

## **Cultural Issues and Adoption**

Adoption is a part of every culture in some form or another. In every culture there are children whose biological parents are unable to care for them and other individuals come alongside to assist with the rearing of those children. Many cultures have no “formal” adoption process but it still occurs as a solution to the need.

### **1. Culture involves more than just race and ethnicity. Geographical and socio-economic factors are also present:**

- a) What is the client’s country of origin?
- b) Is the client first generation born in the US or has the family lived in US for many generations?
- c) Regional culture – in what part of the US did the client grow up?
- d) Is the client in the US because he or she was adopted from another country?

### **2. Language and literacy barriers**

- a) Check to make sure the terms you use are understood by the client.
- b) Can the client read, comprehend and write English?

### **3. Cultural generalizations can serve as barriers to “seeing” the person.**

- a) Take into consideration cultural issues, but get to know the client as an individual and respond to them out of that knowledge.
- b) Educate yourself about how adoption works in the client’s culture by asking questions about the process in the client’s country of origin.