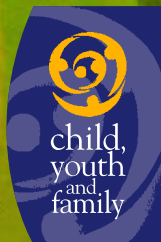



PLACING A CHILD FOR  
adoption



*Some questions  
and answers*





This leaflet deals with some of the issues faced by birth parents who are considering placing a child for adoption. It does not cover all the present adoption laws and procedures.

If you would like more information, call or write to the nearest Adoption

Information and Services Unit (AISU) of Child, Youth and Family.

The AISU also has a companion leaflet to this one, for people who are thinking of adopting a child:

*Adoption in New Zealand:  
Some questions and answers.*

## **What is adoption?**

Adoption is the legal transfer of all parental rights and responsibilities from a child's birth parents to the adoptive parents. When this process is completed, the child's legal status becomes 'as if born' to the adoptive parents. Access to the original birth registration made by the birth parents is closed and a new one is issued in the adoptive name. Access to the original birth registration remains closed. When the adopted person reaches the age of 20, the birth parents and the adopted person may apply to see information contained in that registration.

## **What can I expect from the AISU and/or other professional helpers?**

*From them you deserve and you should expect:*

- ⋮ respect*
- ⋮ readiness to listen without making judgement*
- ⋮ commitment to allowing you as much time as you need to explore all of the options open to you, your family, and your child*
- ⋮ willingness to meet with any of your family who are significant in this decision*
- ⋮ a belief that you have a free choice about the future of your child*
- ⋮ a wide variety of adoptive families to choose from*
- ⋮ time after the child is born to carefully consider again all the options, before signing the consent.*



### **What will the adoption social workers expect of me?**

Adoption social workers would like you to be open in your discussions with them, and to fully consider and discuss possible options you could take before you make any final decisions. You will also be asked to provide information about yourself/ves and help prepare a profile containing important information for the adoptive parents and your child.

### **How can I be sure that my child will go to a good home?**

No one can guarantee that the placement of your child will work out the way you would wish. Adoptive families run the same risks of disruption or breakdown as any other family. When thinking about adoption, you should remember that it guarantees a different life for your child, but not necessarily a better one than you might give.



You have the right to choose the adoptive family for your child. Birth fathers can sometimes feel left out of this process. To give yourself some peace of mind about your child's future, make sure that you take part in choosing the adoptive family and that:

- ⋮ *they have proper preparation for parenting an adoptive child*
- ⋮ *you have considered a range of different families*
- ⋮ *you have met the family before signing the consent, and have taken as much time as you need to make your decision after this meeting*
- ⋮ *you have considered your options with your family or any other significant people in your life. Only after exploring these options should you decide whether adoption is the right decision for you and your child. (The social worker can help with this if you wish.)*



### **Who may become adoptive parents?**

There are very few legal restrictions on who may make an adoption application. However, most people who apply to the AISU to adopt in New Zealand have been unable to have children of their own. People applying to adopt are assessed for suitability and go through an education programme where they are given information about all aspects of adoption. Adoptive applicants are able to take the time to carefully decide whether this way of parenting is right for them.













