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# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADOPT A CHILD

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ADOPTION IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS

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and select his future parents. Therefore, all the  
safeguards that society can offer must be placed  
around him.

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Prepared by a committee from  
the Consultant Staff and the  
Advisory Committee to the  
Child Welfare Division.

*Handwritten signature:*  
Director of Public Welfare  
Colorado State Department

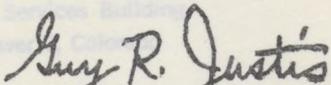


From "Essentials of  
Adoption Laws and Pro-  
cedures" published by  
U. S. Children's Bureau,  
Washington, D. C. 1949

Dear Adoptive Parents:

This pamphlet has been prepared to help you decide whether you wish to adopt a child. Such a decision is one of the most important that you will make in your married life. This booklet points out what some of your responsibilities will be as parents. It will also assist you in determining what are good adoption practices, why it is desirable to go to a social agency, and why a social study of your home will be made.

Sincerely yours,



Director  
Colorado State Department  
of Public Welfare

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### ADOPTION IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS

You undoubtedly have given the matter of adoption much thought and realize that you are seeking to assume a new role - that of parenthood. The child, however, is not able to control his situation and select his future parents. Therefore, all the safeguards that society can offer must be placed around him.

The CHILD must be protected\* -



from unnecessary separation from parents who might give him a good home and loving care if sufficient help and guidance were available;

from adoption by people unfit to have responsibility for the care, rearing, and training of a child;

from interference by natural parents long after the child has been happily established in his adoptive home.

The NATURAL PARENTS must be protected -

from hurried decisions made under strain and anxiety to give up their child.

\* From "Essentials of Adoption Laws and Procedures", published by U.S. Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C. 1949



The ADOPTING PARENTS must be protected-

from taking responsibility for children about whose heredity or physical or mental capacity they know nothing;

from later disturbance of their relationship to the child by natural parents whose legal rights have not been fully protected.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO ADOPT A CHILD?

Give this question your most serious thought. Weigh everything; take stock of what you will have to give up and how much it will cost you in time, money and effort.

The reasons for adoption are many and varied. Motives are often mixtures of emotions and well-thought-out reasons. The greatest number of applications come from childless couples who hope to have richer and fuller lives by bringing a child into a home. Interest in a particular child is another reason. Parents who cannot have a second child may wish, through adoption, to provide companionship for an only child. The success of this sort of placement depends upon the parents' ability to be impartial, to feel equal affection toward both children, and their natural child's ability to accept a newcomer. It is usually hazardous for parents to try to replace through adoption a child they have lost. Remember that a child is a person; he has needs of his own and he has rights!



## WHO IS THE CHILD YOU WISH TO ADOPT?

The majority of children placed for adoption are born out of wedlock. While some unmarried mothers keep their babies, more relinquish them for adoption. The youth of the mother, the failure of relatives to assist in caring for the baby, or fear of social ostracism forces her to this decision.



Early placement of the baby in an adoptive home is desirable.

However, it is often necessary to delay placement until the child's general condition and rate of development can be determined.

Lack of information about the father of the baby, lack of prenatal care, birth injury - to mention only a few - are reasons why babies are observed before they are given to adoptive parents.

Sometimes children born to married couples are eligible for adoption because of death, desertion, or neglect on the part of the parents. This may result in the child's removal from the home by court action.

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND HIM?

It is perfectly natural for prospective parents to want a child who will "fit". It is essential, therefore, that they apply to a child-placing agency of recognized standing.\* A good child-placing agency has watched the development of a child and uses child specialists in medicine and psychology to fully understand him. The agency also knows all the facts that can be found about the parents.

\* See page 8 for list of approved adoption agencies.

You will want to know, and the agency can tell you, about the parents: their health, education, what kind of work they do, what interests or skills they have and what sort of people they are. You will want to know about the child's other relatives. The agency will not keep you in the dark about anything you ought to know even if it is a count against the child, but they will not tell you who the real parents are or where they live, nor will they tell the real parents who you are or where you live.

An agency makes sure whenever possible that the child's own parents never know the names of his adoptive parents and that the adoptive parents do not know the names of the real parents or where they live.

If such an agency helps you in your adoption, you will be sure of the following:

Information on the child and his background will be given to you;

The child will suit your type of family;

What you tell the social worker is just between yourselves.



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WHAT KIND OF HOME DOES THE CHILD WANT?



