

Infant Adoption in Michigan

Reviving a vanishing phenomenon



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your interest in adoption. We hope this report will expand your thinking about adoption, stimulate public discussion, and ultimately encourage legislative action.

At Michigan Family Forum, we know that children thrive when raised in a home with a loving mother and father. Unfortunately, many children are not given the chance to experience such an environment. Currently, less than one percent of all children born out-of-wedlock are released into an adoptive home. Research has also revealed that young women, as well as couples considering adoption, are often misinformed.

Clearly, we can do better. I invite you to read this report and consider joining our efforts to make Michigan a national leader in the promotion of adoption. Working together, we can ensure that more children are raised in a stable home with the love and support of a mom and a dad.

Whether you are seeking to learn more about adoption or have a desire to become an advocate for the cause, we hope this resource will be helpful.

Brad Snavely
Executive Director

Other Resources Available

Forum Online

Free weekly electronic newsletter; subscribe at www.michiganfamily.org

Family Guide to Internet Safety

Sex Education: Rights and Responsibilities in Michigan Law

What Every Child Needs: The Unique Contributions of Fathers and Mothers

Marriage and Divorce: Public Opinion in Michigan

Family Health Indicators: A Survey of Michigan Counties

Various *Policy Briefs* and *Backgrounders* on marriage, cohabitation, fatherhood and out-of-wedlock childbearing

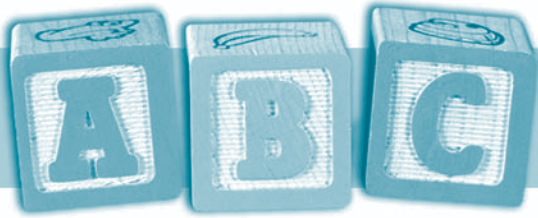
All resources are available by contacting us or visiting our Web site at www.michiganfamily.org

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“For a pregnant woman, it [adoption] offers a means of providing an alternative home for her child; for a couple who cannot have children of their own, it offers an avenue to parenthood; for the adopted child, it offers a family that is presumably better equipped to raise the child than that into which he or she has been born.”¹

A Time-Tested Solution

Adoption has been recognized by societies across the globe and over the centuries as a legitimate way to provide for needy children and childless couples. It has helped countless children to settle in permanent homes where they can access opportunities and resources that they would not otherwise experience.

As far back as 1750 B.C., the legitimacy and finality of the adoption process was recognized by King Hammurabi of Babylonia when he commissioned the Code of Hammurabi, the oldest written codification of law. In addressing adoption, the Code proclaimed that, “If a man adopt a child and to his name as son, and rear him, this grown son can not be demanded back again.”² The Code did not allow one to disown an adopted son unless he was provided with an equal share of the inheritance; nor could an adopted son cast off his adopted parents.³ In addition, the Code set forth the laws of inheritance and desertion according to the circumstances of the adopted son and family.

Around 1250 B.C., the well-known story of Moses entered history. His mother put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile in hopes that he could escape the Egyptian soldiers who were attempting to kill all newborn Hebrews. The daughter of Pharaoh found him in the river and adopted him as her own son. Moses lived to lead his people out of Egypt in the Great Exodus and became a renowned leader, who eventually brought the Hebrews to the land of Canaan.⁴ Like many modern adoptions, Moses’ adoption saved his life and provided him with a privileged upbringing that his birthparents could not have provided.

In 529 A.D., the Roman Emperor Justinian compiled all Roman law into one source, now known as



the Justinian Code, to help clarify and codify Roman law throughout the empire. This Code addressed the types of adoption recognized in the Roman state and their impact on familial relationships.⁵ It affirmed the role of adopted children as equal to the role of natural born children: “Not only are our natural children, as we have said, in our power, but those also whom we adopt.”⁶

Adoption in Michigan Today

Current reports show that out-of-wedlock births account for one-third of all births in the United States (34.6%)⁷ and Michigan (34.6%).⁸ These children represent the part of society most prone to poverty, academic struggles, and medical problems.⁹ Over the past several decades, the percentage of infants born out-of-wedlock has sky-rocketed, while the percentage of those same infants put up for adoption has dramatically declined. Before 1973, 19.3 percent of all infants born to white, never-married mothers were relinquished for adoption.¹⁰ However, by 1995, just 1.7 percent of all infants born to white, never-married

