

Adoption

Access to Adoption Records, State Statutes

In nearly all States, adoption records are sealed and withheld from public inspection after an adoption is finalized. Most States have instituted procedures by which parties to an adoption may obtain both nonidentifying and identifying information from an adoption record while still protecting the interests of all parties. This bulletin provides an overview and state statute citations for accessing adoption records. Colorado Access to Records: Rev. Stat. §§ 19-5-304(1)(b); 19-5-305(2)(b)(l); found on page 10 of this document.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2016). *Access to adoption records*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/infoaccessap/>

Adoptees On: The Podcast Where Adoptees Discuss the Adoption Experience

Adoptees On is a gathering of incredible adopted people willing to share their intimately personal stories with you about the impact adoption has had on our lives. Listen in and you will discover that you are not alone on this journey. <http://www.adopteeson.com/>

Adoption Assistance – FAQs for Colorado

This Child Welfare Information Gateway website provides answers to frequently asked questions and links to Colorado-specific adoption entities and resources.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/adopt-assistance/?CWIGFunctionsaction=adoptionByState:main.getAnswersByState>

Adoption Assistance Policies – per county

Each county human services department determines the type of adoption assistance and eligibility in accordance with state and federal regulations. For more information regarding a county's specific policy regarding adoption assistance download the county-specific policy on this webpage.

Colorado Department of Human Services

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/adoption-1> (Adoption Assistance in Colorado category)

Adoption and Developmental Stages

Children's understanding of adoption differs at different ages. A parent's explanation of a child's adoption will need to be explained more fully as the child grows and learns. In this section, find resources to inform families how to sensitively provide guidance to children at different ages and developmental levels.

Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children's Bureau

https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/adopt-parenting/stages/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=elertmar20

Adoption: Developmental Ages and Stages

Webinar, hosted by the Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardian Support and Preservation <https://qic-ag.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Adoption-Developmental-Ages-andStages.mp4>

The Adoption Exchange

The Adoption Exchange (TAE) offers a statewide community-based network of services to provide support for families living in Colorado who have adopted or plan to adopt through the child welfare system. This website offers information and resources for families and professionals, general adoption information, and post-adoption services and support. Colorado specific information included throughout this website. <https://www.adoptex.org/>

Learn more about TAE's "Trust-Based Relational Intervention" (TBRI) training for caregivers: <https://www.adoptex.org/the-adoption-journey/post-adoptionservices/colorado/tbri-caregiver-training>

Adoption Information Page – Colorado Department of Human Services

This CDHS webpage includes up-to-date adoption forms, county policies and adoption record information as of February 2019.

Colorado Department of Human Services
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/adoption-1>

Adoption Tax Benefits: An Overview

The federal government supports adoption in two primary ways: federal grants to state governments and tax benefits for individual taxpayers that help offset the costs of adopting a child. This report focuses on federal adoption tax benefits, which consist of an adoption tax credit and an income tax exclusion for employer-provided adoption assistance. The adoption tax credit helps qualifying taxpayers offset some of the costs of adopting a child. Although the credit may be claimed for nearly all types of adoptions (excluding the adoption of a spouse's child), there are some special rules related to claiming the credit for intercountry adoptions and for adoption of children with special needs (generally children whom the State child welfare agency considers difficult to place for adoption).

Congressional Research Service, May 2018
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44745.pdf>

The Effect of Adoption Assistance on Eligibility for Other Government Assistance Programs

Families who receive adoption assistance payments for their children often have questions about how adoption assistance interacts with other financial support programs. Because adoption assistance is not considered taxable income by the IRS, families may think that it will not count as income for other government programs. But each program is different, and many do count adoption assistance—or a part of it—as income. Below we share information about some common support programs.

North American Council on Adoptable Children
<https://www.nacac.org/resource/assistance-eligibility-other-government-programs/>

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R. 6893) (the FCA or Fostering Connections Act) was signed into law on October 7, 2008, as Public Law 110-351. FCA amended parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for Tribal foster care and adoption access, improve incentives for adoption, and for other purposes.) was signed into law

on October 7, 2008. This page features implementation guidance from the Children's Bureau, an overview of the law, implementation information from States and Tribes, and additional resources.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws/policies/federal/fosteringconnections/>

Helping Children Connect with Their Birth Parents

This article explains the importance of helping adopted children learn their identity and how connecting with birth parents and other birth family, when safe and appropriate, can be an important part of their journey.

North American Council on Adoptable Children <https://www.nacac.org/resource/helping-children-connect-with-birth-parents/>

Impact of Adoption on Adopted Persons, Factsheet

Although adoption is often a joyful and exciting occasion, it can also give rise to lifelong challenges for members of the adoption constellation. Awareness of these issues can help families better understand each other and the personal effects of the adoption experience. This factsheet provides an overview of the seven core issues in adoption and how they may affect the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of children and adults who have been adopted, birth parents, and adoptive parents.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). Impact of adoption on adopted persons.

Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/factsheets_families_adoptionimpact.pdf

Openness in Adoption: Building Relationships Between Adoptive and Birth Families This factsheet describes various levels of openness, potential benefits, important considerations, and tips for building and strengthening open relationships. Open adoption is becoming increasingly common, in part due to a growing recognition of the potential benefits of allowing an adopted child or youth to establish or maintain connections with his or her birth family.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). *Openness in adoption: Building*

relationships between adoptive and birth families. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-openadopt/>

Preparing and Supporting Foster Parents Who Adopt

In order to facilitate these types of adoption, professionals should be knowledgeable about the benefits, costs, and practice implications. This bulletin for professionals discusses the ways that professionals can help foster parents before, during, and after they adopt in order to ensure that the child and family experience a successful adoption outcome.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). *Preparing and supporting foster parents who adopt*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_fospro.pdf

Preparing Children and Youth for Adoption or Other Family Permanency

This bulletin discusses services for children and youth to address their readiness and preparation for permanent relationships.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). Preparing children and youth for adoption or other family permanency. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/preparing_youth.pdf

Resources for Youth About Permanency

Resources for youth to understand permanency proceedings to prepare for life changes.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/resources/youth/>

Talking About Adoption

It can be difficult for parents to find the words to talk about adoption with their children and others. Adoptees may not know how to respond to questions from classmates or strangers. Find resources in this section to help families and adopted people talk about adoption.

Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children's Bureau

https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/adopt-parenting/talking/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=elertmar20

Talking with Older Youth About Adoption

This tip sheet provides child welfare professionals with a framework for how to talk with older youth about permanency and offers tangible tips and suggestions on ways to make these conversations more effective and meaningful.

Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children's Bureau, AdoptUSKids

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/talking.pdf>

Transitioning Children from Foster Care to Adoption

Children adopted by their foster parents may have lived with their families for a long time, but they might need help when their status changes from foster child to permanent family member. Find resources in this section to assist foster/adoptive parents guide children through this transition.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/adopt-parenting/foster/transitioning/>

Working with Birth and Adoptive Families to Support Open Adoption

This bulletin is intended to help professionals guide birth and adoptive families who are contemplating open adoption or who are already having postadoption contact. Open adoption allows adoptive parents, and often the adopted child, to interact directly with birth parents. Also known as fully disclosed, this type of adoption can help children and parents minimize and resolve the change or loss of relationships. It also can help those involved to maintain and celebrate adopted children's connections with all the important people in their lives.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). *Working with birth and adoptive families to support open adoption*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-openadoptbulletin/>

Transracial/Transcultural Adoption

Perspectives of Transracial Adopted People

People who were adopted into families with different racial, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds have unique experiences with forming their racial and cultural identity. Resources in this section capture the perspectives of those who have been transracially adopted.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/adopt-people/transracial/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Preparing Families for Transracial/Transcultural Adoption

Some families need additional information and support to help them raise children from a different racial or cultural background. These families may face unique challenges as children, youth, and young adults develop their own identity. This section offers resources for professionals preparing families who are in the process of or are considering transracial or transcultural adoption.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/preplacement/culturallycompetent/transracial/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Supporting Transracial and Transcultural Adoptive Families

Many families adopt children from other racial, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds, either through domestic or intercountry adoption. These families may face unique challenges as children, youth, and young adults begin to develop their own identity and express a desire to connect with their cultural background. This section offers resources for professionals working with parents to help them understand and care for their children from transracial or transcultural adoptions.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/postplacement/transsupport/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Transracial Adoption

This article from the Adoption Triad newsletter discusses the need for adoptive parents to engage in the racial socialization process and offers additional supports, tips and resources on transracial adoption.

Adoption Triad, Children's Bureau, and Administration for Children and Families

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/news-events/adoptiontriad/editions/mar2019/>

Post Adoption Services

National Council for Adoption

Passionately committed to the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing, permanent family, National Council For Adoption's mission is to meet the diverse needs of children, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption through global advocacy, education, research, legislative action, and collaboration.

<http://www.adoptioncouncil.org/resources/general>

Post-Adoption Services: Acknowledging and Dealing with Loss

This article identifies the seven core issues in adoption and how loss impacts adopted children.

National Council for Adoption, Adoption Advocate No. 93 (2016)

<https://www.adoptioncouncil.org/publications/2016/03/adoption-advocate-no-93>

Providing Adoption Support and Preservation Services

This bulletin draws from available literature and practice knowledge to summarize key issues related to providing effective services to support the stability and permanency of adoptions. It is intended to support adoption professionals in addressing adoptive parents' and children's needs for services, recognizing key considerations in providing services, addressing emerging issues, and meeting common challenges in delivery.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2018). *Providing adoption support and preservation services*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-postadoptbulletin/>

Selecting and Working with a Therapist Skilled in Adoption

Adoption has a lifelong impact on those it touches, and members of adoptive families may want professional help when concerns arise. Timely intervention by a professional skilled in adoption, attachment, and trauma issues often can prevent concerns from becoming more serious problems. This factsheet offers information on the different types of therapy and providers available to help, and it offers suggestions on how to find an appropriate therapist. Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2012). *Selecting and working with a therapist skilled in adoption*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-therapist/>

Tapestry Books

Tapestry Books specializes in adoption related books and resources. A leader in the field since 1994, this specialized bookstore offers resources for adoptive families, birth families, adoptees and adoption professionals.

<http://tapestrybooks.com/>