



## Adoption FAQs

*This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a list of common questions families interested in adoption might have. By providing links to websites with more information, we are not endorsing the beliefs of the listed organization. E-mail us with questions, [atrisk@grace.church](mailto:atrisk@grace.church).*

### 1. What are the requirements for adoption? How do I find an adoption agency?

Specific requirements may vary by agency. Please see our [resource list](#) for agency information.

### 2. What is a home study?

An adoption home study is a family profile written by a social worker who has met with the adoptive family and can include information about family background, health and financial statements, and references. The home study process can take several months and once approved, is valid for up to one year in the state of Minnesota.

### 3. How much does adoption cost? Where can I find financial assistance to help with adoption costs?

Adoption costs may vary depending on the nature of the adoption (domestic vs. international, etc.). Generally, domestic adoption costs range between \$20,000 and \$35,000, while international adoption costs are estimated to be \$30,000 or greater, depending on the agency and/or country. OneLess offers an [Adoption Scholarship Fund](#) for families within Grace Church who are adopting domestically or internationally.

### 4. What support/training is available to me during and after the adoption?

Many adoption agencies offer specific training for adoptive parents. Additionally, OneLess would love to come alongside you as you pursue adoption. We offer a [support group](#), [resource list](#), respite nights throughout the year, and practical resources such as clothing. For more information please contact us at [atrisk@grace.church](mailto:atrisk@grace.church).

### 5. What is the difference between open and closed adoptions?

In a closed adoption, there is no contact between the birthparents and adoptive parents and child. In an open adoption, birthparents and the adoptive child may maintain contact.

## 6. What are the differences between domestic and international adoptions?

Some key differences between domestic and international adoptions include:

- Requirements: Eligibility to adopt internationally may vary depending on the country and may be more specific than domestic adoption laws.
- Cost: While fees for both domestic and international adoptions can be similar, additional costs such as travel (for international adoption) can vary.
- Travel: International adoption requires travel to the child's country of birth that varies depending on the country. The trip could last anywhere from one to four weeks and may require multiple trips, depending on the country's laws.
- Accessibility: In recent years, international adoption has become more challenging and less common as countries have closed their international adoption programs.

## 7. How long does it take to adopt a child?

The adoption timeline may vary depending on the type of adoption (domestic vs. international) and a number of factors including:

- When adoption trainings are available;
- Your speed in determining which agency you would like to work with;
- Your speed in completing the application paperwork and meeting foster care requirements;
- How long it takes for your chosen agency to assign an adoption worker;
- Your ability to meet with your adoption worker during business hours;
- Family openness to the needs of waiting children. Those who are open to sibling groups, older children and children with higher needs may experience a shorter wait.
- Background checks; clearance can take longer if you have lived in another state, or if you have a criminal history.

## 8. How do I adopt a child from foster care?

If parental rights have been terminated for the child, the State will seek permanent placement options. While the final placement of the foster child is determined on a case-by-case basis, those interested in adopting from foster care should see [MN ADOPT: Getting Started](#) for more information.

## 9. What is embryo adoption?

When a couple undergoes In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), they often have remaining embryos. Some couples choose to donate their frozen embryos to a waiting family through an adoption agency. The adopted embryo is implanted and the adoptive mother gives birth to child, who is not genetically related to the adoptive family. For more information on Embryo Adoption, also known as Snowflake Adoption, see [New Life Family Services](#) and [Nightlight Christian Adoptions](#).

## **10. Why should I choose to adopt?**

As Christians, we have a unique calling to care for those who are vulnerable. James urges us that “religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (James 1:27). While not all of us are called to adopt, we are all called to “give justice to the weak and the fatherless” (Psalm 82:3). We encourage you to prayerfully consider what ways God is calling you to respond in obedience to this command.

### **Sources**

[MN ADOPT](#)

[MN ADOPT: Getting Started](#)

[Considering Adoption](#)

**Additional questions? Email us at [atrisk@grace.church](mailto:atrisk@grace.church).**