

Adoption

Adoption can be a wonderful way for a couple to become parents. Some people adopt because they are unable to conceive birth children. Some adopt for other reasons. Whatever the motivation, adoption can be as rewarding as giving birth.

However, adoption is not for everyone. It, like birth parenting, involves a lifelong commitment. It is important for partners considering adoption to be sure that they are doing it for good reasons and with the right motivation. Both partners should be clear that they really want to be parents and that they will love an adoptive child just as they would a birth child. If deciding to adopt comes in response to relationship problems or pressure from other people to have a child, it might not be the best choice.

It is also important for a couple wanting to adopt to think carefully about the adjustments becoming parents will necessitate. There will be financial adjustments and adjustments of schedule and lifestyle. In addition, the process of adoption can be a lengthy, stressful one and may cause strain in the relationship. If the couple is committed to giving an adoptive child all the love and nurture that he or she needs and deserves, it can be a wonderful adventure.

There are different types of adoption, which offer options for prospective parents. There is domestic adoption, which involves adopting an infant or older child in the U.S. There is international adoption, which involves adopting a child from another country. There is foster adoption, which is adopting a child for whom you have been foster parents. Finally, there is kinship adoption, which is adopting a stepchild or another child related to you.

The type of adoption you choose will help determine what professionals or agency will work with you during the adoption process. Some people use private or public adoption agencies. Some people choose private (or independent) adoptions and adopt through an adoption attorney. Some people use adoption facilitators, who can be faster, but often are more expensive and not allowed in every state. Since laws regarding adoption vary from state to state, it is essential that you know what types of placements are allowed by law in the state in which you live. Adoptions across state lines are subject to the laws of both states. International adoptions are subject to the laws of the U.S. government and those of the child's home country, as well as state law.

In choosing to adopt there are many things to consider. In order to make a good decision for yourself, your partner and your child, it is important to think through all aspects of adopting. There is a wealth of written information. There are adoptive parents who would be eager to share their experiences. There are professionals who can help you sort through concerns and questions. When you avail yourself of these resources, you can make a good decision about whether or not adoption is right for you.