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Domestic infant adoptions make up only a small portion of all adoptions that take place today. Of the 5,584 adoptions that took place in Michigan in 1996, only 382 were adoptions of unrelated domestic infants.¹³ The vast majority of adoptions are of older children in the foster care system. Surprisingly, unrelated domestic infant adoptions account for only 6.8 percent of all adoptions in the state. Not only are few of the infants born to unwed mothers placed for adoption, but infant adoptions account for very few of all adoptions that take place every year.

Outcomes of Children Born Out-of-Wedlock

The great concern with having so many children born out-of-wedlock is their vulnerability to inadequate health care, poor grades in school, and unhealthy home environments. The effects are felt throughout the children’s lives. As babies, their mothers are “less likely to obtain prenatal care and more likely to have a low birthweight baby.”¹⁴ In young childhood, children in single-mother homes tend to have “lower scores on verbal and math achievement tests.”¹⁵ During middle childhood, these children are more likely to “receive lower grades, have more behavior problems, and have higher rates of chronic health and psychiatric disorders.”¹⁶ As teenagers and young adults, “being raised in a single-mother family is associated with elevated risks of teenage childbearing, high school dropout, incarceration and with being neither employed nor in school.”¹⁷ This creates a self-perpetuating cycle that is far too easy to enter and extremely difficult to exit.

There are several factors that help explain why out-of-wedlock child birth has become so widespread in the United States:

- **The role of welfare**—There has been some criticism of the welfare system for its propensity to create intergenerational welfare recipients who perpetuate nonmarital childbearing as a way to stay on welfare.
- **Economic opportunities for the parents**—Higher levels of education, income, and employment among women greatly decrease their chances of nonmarital childbearing as well as significantly increase their likelihood of being married.¹⁸ Similarly, men are more likely to be married when they are well-educated, employed, and have stable incomes. Studies show that the “more employed men in a community, the lower the proportion of births that occur outside of marriage.”¹⁹
- **Individual and family characteristics**—The characteristics of an individual child and his family have been found to be more influential than neighborhood influences.²⁰ Factors, such as poverty, family dysfunction, early sexual abuse, frequent residential moves, and parental marital disruption, can all contribute to teenage pregnancy and the perpetuation of family troubles.
- **Attitudes, values, and norms**—Changes in Americans’ views of marriage and family may have contributed to the increasing number of babies born out-of-wedlock. A majority of teenagers today expect to marry, but only a minority believes that marriage is an essential part of life.²¹ These changing views have resulted in less pressure from parents and friends and less social stigma that discouraged out-of-wedlock births and single parenthood in the past.

Michigan Births, Prenatal Care and Outcomes by Marital Status, 2003

Mothers’ Marital Status	Births	Inadequate Prenatal Care	Low Birth Weights	Infant Deaths
Married	85,529	5.3%	6.9%	0.6%
Unmarried	45,321	11.3%	10.6%	1.3%

Source: 2003 Live Birth File, Vital Records and Health Development Section, Michigan Department of Community Health

Health Characteristics of Children by Family Structure, United States

	Both Biological Parents	Adoptive Parents	Biological Mother Only
Percent of children 0–17 years of age in excellent health with no limiting conditions	55.1%	55.8%	42.3%
Percent of children 0–17 years of age who have no health insurance	12.8%	8.2%	16.9%
Percent of children 0–17 years of age who have late or irregular bedtime	16.2%	8.3%	22.0%

Source: 2003 Live Birth File, Vital Records and Health Development Section, Michigan Department of Community Health

Outcomes of Adopted Children

Children adopted in infancy enjoy several advantages over their counterparts in single-parent homes and are on par in many areas with children from intact biological families. Consider the following:

