

THE PATHWAYS OF ADOPTION



INTRODUCTION

Adoption & Beyond, Inc. urges each family to do their due diligence in researching and use their best judgment to determine the best Adoption Pathway for them. We encourage families to pursue more than one Adoption Path at a time. Our agency believes hopeful adoptive families who pursue more than one pathway vastly improve their opportunities to adopt more quickly. Please keep in mind that we cannot guarantee that a family will qualify for an adoption.

While there are costs and fees associated with all types of adoption, there are also a variety of resources available to help you afford them. In addition to State financial assistance for children adopted from foster care, families may also be able to access the federal tax credit, employer-provided adoption benefits, and loans, grants or fundraising to offset adoption expenses. Visit our website for adoption funding resources:

[HOW TO AFFORD ADOPTION](#)

THE PATHWAYS OF ADOPTION

- Domestic Agency
- Self-Networking
- Embryo
- Foster Care
- International

PATHWAY DETAILS

Parent Ages | 25–57

Residence | All 50 states (except NY).

Marriage Status (if applicable) | Married at least 1 year.

Financial Stability | Family must be able to show that they have sufficient income to provide for an additional child financially. They must also make reasonable provisions for future financial stability, such as life and medical insurance. An income and full financial evaluation are part of the adoptive home study process.

Medical History | Families must be in good mental and physical health with average life expectancy as determined by a physician. Families must be able to care for a child.

Prior Criminal History | Background checks are conducted for both open and closed records for each household member ages 17 and older. Families must document all arrests or convictions in the adoptive home study report. Therefore, discuss any criminal history with the Agency before applying for services.

Age of Children | Newborn.

Gender Specific | No.

Race Specific | Yes.

Travel | Agency typically only provides services in Kansas or Missouri. Therefore, travel is within these states.

Open Adoptions | Yes. There is usually communication between the birth and adoptive families before and after placement.

Processing Time | Wait time is unpredictable; however, most families adopt within 1 to 18 months.

Typical Cost | Approximately \$47,000, depending on the complexity of an individual case

Agency Role | To provide a domestic adoptive home study, agency placement, and post-supervision services.

Agency Fees | See our Domestic Agency Adoption Program Fee Schedule– [Here](#).



DOMESTIC AGENCY ADOPTION

An Agency Domestic Adoption occurs when an expecting birth parent considering an adoption plan for their child reaches out to Adoption & Beyond, to locate a hopeful adoptive family. The expecting birth parent selects an adoptive family based on a detailed family profile. Our program is based on the concept of open adoption in which expecting birth parents and hopeful adoptive families meet, choose each other, and create an ongoing relationship that benefits the child.

LEARN HOW TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE YOUR ADOPTION EXPENSES.
VISIT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAGE AT [ADOPTION-BEYOND.ORG](https://adoption-beyond.org).

PATHWAY DETAILS

Parent Ages | 25+

Residence | No residential requirements

Marriage Status (if applicable) | Married at least 1 year.

Financial Stability | Family must be able to show that they have sufficient income to provide for an additional child financially. They must also make reasonable provisions for future financial stability, such as life and medical insurances. An income and full financial evaluation are part of the adoptive home study process.

Medical History | Families must be in good mental and physical health with average life expectancy as determined by a physician. Families must be able to care for a child.

Prior criminal History | Background checks are conducted for both open and closed records for each household member ages 17 and older. Families must document all arrests or convictions in the adoptive home study report. Therefore, discuss any criminal history with the Agency before applying for services.

Age of Children | Newborn.

Gender and Race Specific | Not usually.

Open Adoptions | Yes. There is usually communication between the birth and adoptive families before and after placement.

Travel | Depends on the location where the adoption occurs.

Processing Time | Wait time is unknown; however, most families adopt within 2 years.

Typical Cost | Approximately \$27,000, depending on the complexity of an individual case

Agency Role | To provide a domestic adoptive home study and any required post-supervision report. To provide both the expecting birth parent and adoptive family with adoption services, education, and guidance.

Agency Fees | See our Home Study Fee Schedule-
[Here.](#)



SELF-NETWORKING ADOPTION

Self-networking Adoption occurs when a family locates an expecting birth mother considering adoption through their own self-networking. Self-networking efforts can include posting adoption wishes on-line, paid advertising, or spreading the word through close friends and family. Once a family locates an expecting birth mother, Adoption & Beyond, can assist families with their adoption efforts by providing both the expecting birth parent and the hopeful adoptive family with adoption services, education, and guidance.

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PATHWAY DETAILS

Parent Ages | 25–45

Residence | No residential requirements

Marriage Status (if applicable) | Married at least 3 years.

Financial Stability | Family must be able to show that they have sufficient income to provide for an additional child financially. They must also make reasonable provisions for future financial stability, such as life and medical insurances. An income and full financial evaluation is part of the adoptive home study process.

Medical History | Families must be in good mental and physical health with average life expectancy as determined by a physician. Families must be able to care for a child, and the hopeful adoptive mother must be able to carry a baby to term.

