

# Adoption Checklist

By Fae Fisher

- Meeting Adoption Requirements
  - You must be over 19 years of age.
  - If married, marriage must be of at least 3 years duration.
  - You must have adequate housing & personal space for the child or children adopted.
  - You must be healthy enough to meet a child's needs.
  - You must be willing to undergo a thorough background check.
- Preparation for Child Adoption
  - Determine what type of adoption is right for you.
  - Attend programs specifically designed to educate potential adoptive and foster parent families.
  - Join local and internet adoptive parent support groups.
  - Check an adoption professional or agency out with the licensing authority in its home state.
  - Consider hiring or consulting an experienced and reputable adoption attorney.
  - Be cautious if you are offered a referral before you have a completed and approved homestudy.
  - Find a child available for adoption.
  - Get approved as an adoptive resource or obtain consent to adoption.
  - Obtain adoption petitions.
  - Meet the children in pre-placement visits.
  - Upon the signing of a placement agreement, child will be placed in your home.
- Parenting After Adoption
  - Exchange information with other adoptive parents.
  - Participate in the support groups.