

Public Adoption

What is considered public adoption? A public adoption is the adoption of a child or youth who is in extended society care. Public adoptions are facilitated by an Ontario Children's Aid Society (CAS). Applicants must work with their local CAS.

Applicant's Next Steps | Contact your [local CAS](#) → Ask to speak to the adoption intake department → Applicants may be asked to attend their local CAS's orientation session → Your local CAS will walk you through next steps and the adoption process.

Timeline | Although there are no set timelines, once an applicant(s) is approved AdoptReady (completed PRIDE training and the SAFE homestudy), an adoption can happen anywhere between six months, up to two years. These timelines may vary and can be shorter or longer.

Private Adoption

What is considered private adoption? A private adoption is the adoption of a newborn (mostly). Either a private adoption practitioner or a licensed private adoption agency will facilitate this type of adoption.

Applicant's Next Steps | Contact a [private adoption practitioner](#) who will conduct your SAFE homestudy → Sign up for a [private PRIDE training](#) course.

Timeline | There are no set timelines when it comes to private adoptions.

International Adoption

What is considered international adoption? An international adoption is the adoption of a child or youth outside of Canadian borders. Applicants must work with an International adoption agency, as they will facilitate this avenue of adoption.

Applicant's Next Steps | Contact an [international adoption agency](#) → Sign up for a [private PRIDE training](#) course → Contact a [private adoption practitioner](#) to conduct your SAFE homestudy.

Timeline | Timelines will vary depending on the country an applicant is adopting from. Contact an International Adoption Agency to learn more about expected timelines and qualifications.

Note* Applicants are able to pursue all three avenues of adoption simultaneously



AdoptOntario's Frequently Asked Questions

Will my PRIDE training and SAFE homestudy ever expire? Once you have successfully completed your PRIDE training, you will not need to retake the course. The SAFE homestudy, on the other hand, does need to be updated every two years or earlier if a major life change has taken place (e.g. a move, adopted a child/youth or had a child, were married).

Is the SAFE homestudy transferrable? The SAFE homestudy is a portable document, meaning; an applicant can use their homestudy towards any avenue of adoption (public, private and international). With this in mind, an applicant's homestudy may need an update depending on which additional avenue(s) of adoption they are looking to pursue.

Can I complete my SAFE homestudy before PRIDE training? PRIDE training must be completed prior to or concurrently with the SAFE homestudy. There is a section on the SAFE homestudy that asks if PRIDE training has been successfully completed. Until this section is checked off, the SAFE homestudy cannot be finalized.

Do I have to work with a private adoption practitioner in my area? Unlike public adoption, families do not have to work with a private adoption practitioner located in their region. It is important to keep in mind that if you decide to work with a private adoption practitioner outside of your region, this could change the timelines and costs.

If I am a single applicant, can I adopt? Single applicants are eligible to adopt in Ontario. Applicants may want to consider who their additional supports and resources are to ensure they are supported throughout their adoption journey.

I want to adopt a child/youth I know of, or am related to, in another country. How do I do this? Applicants adopting a child or youth who does not live in Canada, will be required to follow the international adoption process in Ontario, even if they know of the child/youth or are related to the child/youth. Contact an international adoption agency who works with the country you are considering to adopt from for further information about how to start the process.

If a country is not listed, are we able to adopt from that country? If you cannot find an international adoption agency that works with a country you are interested in adopting from, you can connect with the Private International Adoption Unit (PIAU) for more information.