- **Higher standards of living**—Compared to the general population, adopted children are more likely to be better off economically, and their parents tend to be “better educated and older than the parents of other children.” Adoptive parents are also less likely to divorce.²² Additionally, “adopted children and stepchildren are much less likely to live below the poverty line than children living with single parents;”²³
- **Better health care access**—Only 8 percent of children living with adoptive parents have no form of health insurance compared to 12 percent of children living with both biological parents and 17 percent of children living with a single mother. In addition, only 13 percent of children living with adoptive parents have not received routine medical care in the past 2 years compared with 15 percent of children living with both biological parents or a single mother;²⁴
- **More stable families**—“Adopted children were also more likely to have a currently married mother than children living with their birthmother (90% compared with 77%).”²⁵
- **Better overall health**—Fifty-five percent of children with adoptive or both biological parents enjoy excellent health, while only 42 percent of children with single mothers have excellent health;²⁶
- **Improved educational attainment**—Adopted children are more likely to finish high school than children raised in homes with only single mothers.²⁷ One study showed that “only 7 percent of children adopted in infancy repeated a grade, while 12 percent of children living with both biological parents repeated a grade.”²⁸

In addition, adoption is one solution to the problem of fatherlessness. This growing problem creates havoc for children left without a father: “Almost 75 percent of American children living in single-parent families will experience poverty before they turn eleven years old Children who grow up absent their fathers are also more likely to fail at school or drop out, experience behavioral or emotional problems requiring psychiatric treatment, engage in early sexual behavior, and develop drug and alcohol problems.”²⁹

Types of Adoption

Birthparents considering adoption now have several options to determine the amount of involvement they want in finding adoptive parents or keeping in touch with their child after adoption. In addition, they can work through either a public or private adoption agency.

- **Traditional/Closed Adoptions**—These adoptions are very confidential, where neither the birthmother nor the adoptive family learns each other’s identity.
- **Confidential/Semi-Open Adoptions**—In these types of adoptions, the birthmother may choose the adoptive parents, and some type of periodic contact, often through an intermediary, may be established.

- **Open Adoptions**—Both parties exchange contact information and often meet before and after the adoption in these arrangements.³⁰

Most infant adoptions today are not as secretive as they were twenty years ago, since many states have enacted laws allowing adult adopted children access to unaltered birth certificate information.

Michigan’s current law offers varying degrees of openness in adoptions. Adult adoptees, former family members, and adoptive parents of minor children are allowed access to non-identifying information about the adoption, including date and place of birth, first name given at birth, an account of the birth family’s health background and history, description of birth family and other such non-identifying information.³¹ Regarding the release of identifying information, children adopted between May 28, 1945, and September 12, 1980, can only gain access to this information if the birth parent(s) filed a statement of consent with the Central Adoption Registry.³² Children adopted before May 28, 1945, or after September 12, 1980, however, have access to this informa-

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tion, unless the birth parent(s) filed a statement of denial with the Central Adoption Registry.³³ This latest revision allows birthparents to choose a closed adoption situation, but only if they take affirmative action to guard their privacy.

The increasing openness of adoption has created both benefits and drawbacks. Many mothers report their ability to be involved in the adoption process as the deciding factor in releasing their baby for adoption.³⁴ Many adoption agencies allow mothers to decide on the level of their interaction in the adoption—they can establish the selection criteria, interview the prospective parents, or even request periodic contact with their children as they grow up.³⁵ However, some adoption advocates claim that the openness of adop-

tion has driven some birthmothers away from the system, since they fear being forced into contact with their children at some later point in time. This unfounded fear reveals the need to educate birthmothers that they can take measures to prevent future contact with their child if they wish.

Cultural Views of Adoption

Birthmothers: Obviously, the decreasing number of children placed for adoption demonstrates that adoption has become a less attractive option for birthmothers. There are several theories which address this change in opinion.

