

Adoption through foster care compared to adopting an adult age 18 or older

	Adoption through foster care	Adult adoption
Department of Human Services involvement	DHS involvement is required for an adoption to take place.	DHS does not have to be involved.
Biological parent's rights	Adoption requires the termination or relinquishment of a biological parent's parental rights.	Adoption does not affect the status of the biological parent's rights.
Time to adoption	Adoption can take place after the child or teen has resided in the adoptive home for longer than six months and parental rights have been terminated. The adoption process can take longer due to a number of factors, including appeals and adoption assistance negotiations.	Adoption can be completed within 90 days.
Approval needed	Typically, the Guardian Ad Litem, DHS, CASA (if applicable) and the adopting parents will all voice their opinion regarding the proposed adoption. A child older than 12 must consent to the adoption. A judicial officer makes the final decision.	Only the approval of the individual who wishes to be adopted and the individual(s) who wish to adopt are required. A judicial officer will enter the final decree of adult adoption if all parties agree.
Home study required	A judicial officer has the right to waive home studies, but typically a home study will be necessary before an adoption can take place.	A home study is not required.
Financial support for parents	Financial support is available to adoptive parents provided the child or teen has identifiable special needs. A rate will be agreed upon by the county and adoptive parents prior to finalization.	Financial support is not available.
Post adoption supports through the child welfare system	Post adoptive supports will be available through a county until the child or teen's 18 th birthday. Supports varying depending on the needs of the child or teen.	Post adoptive supports are not available through the child welfare system.
Parental responsibilities	Responsibilities are the same as those toward a child born to a parent. Parents are expected to provide food, clothing, shelter, support, education and care.	Parents do not have an obligation to support a child adopted as an adult.