

Choosing Your Adoption Agency

A RESOURCE FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

There's nothing more important than the future of your family. When you choose an adoption agency, you're putting that future in their hands. Let's make sure you choose an agency you can trust.

How to use this tool: Ask any professional you are considering these four questions. Document their answers, and look out for the red flags!

QUESTION 1: How many families are waiting on your list?

Red Flags: Professionals that are hesitant to answer this question usually have something to hide. If you can't get a clear answer, that might mean there are many more families on the list than there are adoption placements each year.

Answer:

QUESTION 2: How many adoptions did you complete last year?

Red Flags: A trustworthy professional should give you a specific number. Watch out for a response that talks about wait times, tells stories about specific matches, or generally deflects from giving you an actual number.

Answer:

QUESTION 3: Are you a licensed adoption agency?

Red Flags: Licensed agencies undergo intense annual reviews from state authorities. Unlicensed professionals can mislead families because they are not regularly reviewed. Make sure they say, "Yes, we are a licensed adoption agency."

Answer:

QUESTION 4: Will I pay additional fees after a certain period of time?

Red Flags: Look out for expiring contracts and hidden fees. Professionals that use these types of fees will talk about how wait times are so short that you'll never have to worry about the contract expiring. Unfortunately, as many families discover, this line is often untrue.

Answer: