

**T**here are seven facts you should know about adoption:

**FACT 1 - ADOPTION MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU THINK IT IS.**

There are plenty of myths and misunderstandings that can prove costly in time, money and heartache, as you navigate the complex process of adopting a child. Catholic Charities' professional and caring staff will help you to be assured of accurate, up-to-date information and you'll have the advantage of working with an experienced, well-established agency.

There is no specific religious affiliation required to adopt through Catholic Charities.

**FACT 2 - ADOPTION HAS RISKS AS WELL AS REWARDS.**

There is no sure thing when adopting. The emotional and financial risks are real, but so are the rich rewards of giving love and permanence to a child who will call you mom or dad.

Adoption can be a roller coaster of ups and downs. Catholic Charities will be your knowledgeable guide and help you steer clear of unscrupulous resources and minimize your risks.

*Catholic Charities services are open to persons of any faith, race, ethnic heritage or ability.*

**FACT 3 - ADOPTION IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE.**

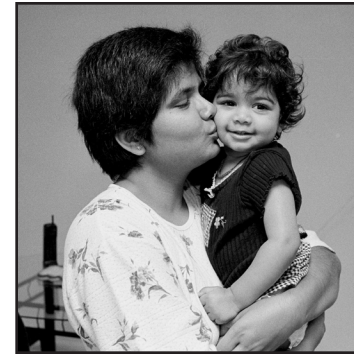
Adopted children are not the same as birth children. They come with their own history. At Catholic Charities we help you understand what the differences are between an adopted child and a birth child, and then explore your ability to accept and raise a child not born to you.

**FACT 4 - ADOPTION IS BETTER WHEN IT'S OPEN.**

In most adoptions today, there is some contact between birth and adoptive parents. This may or may not include the exchange of identifying information. Though this can be a daunting prospect, our experience is that openness serves everyone's best interests. You will discover, for example, that birth parents care deeply about their children.

This is a time of transition. Meeting and talking with one another clarifies how this new family is being formed and helps adoptive as well as birth parents better understand the choices they are making.

You also need to know Catholic Charities is a strong advocate for birth parent counseling. Birth parents who carefully weigh their decisions, and make plans for their child, are much more likely to make a wise decision. That should help reassure you as adoptive parents.



**FACT 5 - ADOPTION IS NEVER OVER.**

Placement is only the beginning. As adopted children grow and learn, it is likely they will ask questions about their background and circumstances of their adoption. Many adoptees will choose to search for their birth parents, even though they have a successful adoption.

Catholic Charities helps prepare you for life after placement. We've been making adoption placements since 1920, and we'll continue to be around for counseling and support well into the future.

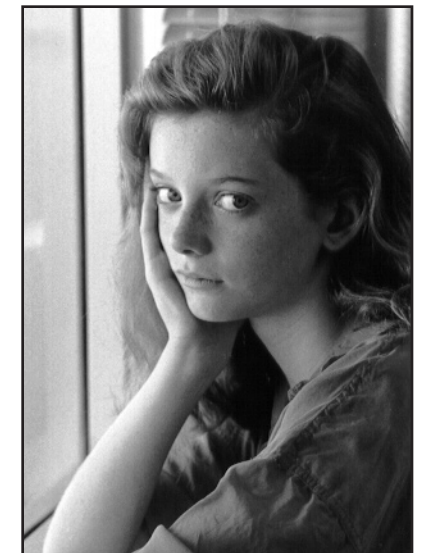
**FACT 6 - ADOPTION CAN BE EXPENSIVE.**

There is another reason why it's so important to work with a reputable agency. Because Catholic Charities is a not-for-profit agency, you will pay only for the costs of the services you receive. There are no add-ons, profits, or surprises. Fees will vary depending on the type of adoption.

**FACT 7 - ADOPTION IS HARD WORK.**

Success in adopting, like a marriage, requires preparation, perseverance and good communication. Without a doubt, finding a child is the biggest frustration for those wanting to adopt. Some birth mothers come to Catholic Charities in search of adoptive parents. But these days, more and more adoptive parents are making a connection with birth parents on their own.

Our advice is to share your desire to adopt with as many people as possible -- friends, family, neighbors, doctors, co-workers, church members and attorneys. The more who know of your search, the better your chances of success.



**F**or additional information about the adoption process, contact any of the following Catholic Charities offices:

**MILWAUKEE**  
**414-771-2881**

**RACINE**  
**262-637-8888**

**SHEBOYGAN**  
**920-458-5726**

**WAUKESHA**  
**262-547-2463**



 **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
of the Archdiocese  
of Milwaukee, Inc.


*Licensed by State of Wisconsin*

*Certified Open Adoption Practitioner*

*Accredited by  
Council on Accreditation of Services  
for Families and Children*



## **ADOPTION SERVICES**

a service of   
Catholic Charities

**I**f you are thinking about adopting a child, you might want to consider choosing an agency to help you move through the challenging and at times complicated process of adoption. Catholic Charities is here to help you through that process.

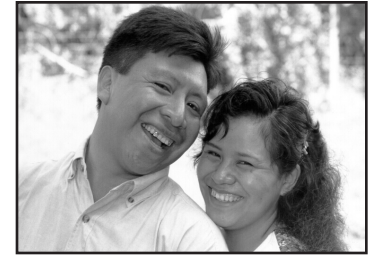
At Catholic Charities we've been helping people in southeastern Wisconsin build families through adoption since 1920. We understand the anxiety and the uncertainty you are feeling as you seek to open your heart and home to a child.

As you make decisions about how to proceed, it will help you to be familiar with the information presented here.

**A**doption is a lifelong process that involves the needs and interests of three sets of people: the child, the birth parents and the adoptive parents.

As a fully licensed and accredited agency, Catholic Charities provides a comprehensive array of services:

- birth parent counseling
- home studies
- placement services
- infant foster care
- assistance with medical & legal issues
- post-adoption counseling
- adult adoptee searches



**A**nd there's more than one way to adopt. Catholic Charities can help parents adopt children in a variety of ways, including all of the following:

**Independent Adoption** - connection between birth parent and adoptive parent is arranged other than through an adoption agency.

**Agency Adoption** - where birth parent and adoptive parents are connected through Catholic Charities.

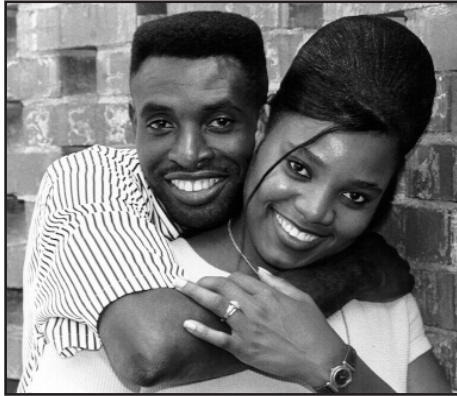
**Special Needs Adoption** - of children with medical, developmental or behavioral risks.

**Interstate Adoption** - connection with a child in another state is made independent of Catholic Charities and special state rules apply.

**International Adoption** - connection with a child in another country is made and a home study is required.

**Relative/Step-Parent Adoption** - of a child by another family member or step-parent.

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