

Adoption through MCFD Info Sheet

What does this program do? Adoption allows an adult, who is not the biological parent, to become the child's legal parent. The child is then legally seen as being the responsibility of the new parent.

Is adoption permanent? MCFD Adoption goes through Supreme Court and is a permanent order. After receiving an Adoption order the new parent can make all legal decisions for the child including signing a passport.

How is adoption helpful for a child?

For a child whose birth parents can no longer care for them, adoption gives the child legal parents. Sometimes extended family adopt a child who is permanently in foster care.

The child's last name may or may not change.

If the child is over 12 years old they must sign their consent for adoption.

What is a Prospective Adoptive parent?

A prospective adoptive parent is an adult who applies to MCFD adoptions, passes the screening, attends a Adoption Education Program, and after the child has been in their home for six months, can sign court papers for the Supreme Court adoption order.

What about an Aboriginal child adopted to a Non-Aboriginal adoptive parent?

A cultural plan must be approved by the child's Aboriginal community and then approved by the regional MCFD office before being reviewed by the Provincial Exceptions Committee. The prospective Adoptive Parent must be able to meet all the standards to respect the child's culture and identity. Aboriginal families and prospective adoptive parents are considered before non-Aboriginal adoptive parents.

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What does the Prospective Adoptive Parent need?

- To be 19 years or older
- To have the ability to meet the child's special needs and commit to a lifelong relationship to the child
- Sign MCFD consents until the adoption is complete
- Complete a ministry prior contact check
- Complete a Centralized Criminal Record Check
- Provide four references – people who have seen you with children
- Provide a medical report from your Doctor. If there is a charge for the report - you pay.
- Have a SAFE home assessment (each child does NOT need their own bedroom)
- Complete a SAFE home study (home free from abuse or physical punishment) within three months with the adoption social worker
- Complete the Adoption Education Program

How is the child prepared for adoptions?

The adoption social worker meets the child privately making sure they understand adoption, can talk about their feelings, and are emotionally ready for adoption.

What info does the prospective Adoptive Parent receive?

The prospective Adoptive Parent will get the child's history information so they have child reports currently with MCFD. The prospective adoptive parent understands adoption funding and its limits.

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Why is the Public Guardian and Trustee involved?

The Public Trustee is notified of the adoption by the child's guardianship worker or the adoption worker. The Public Guardian and Trustee oversee any monies which the child may have to inherit.

How do the birth parents know about the adoption?

The adoption social worker will send a registered letter to the birth parents letting them know about the adoption. If the birth parents want contact with the child (called openness), they need to contact the adoption social worker.

When can the child to live with the prospective adoptive parent?

When MCFD adoption social worker, the child's guardianship worker and their team leaders complete a Plan of Care meeting and are satisfied that all areas of the child's life are OK with adoption, the prospective adoptive parent can sign a Notice of Placement.

What is a Notice of Placement?

This document says the prospective adoptive parent can begin to have the child live in the home. The Notice of Placement begins the six month residency period.

What is the Notice of Placement Residency Period?

A time for the prospective adoptive parent and the child adjust to each other. The adoption social worker offers support to the prospective adoptive parent and meets them over the six months.

During this time the prospective adoptive parent can begin receiving adoption funding.

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When can the prospective adoptive parent apply for Child Tax Benefit?

When the Notice of Placement is signed, the prospective adoptive parent can apply for the Child Tax Benefit, Disability Tax Credit and Family Bonus

What happens when the six months Residency Period ends?

If everything is OK, the adoption worker will have the prospective adoptive parent sign a court affidavit for the adoption. The court papers will then begin to be processed.

Who lets the Public Trustee know about the Adoption court order?

The Adoption social worker lets the Public Trustee know the court has granted the Adoption order.

Who does the court documents?

MCFD completes the court documents for Supreme Court. There is no charge to the adoptive parent.

The adoption social worker prepares court documents on behalf of MCFD. The final documents are then sent to the MCFD Regional office for final signing. MCFD pays for the legal cost of this adoption.

What is the adoption funding like?

The full monthly adoption funding is \$701.55 until the child is 12 years and \$805.68 when the child is 12 years to they reach adulthood.

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