

YOUR ROADMAP THROUGH THE ADOPTION PROCESS



Before you begin, make sure you meet the criteria and have all the documents needed. Read the "Are You Ready to Adopt" brochure.



The Adoption Board is the only entity by law that can make an adoption arrangement. Do not take a stranger's child or engage in trafficking by paying money or exchanging favors for a child.



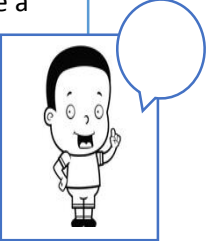
Once you have a completed form and all supporting documents (birth & marriage certificates; medical reports; proof of income etc.) submit everything to the Adoption Board, through the CDA.

If your form is in order, a Case Worker will be assigned. The Case Worker arranges all the local investigations to prepare your file for a final decision.



A Home Visit must be conducted to ensure that the home arrangements for the child are suitable. If you live abroad you must pay a private agency to conduct the visit and send the report to the Adoption Board

As part of the investigation, the Case Worker will interview the child and prepare a report.



The birth parents consent is an important step. The birth parents must be ready to end all their ties to the child. The process can be held up if the birth parents cannot be found. In extreme cases, the court can agree to dispense with the need for parental consent.



If you are requesting a child to be placed with you by the state, this phase could be the longest wait. There are many more families waiting to adopt than available children. This will not apply to persons adopting their family members or other known children.



Once all the information is received and investigations are complete, your file will be reviewed by a Case Committee of the Adoption Board to determine if the adoption arrangement is approved. This is the first of two approvals needed.



Children are often placed with the adopting family at this stage, to ensure that they mesh. Expect additional home visits to report on how well the family is getting.

If birth parents are available and give their consent, and all your forms are submitted quickly, it can take about 12 weeks for your Case Worker to submit your file to the Board.

After receiving the Board's approval, you will need to go to court for a judge to grant an Adoption Order, which is only available to persons living in Jamaica. Foreign-based adopters can get an Adoption Licence, which they will use to apply for an Adoption Order in the country in which they live. The court may ask for additional information, and you will be required to attend in person.



Your court-issued Adoption Order is a final document. Your new child will be entitled to a new birth certificate from the Registrar General's Department and old birth records will be sealed.

