

# Eight Steps to Adopting a Child In Rhode Island.



Below is a step-by step look at the progression of adopting a child from Rhode Island in state care.



## Step 1 - Attend an adoption information meeting

Adoption Sessions are found on the [Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#) website

When you attend a session you can learn more about the process, this may be a bit a little different depending on where you are in the process and/or if your situation was an emergency placement or a traditional adoption track.



## Step 2 - Enroll in a home study/adoption preparation class.

- Prepare you to parent a child who has been in the care of the state foster/welfare system.
- Help you decide on what kind of child may fit best into your family dynamic.
- Connect you to a social worker to help you decide what may or may not be a good match your family and your child.

More information about classes are held will can be found on the DCFY website /or you can download and complete the required application below and return it to ([elice.doughty@dcyf.ri.gov](mailto:elice.doughty@dcyf.ri.gov) or DCYF, 101 Friendship St., Providence, RI 02903): [DCYF Training Application](#)



## Step 3 - Meet with an adoption home study writer in your home.

A home study prerequisite for any adoption and is conducted by a licensed home study writer. This is not about your decorating or housekeeping skills but rather to learn more about you.

### Benefits of a home study:

- The social worker will get to know you better.
- You can ask questions.
- You can discuss the kind of child you believe will be the best fit for your family.



## Step 4 - Complete a home study.

After completing the classes, the home study writer will meet with a few times to gather paperwork from you including.

- A portrayal of your family • Your lifestyle • The kind of child you wish to parent

\* A Home Study Can Only Be Completed Once You Are A licensed Foster Parent



### **Step 5** - *Wait for a match.*

DCYF caseworkers who work with the kind of child you are looking for selects the family who she/he believes can best meet the child's needs. This waiting period vary since all adoptions are unique and decided on a case by case basis.



### **Step 6** - *Learn about your match.*

Once you're certain it's a good match for the child or sibling group, and your family; your social worker will meet with you to present:

- Background information on the child or children (medical history, educational records, professional assessments, and other information).
- You will have the opportunity to ask questions and to speak with people who work or live with the child (foster parents, teachers, group home staff, etc).



### **Step 7** *Meet the child and begin visits.*

Once you've decided to proceed with your match, you will meet the child or children and begin a series of visits. At first, visits will last a few hours, building up to overnight and weekend stays.

On placement day, the child will officially move into your home!



### **Step 8** - *Finalize the adoption.*

After the child has lived with you for at least six months, you will go to Family Court and legally adopt the child or children!

She/he will then be given your last name, and you will have full parental rights and responsibilities as if the child were yours by birth.

**Congratulations ...** a forever home!

Note:

The process is a bit different if the child has been placed with you in an emergency situation.

**Parents** whose **children** are placed in **foster care** oftentimes receive supportive services from **child** welfare as well as a variety of other community providers to make reasonable efforts toward **reunification**. **Reunification** is further encouraged by policy mandates and state **child** welfare performance measures. Please speak with your social worker to learn more about the process.