

Adoption Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I “foster to adopt”?

The primary goal of foster care is to reunify a child with their biological family. Should a child not be able to be reunified, adoption may become the goal. Typically, children in foster care are adopted by their current foster parent or a relative of that child. Children who do not have an identified adoptive family are generally ages ten and older and have various mental health and behavioral needs.

2. What is the greatest need for and adoptive family?

Our agency completes adoptions through foster care only, for children ages 0-17. However, children who do not have identified adoptive families are generally ages 10-17. There is also a high need for adoptive parents who understand that children who have experienced trauma are likely to have a higher level of medical, mental health and behavioral needs. The greatest need is for adoptive parents who are willing to foster sibling groups, teenagers, and children with medical or mental health needs.

3. Who can adopt?

Adoptive parents are ages 18 or older, stable housing and legal, verifiable income to support their home. Orchards welcomes individuals from all backgrounds, relationship status, marital status, religious and cultural background. Please click on this link to see our: ***[Qualifications for Becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent]***

4. How long is the adoption process?

It generally takes a family six months or longer to complete the adoption process from the time an application is completed. The process can be delayed based on any barriers in your household that need to be resolved (i.e. home repairs, criminal history, obtaining beds/car seats, scheduling home visits) or delays in receiving required documentation. The adoption process can also take longer in situations where there is a competing party, which means there is more than one family that has expressed interest in adopting a specific child.

5. Is there a cost to adopting?

There is no cost for the completion of the licensing process and/or adoptive home study; however, to finalize an adoption, it generally costs up to \$300 per child that is paid to the county court.

6. I am interested in learning more about adoption, what do I do now?

Click on the link below to complete an online inquiry to start the process, and sign up for an orientation:

<http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51655478248971> [*Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent*]

7. For more information on foster care, please click on this link: [*Foster Care Frequently Asked Questions*]