Many argue that the increasing ease of getting an abortion and the lessening stigma of being a single mother have led to the decrease of babies placed for adoption. This idea is supported by the dramatic decrease in babies placed for adoption after 1973, when *Roe v. Wade* was decided.³⁶ However, at least one study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contradicts this belief by concluding that “recent declines in abortion rates suggest that the choice of abortion over relinquishment is not a significant factor in lower prevalence of relinquishment in recent years.”³⁷

Those birthmothers who chose to place their child for adoption did so for a variety of reasons: the birthfathers were unwilling or unable to help raise the child; the birthmothers believed their children would have a stable nuclear family and be better off economically; or the birthmothers believed that they lacked the financial stability or the maturity to parent their child.³⁸ The women who eventually place their child for adoption tend to be better educated and to have higher educational aspirations than their counterparts who choose to parent by themselves.³⁹ In addition, women are more likely to release their child as they get older and are more psychologically mature.⁴⁰ The more a woman perceives disadvantages to herself from single-parenting, the more likely she is to place her child for adoption. This demonstrates the need to educate birthmothers, particularly young mothers, about adoption and the cost of having a child out-of-wedlock so that they can make fully informed, rational decisions about both their future and their child’s future.

Women who choose single-parenting are at a disadvantage to mothers who place their children born out-of-wedlock for adoption or those who wait to have children until marriage. Birthmothers who place their children for adoption are less likely than women who choose to parent “to be poor, less likely to have



received some form of public assistance in the past year, and more likely to have completed high school.”⁴¹ In addition, women who first bear children out-of-wedlock are more likely to have low family income levels and complete fewer years of education.⁴²

There is an interesting similarity between young women who seek abortions and those who place their child for adoption: “[L]ike relinquishment, the prevalence of abortion increases with the educational level of the women’s parents and with enrollment and success in school. Unlike relinquishment, abortion is more likely among black than white women, less religious women, and women who do not personally know a single teenage mother.”⁴³ Further research to explore and understand this dichotomy is necessary so that policy makers can discover what drives these choices and what laws might influence these decisions.

Grandparents—Many women placing their children for adoption reported that “the infants’ maternal or paternal grandparents encourage[ed] or even pressur[ed] the women to parent rather than to place, usually because of their beliefs about responsibility or their own desires not to ‘lose their grandchild.’”⁴⁴ The grandparents’ opinions are tempered by their own education and experience: “Women whose mothers completed at least one year of college were about three

times more likely to place their babies for adoption than women whose mothers did not complete high school.”⁴⁵ In addition, the education of the birthmother’s father is also likely to influence the birthmother’s decision, with more educated fathers likely to support adoption than fathers who did not complete high school.⁴⁶

Adoptive Parents—There is widespread interest for infant adoptions today, despite the fewer number of children being placed for adoption. It is estimated that there are “one million stable couples [who] are now available to adopt the babies [of unwed mothers who do not want to raise the baby by themselves].”⁴⁷ Couples who are infertile are very eager to adopt and will often pay whatever monetary costs are required.⁴⁸ These couples have also increasingly turned to international adoptions because of the scarcity of adoptable children in the United States.⁴⁹

General Public—Knowledge of adoption and society’s acceptance of it is very high in the United States. Many Americans have both experienced and considered adoptions in their own lives:

- Sixty-five percent of Americans have experienced adoption either personally in their families or through the families of close friends and think favorably about adoption.⁵⁰
- Forty percent of Americans have considered adopting at least once in their lives.⁵¹
- Americans’ greatest fear—eighty-five percent called this their first concern—about adoption is that the birthparents might take the baby back. Almost half of the population cites monetary trouble or time constraints as a concern.⁵² However, while half of Americans are worried about financial constraints, only thirty-five percent say that financial assistance would be an important service in consideration of adopting a child.⁵³

Although most Americans have a favorable view of adoption, birthmothers themselves are not as highly regarded:

- “Adoption is stigmatized in poor, minority communities because it is seen as putting maternal concerns above maternal love.”⁵⁴
- Placing a child for adoption can be seen as abandonment and irresponsibility. A birthmother’s willingness to “give up” her child is sometimes

The five Michigan counties with the lowest and highest percentage of adopted children under 18, including adoptions by a relative.

