



Christian
Family Care

6

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Adopting a Baby

Welcoming a baby into your home through adoption can be equal parts exciting and overwhelming. Our goal is to give you six things you should know before you move forward in your adoption journey.





1

Choosing an Agency

Adoption agencies may differ in the requirements and supports offered to families wanting to adopt. In Arizona, there are mandatory state requirements such as passing a background check and passing a home safety inspection, but agencies may have additional requirements. As you research agencies, it's essential to choose an agency that aligns with your values and beliefs.

2

Adoption Certification

The adoption certification process may take anywhere from four to six months. The process includes submitting all necessary paperwork, attending the adoption education classes, a thorough home study, and the court's decision regarding the family's suitability to adopt.



*“Father of the fatherless and protector
of widows is God in his holy habitation.
God settles the solitary in a home.”
Psalm 68: 5–6*

3

Waiting for a Match

The average wait for a child after your certification is variable. It can range from a few months to several years, depending on the agency’s number of waiting families and how open you are to birth parent and child situations.

4

The Right Fit

You can decide what kind of situation is right for you and your family. You will fill out a questionnaire regarding what kind of child you are comfortable adopting. Some things you’ll be asked to consider are whether you’re open to children of a different race, children with medical needs or possible developmental disabilities, if you have a preference on the sex of the child, etc. Your adoption caseworker can help you explore what each situation may really look like for your family. Your answers may change over time.

5

Raising Funds

Adoption costs vary depending on how you go about adopting and which agency you choose. There are a variety of ways that you can help fund your adoption.



Funding options include



Employer Assistance

Many companies offer benefits to employees to adopt. This can range from time off to financial reimbursements. Contact your HR department to see what benefits are available to you.

Adoption Tax Credit

You may qualify for the adoption tax credit if you adopted a child and paid out-of-pocket expenses relating to the adoption or if you adopted a child with special needs.

Various Fundraising Methods

Peer-to-peer fundraisers like GoFundMe are popular among families wanting to adopt. Selling t-shirts, dinner fundraisers, and garage sales are all creative ideas to help cover the costs of adoption.

Adoption Subsidy

A combination of state and federal funds of \$2,000 may be available to families who adopt a child with unique needs. Additional long-term benefits may be available if you adopt a child with special needs.

Military Subsidy

Active members of the U.S. Military may be eligible for up to \$2,000 in adoption cost reimbursement.

And lastly, learning about and considering open adoption





6

Open Adoption

There is a growing belief that open adoption is best for everyone involved, particularly the child, however it is the birthparent(s) preference regarding openness that guides her selection of an agency and adoptive family. Open adoption involves a face to face meeting with the birthparent(s) before placement, an exchange of identifying information, and a commitment on both sides to on-going contact, including visits. Open adoption is not shared parenting; at finalization, all legal rights transfer to the adoptive family as if that child had been born to them biologically.

Visits always occur with the birth parent(s) and the adoptive family present at a location comfortable to both parties.

Questions?

To learn more about the process of adopting and how to get started, feel free to contact Christian Family Care at Adoption@CFCare.org, or by phone at 602-234-1935.



Christian Family Care

Central Arizona

2346 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: 602-234-1935

Southern Arizona

3275 West Ina Road, Suite
155 Tucson, AZ 85741
Phone: 520-296-8255

Northern Arizona

3611 Crossings Drive, Suite
A Prescott, AZ 86305
Phone: 928-443-1150

CFCare.org
