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## ADOPTION IN THE UK

### General Information

Adopters in England and Wales must be over 21 years of age (18 if one of a couple is the birth parent) and there is no upper limit.

You can be single people, married, cohabiting or same-sex couples to adopt a child.

You don't have to be a British citizen to adopt a child, but you or your partner must have a fixed and permanent home in the UK, and must have lived in the UK for at least 1 year before you begin the application process.

You do not need to be wealthy or a homeowner to adopt, but will need to give details of income and explain how you would support a child.

Health and well-being play a part in the assessment process, but you are not automatically disqualified for having a medical condition.

If you have a criminal record, you must disclose this when applying. It will not automatically disqualify you from adopting, but the law will not permit anyone to adopt or foster if they, or a member of their household, has been convicted or cautioned for offences against a child.

To adopt you can go through either an adoption agency that's part of your local council or a voluntary adoption agency.

The adoption process:

- Contact an adoption agency - they'll send you information about the adoption process.
- The agency will arrange to meet you - you may also be invited to a meeting with other people wanting to adopt a child.
- If you and the agency agree to carry on, the agency will give you an application form.

The adoption approval process normally takes around 6 months. You will then be matched with a child for adoption.

You can adopt a child from overseas if they can't be cared for in a safe environment in their own country, or if the adoption would be in their best interests. The adoption process is similar to a UK adoption and will be done by a UK adoption agency that may charge a fee.

In addition to the adoption process steps mentioned above, there are several other steps:

- the assessment will be sent to the overseas adoption authority
- you'll need to visit the child in their own country
- your application will be sent to the child's country

The UK adoption agency will let you know what you need to do.

### **Resources:**

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For general information on adoption in UK:

[www.gov.uk/child-adoption](http://www.gov.uk/child-adoption)

<http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/>

First4Adoption is the dedicated information service for people interested in adopting a child in England

your **local council adoption agency** can be found through:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-adopt-child-through-council>

## **Adoption UK**

[www.adoptionuk.org.uk](http://www.adoptionuk.org.uk)

Adoption UK is a national charity run by and for adopters, providing self-help information, advice, support and training on all aspects of adoption and adoptive parenting.

## **Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) UK**

<http://cvaa.org.uk/>

Provide specialist, high quality adoption services to children and families across the United Kingdom

## **CoramBAAF Adoption and Fostering Academy**

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/info>

Information and resources for people who are thinking of adopting or who are adoptive parents.

## **After Adoption**

[www.afteradoption.org.uk](http://www.afteradoption.org.uk)

After Adoption offers a wide range of services and provides information, support and advice to all those affected by adoption

## **IAC The Centre for adoption**

<http://www.oah.org.uk/>

IAC's mission is to place children from all parts of the world, both in the UK and overseas, in loving families

## **The Adoption Exchange**

<https://www.adoptex.org/>

They connect children who wait in foster care and families who adopt