Lowest Counties		
1.	Schoolcraft	1.37%
2.	Arenac	1.62%
3.	Keweenaw	1.76%
4.	Iosco	1.91%
5.	Shiawassee	1.95%

Highest Counties		
1.	Benzie	4.59%
2.	Charlevoix	3.96%
3.	Montmorency	3.95%
4.	Lake	3.85%
5.	Antrim	3.84%

Source: U.S. Census 2000

considered as an inability to face up to the consequences of life and making the child more vulnerable to hurt.⁵⁵

Crisis Counselors—Though very supportive of adoption as whole, some counselors in pregnancy centers are uneasy or unwilling to counsel their clients about the possibility of placing their baby for adoption. Those counselors who do not discuss adoption with their clients generally do not do so because they either lack familiarity with adoption, believe it will alienate their clients, or consider adoption to be a lesser goal than preventing an abortion. “Because they lack expertise and confidence, counselors are uncomfortable discussing adoption with women who say they are not interested in it. They believe that clients come in with already established views of adoption that cannot be changed. Counselors take what clients say about adoption at face value without question.”⁵⁶

Colleges and Universities—Textbooks in undergraduate Marriage and Family classes have switched from an equal focus on adoption and abortion before 1973 to a lopsided coverage of abortion that has dominated textbooks. The texts following *Roe v. Wade* devoted “at least three times more space on abortion than adoption.”⁵⁷ These texts also tend to focus on the micro-level of adoption by concentrating on individual stories and experiences rather than broad-reaching themes similar to their discussions on abortion. Most of the themes focus on only one member of the adoption triad, the adoptive parents instead of

the birthparents or the child. This happens as textbooks focus on infertility, illegitimacy, or the placement decision.⁵⁸

Michigan Law

Putative Fathers—Putative father laws have been set up to identify fathers of children born out-of-wedlock so that the child and mother can make plans without fearing intervention in the future. Michigan law currently allows putative fathers to be identified either by the mother or by a notice that the father may file. If the mother does not want to identify the father, he must file a verified notice of intent to claim paternity with a court, which guarantees him the right to notice of any hearing involving the paternity of the child or his parental rights.⁵⁹ In addition, “if a child is born out-of-wedlock and the release or consent of the biological father cannot be obtained, the child shall not be placed for adoption until the parental rights of the father are terminated by the court.”⁶⁰ Michigan, unlike many states, does not have a putative father registry that allows a father to register with a central source to make sure that his paternity claim is known throughout the entire state.

Safe Haven—On January 1, 2001, the Safe Delivery of Newborns Law took effect in Michigan. This law allows the mother to surrender anonymously the baby to an Emergency Service Provider within 72 hours of its birth without facing any criminal liability and with assurance that her child will be provided for and placed for adoption.⁶¹ This provides a safe environment for both mother and child so that the mother can relinquish her baby where the baby’s health and life will not be endangered. Since the enactment of this law in 2001, there have been 5–9 surrenders of babies every year in Michigan.⁶²

Sex Education—Since 2004, sex education courses in Michigan must “[a]dvice pupils of the laws pertaining to their responsibility as parents to children born in and out of wedlock”⁶³ and “[p]rovide information for pupils about how young parents can learn more about adoption services and about the provisions of the Safe Delivery of Newborns Law.”⁶⁴

Creating a Culture of Adoption—Policy Considerations

With minimal effort, Michigan can lead the nation in providing safe and loving homes to needy children through adoption. Studies clearly demonstrate that

adopted children receive tremendous benefits. Birthmothers and adoptive parents also benefit. It is also true that while the number of children that could benefit from adoption has skyrocketed, the number actually placed for adoption has plummeted. Michigan must take steps to create a climate that encourages and facilitates adoptions.

