

A Step By Step Guide To Adoption

Step 1 Application

The prospective adoptive parents make contact with an accredited social worker and submit an application. This can be done through your local Child Welfare or a private social worker.

Each social worker will have their own application forms, so check with your social worker to see what they will need from you.



Step 3 Waiting List

Once the screening process is complete and the prospective parents have been approved, their name is placed on a waiting list.

The length of time you wait is dependant on how specific you are with your criteria in terms of age, gender and race of child.



Step 2 Screening

The prospective adoptive parents will undergo a thorough screening and preparation process.

The screening process includes

- Police Clearance
- From 30 (sexual offenders clearance)
- Medicals
- Home Visits
- References
- Marriage assesments

Step 4 Matching

Parents will be informed when they are matched with a child and arrangements will be made for them to meet the child.

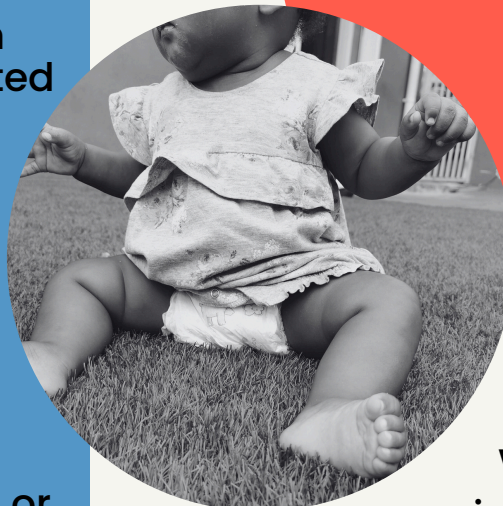
The parents will then follow a transition plan to get the child used to them. This will vary according to the age and needs of the child.



Adoption Don't s

It is illegal to adopt a child in any of the following ways.

- Through adverts or posts on social media
- Dealing directly with a birth mother without an accredited social worker
- Accepting an abandoned child from a public servant like a police officer, without completing the legal adoption process.
- Buying a child through an unaccredited social worker or unregistered home.



Step 5 Legislation

The official placement of the child with the adoptive parents is a legal process carried out through the Children's Court.

The adoption is finalised through the Children's Court. The adoption order is given stating that the child is yours as though born to you, with the same rights as a biological child.

A new birth certificate is applied for from The Department of Home Affairs.

Adoption Do's

There are only two legal ways to adopt in South Africa

- Through an adoption accredited organisation
- Through an adoption accredited social worker functioning within South Africa's legally accredited adoption system.

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