



# FROM FOSTER CARE TO ADOPTION

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**Considering adoption? Here is an overview of the adoption process to take the mystery out of the next step in building your family.**

## TYPES OF ADOPTION

FOSTER  
CARE

KINSHIP

PRIVATE  
PLACEMENT

### CERTIFICATION - WHERE DO YOU STAND?



Licensed foster parents – all you need is a current license to move forward with your adoption. License must be valid on the date of the final adoption hearing

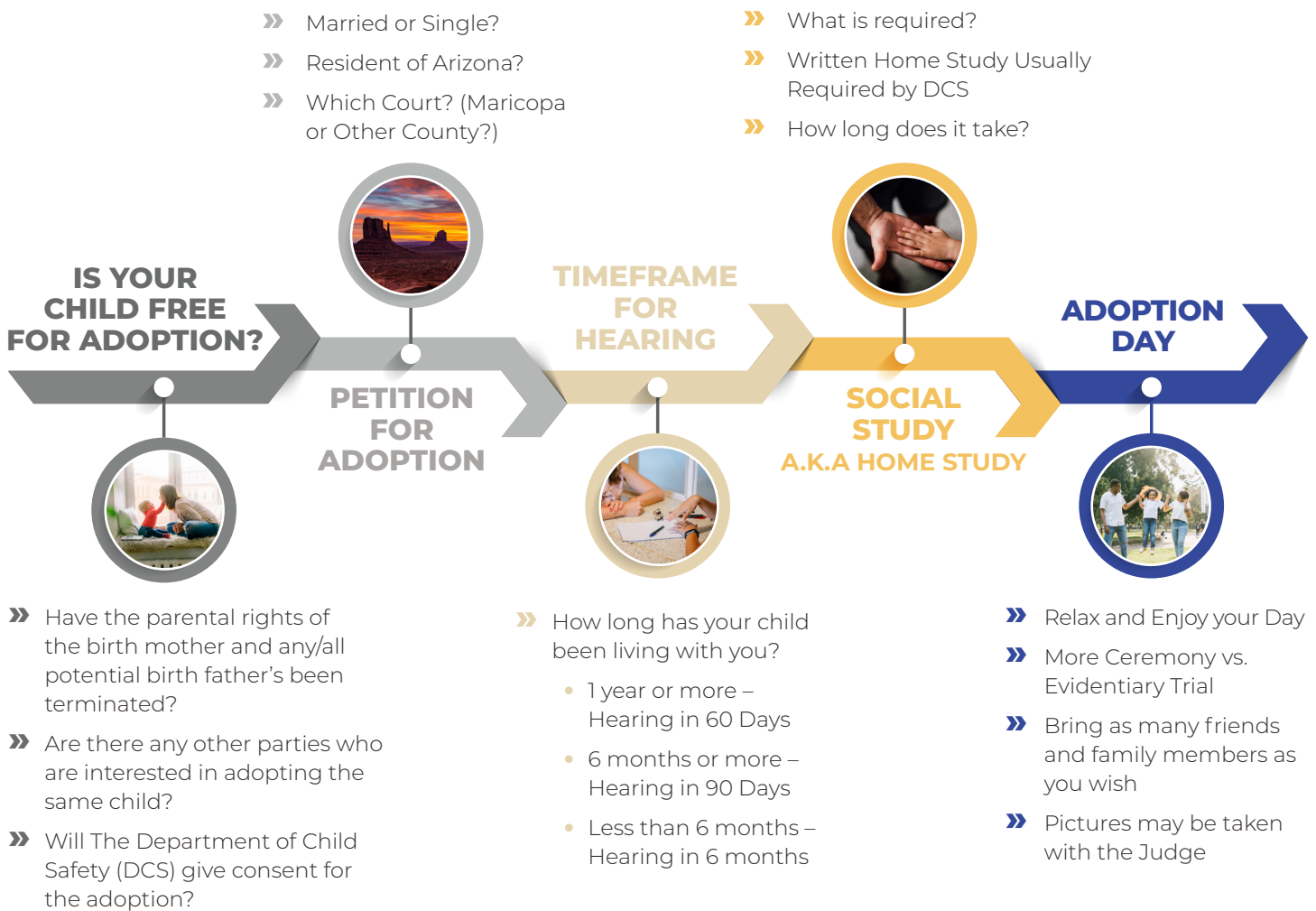


If you are an uncle, aunt, adult sibling, grandparent or great-grandparent (whole, half-blood, marriage or adoption) you do not have to be a licensed foster parent or Certified to Adopt



DCS (Department of Child Safety) requires that the child(ren) must be living in your home for at least 6 months before they will consent to the adoption

# THE ADOPTION PROCESS



## AFTER THE ADOPTION IS FINALIZED

You have all the rights and obligations of the relationship of parent and child as if they were your natural born children.

You have no obligation to allow the birth parents or other relatives to see the child unless you have agreed to a Post Adoption Communication Agreement

No Further Worries: Very difficult to overturn an adoption

Updated records will include a new Birth Certificate - usually ready 6-8 weeks after Finalization Hearing. This includes a change in the child's name (if requested) and updated parent information (THAT'S YOU!).

We recommend that you request a new Social Security Number be assigned to your child. You directly request this when you go to have their Social Security records updated after the adoption finalized. Be sure to bring a certified copy of the order of adoption and the amended birth certificate to ensure you are listed as the parents.

### THREE PARTS OF SUBSIDY

- 1 Medical Coverage - AHCCCS
- 2 Daily Maintenance Rate
- 3 Non-recurring adoption expenses – Legal and Court Fees
  - Select your own attorney for the adoption
  - Choose an attorney that is familiar with the DCS Adoption process
  - \$2000 allotted – hire someone – you don't get a refund

### TIPS FOR EXPEDITING

- » **Bring the Fingerprint Clearance Card for every member of your household over 18**
- » **Bring DCS Caseworker and Agency Caseworker contact information**
- » **Bring copy of Birth Certificate for each child (if you have one)**
- » **Bring copy of any Court Pleadings you have**

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR HEARING

- » Short and sweet – about 10 min
- » Invite everyone you want to celebrate with you. Invite your Licensing worker too!
- » Will be the same Judge that completed the Dependency part of the case
- » You will be answering questions from your lawyer but they are easy and you know all the answers
- » The child(ren) must be present regardless of age
- » Children over 12 must also testify at the hearing and confirm they want to be adopted
- » Photo shoot – photos with the Judge and Group Photos

## WHATEVER YOU NEED, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

JOIN THE FOSTER CARE SUPPORT GROUP OF ARIZONA:

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP](#)**

TO LEARN MORE VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE:

**[AZFAMILYLAWATTORNEYS.COM](http://AZFAMILYLAWATTORNEYS.COM)**

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