
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What's the best way to find out about which adoption option is best for us?

A: Catholic Charities believes it is important for you to have as much knowledge as possible before you make your decision about how to build your family. The best way to learn more about how Catholic Charities Adoption Program can help you is to call your local office or come in and visit with one of our Adoption Specialists. This initial visit is free and will give you a chance to see what option best fits your needs.



Q: Does Catholic Charities only serve Catholic families? Is preference shown for Catholic families?

A: Catholic Charities serves all denominations. Birth parents state the religion they would like the adoptive parents to be. Profiles of adoptive families of the same religious background are shown.

Q: How do I adopt an infant from Catholic Charities?

A: The first step is to initiate and complete the Adoption Inquiry process. By requesting adoption information, you have already begun the process. Approximately 30 days from your initial contact, you will receive a call from your caseworker to arrange the Inquiry appointment. At this time you will discuss the programs available at Catholic Charities, the Foster Licensing requirements and issues surrounding Open Adoption.

Q: What is Adoption Outreach?

A: Potential adoptive parents, using their own resources, share with friends and family their wish to adopt. Resources including letters, business cards, word-of-mouth, Internet services and newspaper advertisements. Once an initial contact is made with potential birth parents, the birth family can enter into counseling with a Catholic Charities Woman's Counseling and Support Services (WCSS) counselor. The birth family's physical, emotional and medical needs are attended to. (The agency would not have the opportunity to reach these birth parents without the assistance of the adoptive parents who are working toward a placement on their own.)

Q: Isn't open adoption something like co parenting?

A: No, open adoption is not co parenting. The adoptive parents are in every way the parents to their adopted child. Birth parents who work with Catholic Charities Women's Counseling and Support counselors understand the importance of each parent in the life of the child. Because birth parents are honored as life givers and for making a loving plan for their child, birth parents know they are very important to the child and generally develop a loving relationship with the child and the adoptive family.



Q: Are the children available through Catholic Charities Domestic Adoption Program in good health?

A: All of the children in the Domestic Adoption Program have been examined by a pediatrician and given a medical release. Some children have minor medical problems that will require further treatment or surgery, as coordinated by the adoptive parents. Prior to being placed with an infant, adoptive parents are asked to list those medical conditions which are not acceptable to them. All known medical information and birth family medical history is shared with the adoptive family prior to placement.

Q: We were thinking about adopting an older child, but wonder if it is too hard to make a difference when the child is already ten or eleven?

A: It is never too late to make a difference in the life of a child. Yes, older children come to the adoption process with some specific needs, but you have an opportunity to work individually with your caseworker to establish what kind of concerns you can and cannot handle. The important thing to remember is that every child deserves a family and there are definite advantages to adopting an older child.

