



Building Arizona Families

Thank You For Interest in Adopting an Arizona Foster Child!

We are so grateful that you have expressed interest in adopting a vulnerable child from the foster care system. Below is information about the adoption certification process.

There are basic requirements for adopting from the foster care system. You must be 18 years of age to adopt. You can be single, married, or in a relationship. If you are married, both parties must complete all requirements.

While you do not have to become foster parents prior to adopting children from the foster care system, in Arizona adoptive parent(s) must be certified by the court as acceptable to adopt children. A certificate will be issued after all necessary requirements are met.

The certification process includes:

- written application
- adoption orientation and training
- a certification investigation (home study) and report to the court that considers the prospective adoptive parents' fitness to adopt children and includes:
 - social history and references
 - stable finances
 - safe, stable home environment
 - moral fitness
 - physical and mental health
 - any court action regarding child abuse
 - a valid fingerprint clearance card, local criminal background check
 - FBI criminal background check for every adult member of your home
 - any other relevant information

The State of Arizona requires that your adoption home study social worker spend at least 4 hours with you face-to-face during a minimum of 2 visits. At least 2 of these hours must be spent in your home. During this process, adoptive parents will need to provide:

- Court issued birth certificates
- Court issued marriage licenses and/or divorce decrees
- Previous year's tax return
- 5 letters of reference (2 from family, 3 from friends)
- An autobiography
- CPS Clearance
- Fingerprint clearance



ADOPTION FEE SCHEDULE

The Forever Families U.S. Adoption is the most cost effective adoption program available.

- The cost for home study will be \$1,100 with Building Arizona Families.
- A Forever Families U.S. Adoption Program fee of \$3,500 is due prior to beginning the Forever Families U.S. Adoption Selection Process to adopt foster children in Arizona or from around the U.S. into Arizona families.
- If adopting foster children out of state, you will have the expense of traveling to see your child/children and possibly travel expenses to bring your child/children home.
- If you are not adopting foster children in Arizona, it is worthwhile checking with the state you are adopting from, as there are some states which will reimburse a family for some of the costs of the home study and travel. However, travel costs are typically considered the adoptive parents' responsibility.

We would be happy to answer any additional questions you have about adoption. Feel free to reach out directly to our Forever Families Program Manager, Ixcel Baca, at 622-696-9537 or at ixcelbaca@buildingarizonafamilies.com.