

**What is adoption?** Adoption is the legal process by which permanent custody of a child is transferred from the birth parents to the adoptive parents. It is a legally binding, permanent decision.

**How do birth parents select their adoptive family?** FFTA spends time understanding the hopes and dreams a birth mother has for her unborn child, and then matches those as closely as possible with the characteristics of FFTA families or individuals who are waiting to adopt. We then present information to her on “matching” potential adoptive parents, and, if she agrees, we arrange for her to have written, telephone or in-person meetings with them. Birth mothers may also find you from your networking, advertising and online outreach, with which FFTA will assist you.

**How can we best communicate who we are to birth parents?** FFTA will help you prepare a letter that conveys information about you and your particular situation, as well as your dreams for the unborn child you are hoping to adopt. The letter will include pictures of you, your friends and family, as well as the home and life you will share with the baby. Once a birth mother decides to consider you, you are likely to have the chance to meet or speak with her, as well as to develop a relationship with her during her pregnancy.

**How long does it take to adopt?** The time is variable, but much of that variability is in your hands. The more proactive you are, and the more flexible you are regarding the child you are looking to adopt, the shorter the time may be.

On average, you can expect it could take between 6 and 24 months from the time you are approved by FFTA.

**Why does adoption cost so much?** A lot of work goes into an adoption, from FFTA's on-going networking and advertising efforts to identify birth mothers, to the counseling and financial support we often provide for them. Moreover, we are responsible for managing what is a long, paper-intensive and multi-dimensional process, that involves meeting state — and often interstate — requirements and expectations.

**Does FFTA conduct the home study?** FFTA employs qualified and experienced adoption professionals who are licensed to conduct home studies in the state of New York. We also maintain a network outside the state to assist families who reside elsewhere, and willingly review home studies completed by other licensed adoption agencies or approved professionals.

**What is an “open adoption”?** In an “open adoption,” birth families and adoptive families may know each other's identifying information, and may maintain on-going direct contact after placement. Adoptions can have all different degrees of “openness” — the families can share non-identifying or identifying information, depending upon the wishes of both parties.

**Does FFTA obtain medical records on the baby and the birth mother?** FFTA asks all of its birth mothers to sign a HIPAA-approved consent form to release their medical records, and requires that they complete HIV and drug

screenings. In addition, we obtain obstetrical records and sonogram reports, as well as pediatrician and hospital records once the baby is born.

**Can we be at the hospital when the baby is born?**

That is completely up to the birthmother. FFTA will discuss this with you, the birth mother and the hospital social worker prior to delivery.

**Can a birth parent change their mind and take the baby back? How secure is our adoption?**

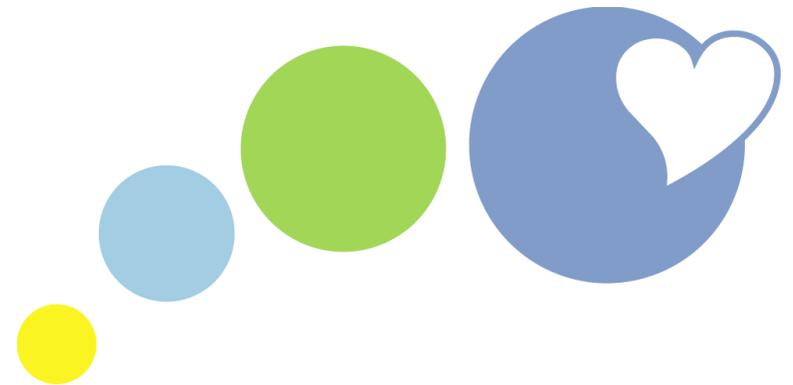
There are thousands of successful adoptions each year. But yes, sometimes adoptions are disrupted. Nationally, birth mothers try to revoke their consent in less than 1% of adoptions. In most of those cases, there were clear red flags during the process that were ignored. We at FFTA will do all that we can to ensure that your adoption is secure — most importantly, we will pay close attention, so that we can anticipate and inform you of any issues prior to placement.

**What happens if a birth mother elects to parent after she has selected us as prospective adoptive parents?**

Any expenses paid on behalf of or to the birthparent prior to that point are at risk. While we will do whatever we can to avoid putting you at financial and emotional risk, we unfortunately cannot guarantee the outcome of any particular situation.

**Are there any marital criteria or age requirements to adopt?**

No. At FFTA, we take great pride in working with all persons desiring to adopt, regardless of their race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, nationality or disability.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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