The greatest need of every child is for a home in which there is a mother and a father and in which he may have the benefits of family life with its background of affection and understanding. He must also be wanted and have a real sense of belonging.

It is essential that both husband and wife agree upon the plan for taking a child into their home. Unless such an agreement exists, discord is bound to arise, and the adoption may result in future unhappiness for both the child and the adoptive parents.

Age of adoptive parents may affect their ability to give sympathetic guidance to a child, especially as he grows older. Reasonable economic security should be assured to provide proper living conditions, a desirable neighborhood and educational opportunities. The standard of living should be such that the child will have good diet, satisfactory sleeping conditions, and proper medical care. The physical condition of the parents should be sound.



### WHY STUDY AN ADOPTIVE HOME?

In the infant or young child for whom adoption is planned, we have a small person who cannot speak for himself; the natural parent can speak out as well as the adoptive parents, but the one whose future is being determined can say nothing about it. The agency thinks and speaks for this small citizen.



It is the agency's responsibility to choose homes in which children will have the best opportunity for sound physical, mental and emotional development. When a child is ready for adoption, the home selected for him from the list of approved homes will be the one that is best suited to him--in terms of his background, personality, and special needs.

### WHY COURT ACTION IN ADOPTION?

Only by court action can the child, the natural parents, and the adoptive parents get sure protection. Only court action can make adoption legal. Adoption agencies know the importance of correct legal procedure to safeguard those involved.



ADOPTION AGENCIES

Private Agencies in the Denver Area:

Denver Catholic Charities  
1665 Grant Street  
Denver, Colorado

Family and Children's Service Society (non-sectarian)  
Room 404, 314-14th Street  
Denver, Colorado

Jewish Family and Children's Service  
Room 504, 314-14th Street  
Denver, Colorado

Lutheran Service Society  
Room 409, 314-14th Street  
Denver, Colorado

Private Agencies in Pueblo:

Family Welfare Service of Pueblo  
322 West 5th  
Pueblo, Colorado

Pueblo Catholic Charities  
326 West 15th  
Pueblo, Colorado

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ADOPTION AGENCIES (con't.)

The County Departments of Public Welfare  
in 63 counties of Colorado:

<u>County</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Adams	Brighton	AT. 8-1290
Alamosa	Alamosa	118W
Arapahoe	Littleton	PY. 4-1501
Archuleta	Pagosa Springs	22
Baca	Springfield	8
Bent	Las Animas	35
Boulder	Boulder	HI. 2-2828
Chaffee	Salida	155
Cheyenne	Cheyenne Wells	18J
Clear Creek	Georgetown	2077
Conejos	Conejos	FR. 6-5494
Costilla	San Luis	4471
Crowley	Ordway	9931
Custer	Westcliffe	SU. 3-2371
Delta	Delta	352
Denver	Denver	AC. 2-9345
Dolores	Dove Creek	2621
Douglas	Castle Rock	MA. 8-4825
Eagle	Eagle	100
Elbert	Simla	55
El Paso	Colorado Springs	ME. 5-3553
Fremont	Canon City	135
Garfield	Glenwood Springs	49
Gilpin	Central City	2252
Grand	Hot Sulphur Springs	PA. 5-3364
Gunnison	Gunnison	236W
Hinsdale	Lake City	96
Huerfano	Walsenburg	818-819
Jackson	Walden	10J
Jefferson	Golden	CR. 9-2511
Kiowa	Eads	GE. 8-5541
Kit Carson	Burlington	70



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Yuma	ion	CH. 2-4160
		OL. 8-2200
		71
		128
		780
Morgan	Fort Morgan	UN. 7-6902
Otero	La Junta	219
Ouray	Ouray	DA. 5-4637
Park	Fairplay	72
Phillips	Holyoke	UL. 4-2280
Pitkin	Aspen	2642
Prowers	Lamar	162
Pueblo	Pueblo	LI. 3-3550
Rio Blanco	Meeker	118
Rio Grande	Del Norte	OL. 7-9588
Routt	Steamboat Springs	53
Saguache	Saguache	OL. 5-2614
San Juan	Silverton	DU. 7-5631
San Miguel	Telluride	179
Sedgwick	Julesburg	116W
Summit	Breckenridge	GL. 3-2262
Teller	Cripple Creek	8
Washington	Akron	137
Weld	Greeley	183-186-187
Yuma	Wray	203

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BORROWER'S NAME

500 7 '67

*Bernie Webb  
Child Development*

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Welfare. Child Welfare Division.

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