

10 Adoption Questions

Helping You Choose The Right Kind of Adoption for your family

By Tim Elder

A Printable Worksheet from InfantAdoptionGuide.com

1. Do we want to adopt a newborn (and why)?

Things to think about:

- Do you want to experience parenthood from day 1 of the child's life?
- You may have the opportunity to be at the hospital when the baby is born.

2. What age or age range do we prefer?

Things to think about:

- Adoption agencies and attorneys will ask your preferences for how old of a child you would like to adopt, so this question is one you have to tackle.
- Be realistic about how the age of the child you'd like to adopt.

3. Do we want to adopt a boy or a girl (or does it matter)?

Things to think about:

- Wanting a boy or a girl is OK if it is the right decision for your family – just understand that it could extend your wait time.
- There are always cases where the doctor thinks the baby will be a boy or a girl – only to find out they are wrong once the baby is born.

4. Should we (or can we) adopt from another state?

Things to think about:

- If you open up your options to adopt from outside your home state, it increases your reach to more potential birthparents which can reduce the time it takes to match and have a baby placed with you.
- It can cost you more money to adopt from another state. You will have to have an attorney from the sending and receiving state, and you will have to travel and stay in the state where the baby is born until ICPC guidelines are satisfied.

5. Does the child's race matter to us?

Things to think about:

- Be realistic as to how open you are to being a trans-racial family - talk about what that means and how you would deal with it.
- You can find lots of articles and books about trans-racial adoptions.

6. How open are we to having a relationship with our child's birthparents?

Things to think about:

- In most newborn adoptions, the birthparents select the adoptive parents. Better than 50% of the time, they meet in person.
- It is common for birth and adoptive families to have some form of direct contact after placement. This is called open adoption.
- Many birthmothers simply want to know that their child is safe and loved. They want to be re-assured that they made the right choice in parents for their child.

7. What is our adoption budget?

Things to think about:

- Domestic infant adoptions can cost anywhere from \$20,000 to \$40,000.
- It is a great idea to prepare an adoption budget. Be realistic on how much time you'll need to save enough money so you are prepared for all the costs of adoption.

8. Do we need a full service adoption professional?

Things to think about:

- Full service agencies provide counseling, training, home study, attorney, etc.
- Other agencies do not help you as much, but may still provide lot of resources. You need to find out what is best for you.

9. How do we handle potential adoption scams?

Things to think about:

- Sadly, there are women posing as birthmothers who will tell you how they are willing to give you their baby – if you are willing to help her with money.
- Since it is difficult for adoptive parents to tell if it is a scam, ask if your adoption professional will do the screening for you.

10. How long will we have to wait (and how can we shorten the time as much as possible)?

Things to think about:

- Surveys show that most adoptive families successfully adopt within two years of starting. This depends on how long it takes for you to match with an expectant mother.
- The key to a shorter wait is finding and connecting with an expectant mother the fastest way possible.