

9. How long does an adoption take?

Answer: A child must be placed in your home a minimum of six months before an adoption may be completed. After biological parental rights are terminated in court, it generally takes between 12 to 18 months to finalize an adoption.

10. After I am an approved Resource Family, are there other requirements in order to adopt?

Answer: In 2017, California policies changed to ensure that all Resource Families have the same training and expectations. This means that whether a person wishes to adopt or care for a child in their home temporarily, they will need to complete the RFA (Resource Family Approval) process. The RFA Process ensures that every home that has completed the RFA process is also approved to adopt a child, should they decide to do so.

11. I saw a child in the Heart Gallery and I am interested in getting more information on him/her. What should I do?

Answer: Contact the Heart Gallery Coordinator at 661.631.6899



12. Are there other children besides those in the Heart Gallery that need adoptive homes?

Answer: Certainly. There are many children of all age groups that are foster children and are in need of adoptive homes.

13. What if I have further questions about adoptions through Kern County?

Answer: Please call the Kern County Adoption Agency at: 661.873.2400 - Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. You can also check out our website: www.kcdhs.org



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Frequently
Asked
Questions

About Adoptions





1. How much does it cost to adopt through the County?

Answer: The law allows a fee of up to \$500 for the adoption of a child through the Department of Human Services Adoption Agency. This fee is virtually always waived, so there are basically no out of pocket costs to adopt through the county.

2. What is the first step to become a Resource Family or Adopt?

Answer: Attend one of our monthly orientations. English classes are held on the 2nd & 4th Thursday's of each month. For more information you may also participate in the online orientation at www.kcdhs.org/FosterFamilyResources or contact our Resource Family Approval Team by calling 661.631.6204.

3. Do I need to be a Resource Family first in order to adopt through the County of Kern?

Answer: Yes. The children that may become available to adopt are first placed into a Resource Family Home. Their biological parents are given services to help them reunify with their children. If they are not able to do so, then the child may become available for adoption.

4. Is it possible that a child I am hoping to adopt might reunify with a parent or be moved from my home after they are placed with me?

Answer: Yes it is possible. When children are removed from their biological parents, our department's goal is to reunify these children with their parents, if we can safely do so. However, if the child's parents are not able to reunify with their child and there are no relatives able to care for the child, then the child may become available for adoption.

5. What if I just want to adopt and don't want to risk the possibility of getting attached to a child and having them potentially moved from my home?

Answer:

a. The only way to reduce the possibility of a child being moved from your home is to work with a private adoption agency. This option can be costly. You could begin investigating private adoption by looking up adoption in the yellow pages or on the internet or by calling a family law lawyer.

b. The county adoption agency can never guarantee that a child will be adopted. There are children that have a higher possibility of adoption than others but waiting for such a placement can be very difficult and time consuming. There are social workers available who can help you learn what questions you should ask to ensure that the child placed in your home has the best possible chance of adoption.

6. Do I need to be married or own my own home to adopt?

Answer: No. You do not need to be married or own your own home to adopt. The Department of Human Services Adoption Agency will assess your ability to care for a child, but this is not affected by marital status, property ownership, age, or sexual orientation.

7. What if I am interested in adopting a sibling set, or a child of a specific age, gender, or ethnicity?

Answer: You will have the opportunity to identify the characteristics of the ideal child (ren) you would like placed in your home. If you receive inquiries from social workers regarding children with alternate characteristics than those you identified, it will ultimately be your decision whether to pursue placement with any child.

8. Will I receive any financial assistance before or after the adoption of a child if I choose to adopt through the County of Kern?

Answer: All Resource Families receive monthly financial reimbursement for the children in their care. Children that are adopted through the county are eligible for The Adoption Assistance Program, which provides monthly financial assistance as well as Medi-Cal for adopted children.