

Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO)

Getting Started in Adoption/
How to Adopt Seminar



Introductions

👋 ACO Presenters

👋 ACO Organization







👋 Guest Speakers

What is Adoption?

- ♥ “Adoption is the permanent, legal transfer of all parental rights from one person to another person or couple.
- ♥ Adoptive parents have the same rights and responsibilities as parents whose children are born to them.

Your Readiness to Adopt

Do you have:

-  Beliefs about Adoption
-  patience and perseverance?
-  a sense of humour and an ability to keep life in perspective?
-  a clear understanding of why you want to adopt?
-  a partner who is committed as you to adoption ?
-  a love of children and of being a parent?

Tips for Beginners

- Attend information sessions (like this one!) about adoption and get as many resources as you can.
- Try calling your local Children's Aid Society (CAS) or other agency for more information.
- Get as educated as possible: books, seminars, support groups, and online groups

Basic Requirements in Ontario

- 📄 Adoption Homestudy
- 📄 PRIDE Training (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education course)
- 📄 Adoptions in Ontario are overseen by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)

Adoption Homestudy

Often referred to as “SAFE”

 Standard form for **all** adoptive applicants

 4-6 interviews with your adoption practitioner, approx.
6-8 months to complete

Topics discussed:

 Motivation for adopting / understanding of what adopting means (eg. open and closed)

 Personalities, skills, interests, talents

 Education, career, employment, child care plans after becoming parents








 Lifestyle, interests, hobbies

Adoption Homestudy cont'd

- 💡 Religion and spirituality
- 💡 Family background and childhood
- 💡 Marriage and relationships
- 💡 Views on parenting
- 💡 Accommodation and financing
- 💡 Age, ethnicity, health, etc. of children that would best match you
- 💡 Understanding of sharing adoption information with your child

Paperwork Requirements

(Please see **page 22** of Getting Started in Adoption Package for details)

-  Letters of reference
-  Medical / medical specialist letters
-  Letters of employment- (salary, position, length of employment)
-  Marriage / divorce certificate(s), if applicable
-  Police / Child Welfare clearances
-  Home safety checklist
-  Financial statement

PRIDE Training

👂 Nine modules, 27 hours of training for **all** adoptive applicants

Designed to help adoptive parents raise their children, PRIDE training addresses:

- ① Adoption and child welfare systems, processes, and laws
- ① Attachment-a central issue in all adoptions
- ① Loss issues in adoption
- ① Impact of adoption on your family
- ① Child development and management

PRIDE Training cont'd

- ① Issues specific to adopted children's needs
- ① Effects of neglect, abuse, lack of stimulation, and institutionalization on children
- ① Identity formation and the importance of cultural and racial awareness
- ① Importance of connections and continuity for children

Types of Adoption in Ontario

👉 CAS

👉 Private

👉 International



Public Adoption Process

- ✿ Contact your local CAS and attend an information session
- ✿ Children waiting for adoption range in age from infants to teens
- ✿ “Special needs” can mean anything from being older, a sibling group, or having very mild to more severe physical/emotional/behavioural difficulties
- ✿ Will have access to all available medical and social history of your child

PRIVATE Adoption

- Licensee, private practitioner, birth parent counsellor = team
- Birth parent(s) approach licensee or licensed agency
- Birth parent counselling
- AP homestudy, preparation and profile
- Signing of consents and 21 day revocation

Private Adoption Expenses

Costs include:

- 💰 Time involved in coordination of birth parents, adoptive parents, and others involved in the adoption process
- 💰 Birth parent counselling before and after birth and adoption
- 💰 Time involved in completing paperwork and submission to the Ministry
- 💰 Legal fees
- 💰 NO money to birth parents directly

International Adoption Process

- ✈ Average age of child is 8 months to 3 years
- ✈ Very country-specific in terms of cost, wait times, children, etc. Consult **Inter-country Chart** for countries Ontario is licensed to deal with, then contact the applicable agency
- ✈ General process: dossier arrives; proposal for child sent back; decide yes or no; if yes, travel to country, if no continue to wait for another child proposal

International Adoption Expenses

💰 Costs depend on the country you are adopting from-contact the agencies for more details

Costs include, among other fees:

💰 Preparation of dossier to be sent to the country you are adopting from

💰 Administrative fees (translations, legal expenses, and paperwork)

Openness

- What does openness mean?
- Degrees of openness: anywhere from e-mails to regular face to face visits
- Openness can be with: birth parents, birth relatives, foster family, any significant people in your child's life before they were adopted
- Common in public and private adoption, but birth family and significant others will ALWAYS be an important part of your child's life, even if they were adopted internationally

Guest Speakers

- Public Adoption
- Private Adoption
- International Adoption
- Questions?

The End (phew!)

Still have questions?

Please contact us at any time:

416-482-0021 or info@adoption.on.ca

Thank you and good luck!!!