Prior Criminal History | Background checks are conducted for both open and closed records for each household member ages 17 and older. Families must document all arrests or convictions in the adoptive home study report. Therefore, discuss any criminal history with the Agency before applying for services.

Age of Children | Newborn.

Gender Specific | Not Usually.

Race Specific | Yes.

Open Adoptions | Yes. There is usually communication between the genetic and adoptive families before and after birth.

Travel | Yes, families travel to Knoxville, Tenn., twice: once for an exam and trial transfer and once for the embryo transfer procedure.

Processing Time | Wait time is about 9 months before an embryo transfer occurs.

Typical Cost | Approximately \$21,000, depending on the complexity of an individual case.

Agency Role | To provide a domestic adoptive home study and, if requested, a post-supervision report for the courts.

Agency Fees | See our Home Study Fee Schedule-
[Here.](#)



EMBRYO ADOPTION

This type of adoption occurs when a genetic family has remaining embryos from previous in-vitro fertilization treatments that they wish to donate to a family. Hopeful adoptive families received the embryos in hopes they will be able to become pregnant and give birth to their adopted embryo baby. The number of embryos available depends on how many embryos a donating family has available. Hopefully, once the embryos thaw, there will be at least one embryo available for transfer.

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VISIT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAGE AT [**ADOPTION-BEYOND.ORG.**](https://adoption-beyond.org)

PATHWAY DETAILS

Parent Ages | 25+

Residence | Normally within state of residence

Marriage Status (if applicable) | Married at least 1 year.

Financial Stability | Family must be able to show that they have sufficient income to provide for an additional child or children financially. They must also make reasonable provisions for future financial stability, such as life and medical insurance. An income and full financial evaluation are part of the adoptive home study process.

Medical History | Families must be in good mental and physical health with average life expectancy as determined by a physician. Families must be able to care for a child or children.

Prior Criminal History | Background checks are conducted for both open and closed records for each household member ages 17 and older. Families must document all arrests or convictions in the adoptive home study report. Therefore, discuss any criminal history with the Agency before applying for services.

Age of Children | Newborn to 18.

Gender and Race Specific | Yes.

Open Adoptions | Sometimes, depending on the birth family's current circumstances.

Travel | Depends on the location where the adoption occurs.

Processing Time | Wait time is unknown. The state foster care agency approves families to adopt a specific child.

Typical Cost | Minimal expenses because of state adoption assistance programs.

Agency Role | On rare occasions, the Agency provides a foster care adoptive home study. However, the family must first become a licensed foster parent (even if they don't plan to foster), which makes adopting from foster care smoother.

Agency Fees | See our Home Study Fee Schedule- [Here.](#)



FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

Children in the foster care system are removed from the home for various reasons—examples include abuse and neglect or alcohol and drug exposure. The primary focus for foster children is re-integration into their birth family's home. However, placing a child back into their original home is not always in the child's best interest. Your local public child welfare agency can work with you to identify children who are waiting for homes. Typically, they are older children, sibling groups, or children with medical or mental health issues. Hopeful adoptive parents must become a licensed foster parent before qualifying for a Foster Care Adoption.

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PATHWAY DETAILS

Parent Ages | 25+, individual countries may have other requirements.

Residence | Usually no residential requirements

Marriage Status (if applicable) | Married at least 1 year. Each country has its own length of marriage requirements.

Financial Stability | Family must be able to show that they have sufficient income to provide for an additional child financially. They must also make reasonable provisions for future financial stability, such as life and medical insurance. An income and full financial evaluation are part of the adoptive home study process.

Medical History | Families must be in good mental and physical health with average life expectancy as determined by a physician. Families must be able to care for a child. Some international countries have additional health requirements.

Prior Criminal History | Background checks are conducted for both open and closed records for each household member ages 17 and older. Families must document all arrests or convictions in the adoptive home study report. Therefore, discuss any criminal history with the Agency before applying for services.

Age of Children | 1 to 16 years old.

Gender and Race Specific | Yes.

Open Adoptions | No. There is typically no communication between the birth and adoptive families before or after placement, since most children are abandoned or orphaned.

Travel | Depends on the country. Either one or both adoptive parents must travel to the country for the adoption process and to bring the child back to the United States.

Processing Time | Wait time depends on the country and can range from 12 to 24 months.

Typical Cost | Approximately \$49,000, depending on the International Agency and Country.

Agency Role | To provide an International Hague Accredited adoptive home study and post-supervision services.

Agency Fees | See our Home Study Fee Schedule-
[Here.](#)

You can research each country here- comparison chart: [creatingafamily.org](https://www.creatingafamily.org)



INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

International Adoption occurs when a hopeful adoptive family adopts a child from outside the United States. Adoption & Beyond, Inc. (Agency) guides families in selecting which international placing agency (a.k.a. Primary Provider) best matches their family's dynamics. We network with several international agencies that have programs in many different countries. We work closely with the family's international placing agency to serve as the local liaison to complete the Hague Accredited International adoptive home study process and to provide post-supervision services.

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