

Types of Adoption in Wisconsin

	Domestic Infant Adoption	International Adoption	Relative Adoption	Step-Parent Adoption	Adoption through Foster Care (Public Adoption)
Definition	A birth mother creates an adoption plan and often chooses a family to adopt her child/infant (the birth father may also be part of the process)	A child from another country is adopted and becomes a citizen of the United States	A relative adopts. "Relative" is defined by Wisconsin Statute 48.02 (15) as a parent, grandparent, step-parent, brother, sister, first cousin, nephew, niece, uncle or aunt who is related to the child by birth or marriage.	A spouse adopts the child of another spouse.	A single person or a married couple adopt a child from the child welfare/foster care system.
Ages of Children Available	Generally 2 days - 1 month old	Ages 9 months and older	Any age	Any child whose parent's rights have been terminated or one parent has died	0-18 years old (families especially needed for children ages 4 and older)
Approximate Cost	Domestic agency: \$12,000-\$25,000 Independent: \$10,000-\$30,000 (typically)	\$25,000-\$50,000 (depending on the country and travel requirements)	\$2,500-\$4,000	\$500-\$2,500 (depending on legal actions needed)	The state of Wisconsin will pay for the home study process, trainings, and adoption process.
Who Can Adopt?	Anyone who passes the adoption home study process (typically birth parents are choosing adoptive parents in their mid-20s and lower 30s)	Each country has its own set of policies.	Anyone who is a relative and passes the home study process	A spouse of a birth parent who has passed the home study process (most agencies hold the policy of 1 year of marriage).	Any person considered safe and appropriate who has gone through the foster care licensing process and who has also been approved for public adoption.
How Long Will It Take?	Depends on the case; typically 6 months-2 years	4-6 months for the home study process. Waiting time for placements can vary greatly between countries.	Time involved differs on a case-by-case basis	Usually involves four steps: termination of parental rights, petition to adopt and order for investigation, the agency investigation, and the hearing on the adoption. Time involved differs on a case-by-case basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The licensing process typically takes 3-4 months from the time the agency receives your application. • Time until placement varies • Once a child is in your care, the adoption process typically takes 18 months or longer.