

# How to Adopt a Child in Oklahoma



# Overview



Every family is unique, with their own reasons for considering adoption. While motivations may differ, the shared desire to provide love and stability to a child is what inspires so many families to pursue adoption.

The adoption process can feel complex, but most adoptions follow common steps, including specific requirements and filings.

Understanding how adoption works in Oklahoma can give your family the clarity you need to decide if adoption is the right path for you

# Pre-Adoption

When adopting in Oklahoma, you'll first decide between an infant or older child. Each path comes with its own rewards and challenges.

## Infant vs. Older Child Adoption

In infant adoptions, children are often placed at birth, though some eligible infants may be a few months to a year old. Many older children come from the foster care system, where children who are eligible for adoption are matched with loving families.

Unlike infants, older children, especially those over age 10, often face greater challenges finding a forever home, making these adoptions incredibly impactful.

## Research and Education

Before beginning the process, explore resources that can guide you, including:

- National Resource Center for Youth Services
- Oklahoma CASA Association
- Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
- Oklahoma Family Network

Once you're ready, start by completing your Adoption Planning Questionnaire (APQ) and creating an adoption profile. Understanding your options and preparing in advance helps make the journey smoother for your family.





# The Filing Process

## Adoption Requirements

After beginning the initial stages of the adoption process, you'll need to meet Oklahoma's foster and adoption requirements. These include:

- You must be at least 21 years old
- You may be single, married, legally separated, divorced, or widowed

## Adoption Home Study

Once you meet the initial requirements, you will complete a pre-placement home study. During this process, a social worker will visit your home, interview family members, and observe your daily life to ensure you can provide the care and resources a child needs.

**The home study typically takes several weeks and includes:**

- Completion of OKDHS forms and application
- Reference checks
- Background checks
- Medical examination report
- Family assessment and interviews with household members
- Home safety assessment
- Verification of income
- Verification of pet vaccinations
- Verification of vehicle insurance

**The home study also confirms that:**

- You have, or will provide, enough beds and space for the child's belongings
- You can manage your income to meet your family's financial needs
- You are capable of understanding, loving, and accepting a child
- If married, your spouse participates in the home assessment

## The Waiting Period

Once your home study is complete, the next step is matching with a birth family or waiting child through an agency. The length of this stage can vary, with preferences and timing playing a significant role.

# Post Adoption

Even after the filing process is complete, challenges can arise on the adoption journey. This is when the support of family, friends, and adoption support groups becomes invaluable. Every family's experience is different, but having the knowledge, tools, and guidance to meet your child's needs is key to building a strong, loving family.



Our family law team at Ball Morse Lowe can guide you through the adoption process from start to finish, helping your family navigate each step with confidence and care.

