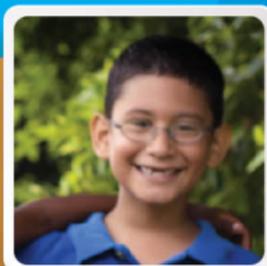


Caring. Supporting. Protecting.



*Adoption*

[www.ttchildren.org](http://www.ttchildren.org)



# Adoption

The Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (the Authority), is a child-centred, family-focused organisation which acts on behalf of children in need of care and protection.

The Authority is responsible for making all arrangements for adoption, which is a permanent placement option and seeks to encourage family environments of love and support.



A decorative graphic at the top of the page features several overlapping, curved ribbons in bright colors: orange, pink, yellow, and purple. Interspersed among these ribbons are several heart shapes, some solid and some outlined, in various colors including white, pink, orange, and purple. The background of the top section is a blurred outdoor scene with green trees and a person's shoulder visible on the right.

## **ADOPTION: BUILDING FAMILIES**

Adoption is the legal transfer of all parental rights and responsibilities for a child from that child's parents (biological or adoptive parents) or guardian(s) to another person or persons referred to as the adopter or adopters. Adoption provides a child with a sense of belonging and permanence.

### **WHO CAN ADOPT?**

The current Adoption of Children Act has removed all restrictions with respect to the age of the prospective adopter and the age difference between prospective adopters and the child to be adopted. Therefore, anyone can make an application to adopt a minor child. Old prejudices based on age, gender and marital status are abolished.

### **WHO CAN BE ADOPTED?**

- The child must be under the age of eighteen (18) years and has never been married.
- The child must be assessed by the Authority to be suitable for adoption. This refers to medical assessment and investigations into the social circumstances of the biological family.



- The required consents of every person or body who is a parent or guardian of the child or who has custody of the child or who is liable to contribute to the support of the child must be given unless the Court dispenses with consent.



## **HOW ARE THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN, WHERE POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE, TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING THE ADOPTION PROCESS?**

**Section 6 (2) of the Children's Authority Act** states that when determining the best interest of a child the Children's Authority shall take into consideration:

- ***The right of the child to be heard***
- ***The right of the child to enjoyment of family life***

As part of the Assessment, the Authority will explore the child's views and feelings about their living arrangements, their wishes, preferences and hopes for the kind of lifestyle they wish to have (having regard to the child's age and understanding).



## WHAT ARE THE STAGES IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS?

The three stages are as follows:

- 1. Approval to adopt a child:** This includes the application and assessment processes.
- 2. Matching:** This is when a prospective adopter's description of a desired child matches the profile of a child who has become available for adoption.
- 3. Placement:** This occurs when the child has been successfully matched and is placed in the temporary care of the approved adopters to start the probationary period. The timeframe for the entire process varies depending on a number of factors. A probationary period up to six months must be satisfied unless reduced or waived by the Authority.





**HEAD OFFICE:**

Cor. Dere Street and Queen's Park West,  
Port of Spain

**ADOPTION UNIT:**

*Chaguanas Regional Office and Assessment Centre*  
#89 Chaguanas Main Road, St Thomas Village,  
Chaguanas

- Tel: 627-0748 - Ext. 40023, 40024, 40026, 40027
- E-mail: [adoption@ttchildren.org](mailto:adoption@ttchildren.org)

**HOTLINE: 996 or 800-2014**



[www.ttchildren.org](http://www.ttchildren.org)