open adoption is optional and only done when there's agreement between the birth and adoptive families. Our agency requires adoptive parents to send a yearly letter and photo that can be shared by the agency with birth parents.



### **HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT THE BIRTH PARENTS' RIGHTS ARE TERMINATED AND OUR CHILD WILL BE WITH US FOREVER?**

Every state has very strict laws concerning the termination of parental rights; Adoptions Together adheres to the law to ensure permanency and stability for you and your child.

### **HOW DO I GET STARTED TO ADOPT A BABY THROUGH ADOPTIONS TOGETHER?**

Adoptions Together holds regular free information meetings for prospective adoptive parents and you can register to attend through our website, [www.adoptionstogether.org](http://www.adoptionstogether.org). You can also download a detailed information packet about the infant adoption process, including financial assistance for adoption, from our website. We also welcome your call to 301-439-2900. Please ask to speak to a member of the Domestic Infant Adoption Team.

For more information:

[www.adoptionstogether.org](http://www.adoptionstogether.org)

(301) 439-2900 ~ Silver Spring Office

(301) 422-5114, [sogden@adoptionstogether.org](mailto:sogden@adoptionstogether.org)

Susan Ogden, Domestic Program Director



Every Child, Every Family,  
Every Step of the Way

# **ADOPTIONS TOGETHER**