

**INFORMATION ABOUT ADOPTING IN ONTARIO**  
**Revised: October 21, 2009**



In Ontario, the Ministry of Children & Youth Services oversees all adoption issues. The Ministry website contains a wealth of information:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/index.aspx>

Although the entire site is helpful and informative, you might want to pay particular attention to these sections:

- **About Adoption:**  
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/about/index.aspx>
- **How to Adopt:**  
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/how/index.aspx>

We also suggest that you refer to the Glossary on our website: [http://www.adoption.ca/AboutAdoption\\_Glossary.html](http://www.adoption.ca/AboutAdoption_Glossary.html). This will help you to better understand some of the common terminology that you will encounter during your research and dialogue about adoption.

The first step in any adoption process in Ontario is to attend PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) training (<http://www.adoptontario.ca/pride.main.aspx>) and have a completed homestudy (professional home/family assessment to determine your suitability to parent), usually done by a social worker or adoption practitioner.

**Prospective adoptive parents in Ontario have five options to consider:**

- **Public adoption:** please contact your local Children's Aid Society. There is no cost involved and most CAS offices offer pre-adoption education and information sessions.
  - a. To locate your local CAS, please visit the following link:  
<http://www.oacas.org/resources/members.htm>
  - b. For more information about public adoption, please visit the following link:  
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/how/index.aspx> (see “Adoption Options”)

- **Private adoption:** this is our suggestion for families who are looking to adopt a newborn baby. The cost involved varies based on the services provided.
  - a. A list of approved adoption practitioners and licensees is available on the Ministry website: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/practitioners.aspx>

*NOTE: A private practitioner can also carry-out the homestudy process for a public adoption.*

- b. A list of adoption agencies and licensees (under CFSA) authorized to handle adoptions involving Canadian children is also available: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/privateagencies.aspx> and <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/privatelicensees.aspx>
- **International adoption:** for more information, the following link will prove helpful: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/how/index.aspx> (See “Adoption Options”).
  - a. For a list of licensed agencies and licensees under the Intercountry Adoption Act and the Child and Family Services Act, please visit: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/adoption/internationaladoption.aspx>
- **Canada’s Waiting Children:** a program maintained by the Adoption Council of Canada (ACC), which aims to recruit families for children who are waiting for adoption in Canada. Since the ACC is not an adoption placement agency, the adoptive parent(s) must still have a homestudy done through a private or public agency in their province. Additional information about our program is available online at: [www.canadaswaitingkids.ca](http://www.canadaswaitingkids.ca)
- **AdoptOntario:** a program maintained by the Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO), which aims to recruit families for children who are waiting for adoption in Ontario. Since the ACO is not an adoption placement agency, the adoptive parent(s) must still have a homestudy done through a private or public agency in their province. Additional information about the AdoptOntario program is available online: [www.adoptontario.ca](http://www.adoptontario.ca)

Note: the Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO) runs “How to Adopt” seminars. To learn more about these events, please contact the ACO office: **416-482-0021** or visit [www.adoption.on.ca](http://www.adoption.on.ca).

The Family Helper website is another good source for information. You might find the following guides useful:

- Domestic Adoption: <http://www.familyhelper.net/fh/fhdom.html>
- Adoption & Money: <http://www.familyhelper.net/fh/fhmoney.html>
- Intercountry Adoption: <http://www.familyhelper.net/ad/adguide.html>

Finally, <http://www.parentbooks.ca/Adoption.html> is an excellent resource for individuals in all steps of the adoption process.

**Should you have any questions about this material, please do not hesitate to contact the Adoption Council of Canada: [info@adoption.ca](mailto:info@adoption.ca) or 1-888-54-ADOPT.**