

From: Scott Corcoran [scott@afamilyforeverchild.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 4:44 PM
To: scott@afamilyforeverchild.org
Subject: Single Parent Adoption



Dear ,

The latest research has shown that a single parent home may be best suited for children who need close relationships and attention. Having this close bond may actually foster normal and healthy development in children who have experienced turmoil and a string of unstable relationships. As a single parent, you have the skills and capabilities to provide this loving, nurturing, and stable environment a child in foster care so desperately needs.

As of September 2011, approximately 29% of special needs adoptions are by single mothers and fathers. Single parent adopting is a growing trend, and has become more prevalent and accepted in our society. So what are the first steps you need to take, in order to become a parent?

First, you need to **make contact with adoption agencies and adoption groups**. Find out what they can do for you as a single parent. Adoption groups will provide support and resources that you will need as you embark on the adoption journey.

Second, you need to **gather information from social service agencies and details about specific adoption programs**. Having this information will prepare you for the kind of adoption you would be interested in, and the types of challenges you will face.

Finally, **read!!** Read books, read blogs, read articles. Gather up as much information and knowledge as you can. Having a plethora of knowledge will help you down the road when you are inquiring on a child and eventually raising one.

In addition, it is important that you join a type of **parent or support group**. Parenting groups can provide lots of valuable information, advice and resources. Parenting groups can provide advice such as what agency to go through, which social worker to ask for, and how to go through the process. In addition they can provide stories of real-life experiences, encouragement, and support. Spending time with people who have gone through the adoption process can provide enormous insight on the process and help you determine the type of child you would like to adopt.

To find out more about the adoption situation in your state or others, contact the state's Department of Public Welfare or Social services, local adoption agencies, and private adoption agencies.

The Challenges of Adopting as a Single Parent

There are many challenges associated with adopting as a single parent. The biggest challenge may be convincing a caseworker or adoption agency that you have the skills necessary to raise a child on your own. There are a few ways to go about this.

First, **have a strong support system**. This support system can contain friends and family, and be made up of people who will be there for you no matter what. Raising a child as a single parent can be challenging at times, so having a few people who will be there for you in times of need will help you and also show the caseworker that the child will be in a stable, loving environment.

Second, **have a long-term plan**. You need to be able to show that you have thought about the long-term implications of raising a child. Having a financial plan is important-the caseworker will look to see that you will be able to financially support a child. In addition, creating a social plan is also important. Consider how you will handle your social life going forward. It is unrealistic and unwise to give up your social life, but creating a plan on how you will balance spending time with friends with raising a child will show that you are serious and mature.

Both men and women face challenges when trying to adopt as a single parent. Men especially have a hard time, as agencies may feel that a child "needs a mother". It is important to remain strong and determined throughout the process, and know that you are completely capable to raise a child.

Resources you may find helpful

Adoption For Singles Second Edition: Everything You Need to Know to Decide If Parenthood is For You by Victoria Solsbery.

Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents by National Council for Single Adoptive Parents and Hope Marandin.

Adopting On Your Own: The Complete Guide to Adoption for Single Parents by Lee Varon.

Nora Sharp
Matching Assistance Coordinator
A Family for Every Child
nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org

