

Compliments of the North American Council on Adoptable Children, modified by NYSCCC

Type of Adoption	Definition	Children Available	Approximate Cost	Who Can Adopt	How Long It Takes
Public agency adoption	An adoption directed and supervised by a state or local Department of Human Services. Also called adoption from foster care	Average age is 8 years; sibling groups of different ages.	From \$0 to \$2,000. 89% of children adopted from care receive monthly adoption assistance.	Flexible eligibility requirements for adoptive parents; on a case-by-case basis, will consider single parents, parents over the age of 40, parents who have other children, parents with low incomes, etc.	Starts slowly, but for those who have an updated home study, placement can occur as soon as a few months after selecting a child
Private agency adoption	An adoption directed and supervised by a privately funded, licensed adoption agency	Sometimes handle special needs children; more commonly associated with younger children and infants	\$6,000 to \$25,000; lower for special needs children; some agencies have sliding fee scales	Agencies may recruit parents based on race, religious affiliation, etc.; for infant adoptions, birth mother usually chooses	A few months to a few years (sometimes longer for infant adoption)
International adoption	Process of adopting a child who is not a U.S citizen, which may be accomplished privately through an attorney, or through an international adoption agency	About 88 countries currently allow their children to be adopted by U.S. citizens. Ages range from infant to teens; health conditions vary.	\$7,000 to \$30,000 (varies by country; travel and travel-related expenses may be additional)	Depends on agency and country requirements; some will accept single parents, most prospective parents are between 25 and 45 years old	Six months to several years depending on the child's age and health, and the country's political climate
Independent adoption (not legal in all states; also known as private adoption)	An adoption initiated by prospective adopters and completed with help from an attorney or adoption counselor		\$5,000 to \$40,000 (includes prospective parents' cost of finding a birth mother, certain birth mother expenses, and attorney's fees)	Birth mothers typically choose the adoptive parent — preferences tend to run toward younger, affluent, married couples	Variable; as long as it takes to find a birth mother who will see the process through to finalization

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