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Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 4:41 PM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: Facts and Myths about Adoption



Dear

It is important to share with people you know the truth about adoption policies. Many myths can keep children from finding their forever families, so learn the truth and spread the knowledge.

Myths and Realities

Myth

Foster care adoption is expensive, even though it costs less than private or international adoption.

Reality

There are adoption subsidies, the adoption tax credit, and employer benefits available to families. You can learn more about the costs of foster care adoption [here](#).

Myth

A biological parent can take their child back.

Reality

Once a biological parent has their parental rights terminated, they cannot come back and claim their child.

Myth

Children enter the foster care system due to juvenile delinquency.

Reality

Children enter foster care through no fault of their home. Many of the children have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Myth

A single parent cannot adopt because they are unable to provide a stable environment for a child. Furthermore, single men cannot adopt because a child needs a "mother figure".

Reality

ALL families who are able to provide stability and support to a child may adopt, including single parents. The number of single parents adopting in rose to 33% in 2011 according to the latest AFCARS report.

Myth

Same-sex parents cannot provide a healthy, stable environment for a child.

Reality

Many studies have looked at the outcomes of children growing up in same-sex homes, and practically every valid study found these children grow up to be well-adjusted in positive environments, just like children growing up in heterosexual families. Learn more on the [Adoption Institute Site](#).

Myth

Parents over the age of 55 cannot provide a healthy, stable environment for a child.

Reality

While there are age maximums for some international adoptions, there are none for foster care adoption. Need more proof? Check out the following resources:

16 Steps to Older Parent Adoption:

<http://www.adoption.org/adoptions/16-steps-to-older-parent-adoption.html>

Video-Retirees Who Choose to Adopt:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/video/nightly-news/52051170/#52051170>

Adoption Group-Older Parents:

http://www.adoptivefamiliescircle.com/groups/group/Older_Parents1/

Filling Up an Empty

Nest: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/15/business/retirementspecial/some-older-adults-are-adopting-children.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&

How long will it take to adopt?

On average, it can take 1-2 years from the time a home study is completed to the time a child is placed with a family. There are many factors that influence the amount of time it takes a family to adopt. These factors include a family's openness in their adoption preferences, the legal status of a child, and the amount of support a family receives from their agency. The more open a family is when it comes to age, race, sibling group size, and special needs, the quicker they are matched. Families who are seeking to adopt a child under the age of 6 with mild needs typically wait longer.

For more myths and realities about adopting from foster care, visit [Adopt Us Kids](#) or the [Dave Thomas Foundation](#).

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