

Adoption

in the
Northwest Territories

Government of
Northwest Territories





What is Adoption?

Adoption is a social, emotional and legal process that results in a child becoming a permanent member of a new family.

What Types of Adoption are Available in the NWT?

- Departmental
- Private
- Step-parent
- Custom

Why Adopt?

Every child deserves a safe, loving and permanent family. The relationship between a parent and child is one that affects the child throughout his or her lifetime.

Families choose adoption for many reasons:

- They want to add another child to their family;
- They have medical reasons preventing them from conceiving a child of their own;
- They can conceive their own child, but want to offer another child a permanent home;
- They have already raised their own family, but want to continue being a parent of younger children.

Who Can Adopt?

Anyone who is:

- At least 19 years of age;
- A resident of the Northwest Territories;
- Single, married or living common-law;
- Able to pass both a criminal record and child welfare background check;

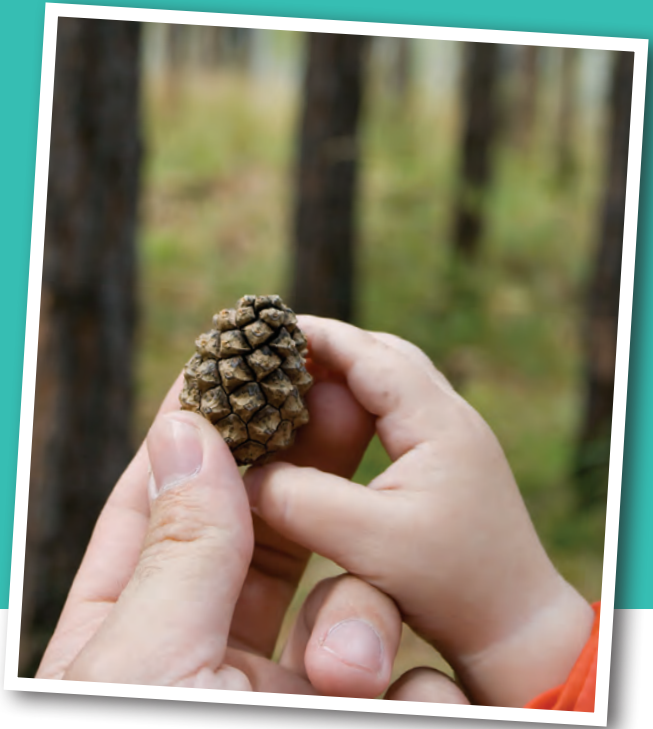
- Willing to participate in the Family Assessment (home study) process with an Adoption Worker;
- Of any race or ethnicity; and
- With or without children of their own.

How Do I Adopt?

Departmental Adoption: Departmental adoption refers to the adoption of a child in the permanent care of the Director of Child and Family Services. The process to become approved begins with an application to adopt. Contact your local Health and Social Services Authority and ask to speak with an Adoption Worker. There are no fees in a departmental adoption.

Private or Step-Parent Adoption: Private adoption refers to an adoption arranged between two families themselves. Step-parent adoption refers to an adoption by a non-biological parent wishing to adopt the children of his or her spouse or common-law partner. In both private and step-parent adoption the process begins with the application to adopt, which can be obtained at any Health and Social Services Authority. The applicant(s) must contact a lawyer to facilitate the process. There are fees payable to the GNWT and lawyer.

Aboriginal Custom Adoption: Aboriginal custom adoption is an arrangement made between two Aboriginal families. To have an Aboriginal custom adoption recognized, you need to contact an Aboriginal Custom Adoption Commissioner and complete an application. Contact your local Health and Social Services Authority to obtain a list of Adoption Commissioners in your community.



Adoption Registry

The Adoption Registry stores records of all completed adoptions. To access information from the Adoption Registry, you must complete an *Application for Information* form. Information is provided free of charge.

Contact your local social services office in your community, or:

Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9
Canada
Phone: (867) 767-9061 ext. 49170
CFS_Info@gov.nt.ca
www.hss.gov.nt.ca

If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at 1-866-846-8601.

Si vous voulez ces renseignements dans une autre langue officielle, communiquez avec nous au 1-866-846-8601.