

Adoption Glossary

<u>Adoption Plan</u>	“Making an adoption plan” refers to the birth parents’ decisions to choose to ask another family to raise their child.
<u>Adoption Triad / Circle / Family Tapestry</u>	Terms used rather than “adoption triangle”; triad or circle is more inclusive.
<u>Birth Parents</u>	Term used rather than “biological” or “genetic” parents
<u>Confidential Adoption</u>	“Closed,” no identifying information is shared.
<u>Dedication ceremony</u>	A ceremony held after the placement has been finalized. The adoptive couple invites family, friends, and pastor to celebrate at the agency.
<u>Designated Adoption</u>	An adoption where the family is chosen by the birth parents outside of an agency. The pregnant client may already be working with an agency, but connects with a family outside of the agency prior to coming into contact with or while working with the agency.
<u>Disruption</u>	When a child who has been living with a prospective adoptive family is reclaimed and returns to the birth family. This occurs when the birth parent(s) change his/her mind about the adoption during the legal risk period.
<u>Entrustment Ceremony</u>	A ceremony where birth parents acknowledge transferring the child to the adoptive parents. Includes affirmation of each party’s value and love for the child. Scripture, prayer, pictures and gifts are often a part of this event. Can occur at the hospital, agency or elsewhere and at a time suitable for all parties.
<u>Face-To-Face</u>	A meeting between birth parents and adoptive parents. Social workers attend and sometimes birth grandparents do as well. It may be a meeting where a birth parent is choosing a family or confirming her choice. It may also be a meeting where the parties are negotiating the level of openness or deciding how things should go during the hospital stay and fos-adopt time.
<u>Finalization</u>	The legal process which makes the adoptive parents the legal parents (thus “forever” parents).
<u>Fos-adopt</u>	A period of time following the birth when the newborn is discharged directly from the hospital into the adoptive home. During this time, the adoptive couple acts as the foster parents until the legal risk period is over. During this time, the adoption could disrupt and the child would be returned to the birth parent. Often fos-adopt is requested by both parties in order to promote attachment between adoptive parent and baby in the first weeks and months after birth.

<u>Foster Care</u>	Also known as interim care, cradle care. Agencies often offer this service to birth parents if in the decision-making process after the child's birth.
<u>Full Service</u>	Adoption agency provides complete adoption services to adoptive family, from application through finalization.
<u>Home Study</u>	Also known as an adoption study or investigation. This process involves extensive interviews, reference checks, medical assessments and background checks in order to approve a family for adoption. Required by law unless applicant is first, second or third degree relative of birth parents.
<u>Identifying Information</u>	Information about the parties, including full names, addresses, phone numbers
<u>ICPC</u>	"Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" – a federal law requiring written notice of the intention to place a child from one state into an adoptive family from another state. This intention must be approved by both the sending and receiving state prior to the child's entrance.
<u>Legal Risk Period</u>	The period of time between the birth of the child and the expiration of voluntary consents or TPR hearing. The child may be living with the adoptive couple, in a foster home, or with the birth family.
<u>Limited Service</u>	Adoption agency provides a portion of services to adoptive family.
<u>Non-Identifying Info</u>	Information shared about the parties that does not directly identify them to each other. May include first names, occupations, education, interests, religious affiliation, etc.
<u>Open Adoption</u>	An adoption plan which allows disclosure of information, identifying or non-identifying, depending on the level of openness.
<u>Post-Placement</u>	The period of time after adoption during which social workers visit the family and file a report to the court on how the adoption is progressing. Adoptive families, by state law, must wait a certain period of time after the child joins their family before they are allowed to finalize.
<u>Profile</u>	Pictures and information used as an introduction for prospective birth parents to look at when deciding on an adoptive family. This usually includes a home summary, pictures, and a letter written to the birth parents.
<u>Right To Notice</u>	Birth fathers can earn the right to be notified and involved in an adoptive plan and termination of parental rights hearing. Vary by state.