A culture of adoption would allow a birthmother to be fully informed of the adoption process and how she can participate in it. The birthmother would not feel pressured to release her child for adoption, nor would she feel stigmatized for choosing adoption. Adoption would be seen as a kind and wise decision by the birthmother, a choice made sacrificially for the baby's best interest. Society would embrace both the birthmother and adoptive parents as responsible parents who have acted in the best interest of the child. But most of all, a culture of adoption would view adoption as an act of love, not of abandonment or shame. Following are several public policy initiatives that we believe warrant consideration:

- **Infant adoption awareness training**—In pregnancy counseling, infant adoption training is almost non-existent, since either no information or negative information is given to woman in two-thirds of unplanned pregnancy counseling situations.⁶⁵ The National Council for Adoption has “developed curricula and provides training for pregnancy and health counselors on how to present adoption as a positive option for women with unplanned pregnancies.”⁶⁶ This training could be provided by Title X funding. The Federal Guidelines for Title X funding specify that pregnant women must be provided services which “offer pregnant women the opportunity to be provided information and counseling regarding each of the following options: ... (B) Infant care, foster care, or adoption.” Full awareness of all her options will allow the woman facing an unplanned pregnancy to make an informed decision.
- **Infant adoption awareness campaign**—Since the adoption rate of children born out-of-wedlock is extremely low, Michigan should launch a campaign to promote adoption as a healthy option for both teen mothers and their babies. The state could provide incentives to minors who are pregnant to attend an adoption information class before they receive public assistance. The cost of providing the class could be partially offset by

the Child Trust Fund checkoff box on personal income tax forms.

- **State-level putative father registries**—The National Council for Adoption recommends statewide putative father registries that require a father to register with a central database if he wants to maintain his rights to notice of adoption or custody. This would provide a more streamlined approach to determine a father's rights and to compel a father to become involved in his child's life if he wants to maintain his parental rights.⁶⁷
- **Research on out-of-wedlock births**—There is a lack of information about what motivates a woman to choose adoption rather than abortion or single parenthood.⁶⁸ This research would help policy makers understand why women decide to place their child for adoption and help them enact public policy that encourages adoption. Additionally, more research should be conducted to identify which children are likely to end up in foster care. If many of the children in the foster care system were born out-of-wedlock, Michigan should take steps to identify those children most at risk and educate the birthmother on the benefits of adoption, with the hopes of avoiding the disruptive foster care system later in life.
- **Changed attitudes about appropriate sexual behavior**—Educating children about the consequences of sexual behavior and the responsibilities they would face as single parents will go a long way in discouraging out-of-wedlock births.
- **Strict enforcement of child support from unmarried dads**—Tougher enforcement of child support laws may deter out-of-wedlock births. A study recently showed that “[s]tates that are strict in enforcing child support have up to 20 percent fewer unmarried births than states that are lax about getting unmarried dads to pay.”⁶⁹ This may help change attitudes about appropriate sexual behavior for young adults as they realize the consequences of their behavior.



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- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*
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- ²³ William S. Aquilino, "The Life Course of Children Born to Unmarried Mothers: Childhood Living Arrangements and Young Adult Outcomes," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 58, no. 2 (1996): 297.
- ²⁴ "Health of Our Nation's Children," *National Vital Statistics Reports* 10, no. 191, (1994): 31, 33.
- ²⁵ Christine A. Bachrach, "Adoption Plans, Adopted Children, and Adoptive Mothers," 249.
- ²⁶ "Health of Our Nation's Children," 19.
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- ⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 160.
- ⁵⁰ "National Adoption Attitudes Survey," Research Report, Harris Interactive, available at www.adoptioninstitute.org/whowe/order_EBDpubs.html, June 2002 (accessed July 19, 2005): 3.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, 29.
- ⁵³ *Ibid.*, 9.
- ⁵⁴ Christine E. Edwards and Christine L. Williams, "Adopting Change: Birth Mothers in Maternity Homes Today," *Gender and Society* 14, no. 1 (2000): 177.
- ⁵⁵ Curtis J. Young, "The Missing Piece: Adoption Counseling in Pregnancy Resource Centers," 3.
- ⁵⁶ Curtis J. Young, "The Missing Piece: Adoption Counseling in Pregnancy Resource Centers," 24.
- ⁵⁷ Elaine J. Hall and Kathy Shepherd Stolley, "A Historical Analysis of the Presentation of Abortion and Adoption in Marriage and Family Textbooks: 1950-1987," *Family Relations* 46, no. 1 (1997): 76.
- ⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 78.
- ⁵⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.33 (2005).
- ⁶⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.31(1) (2005).
- ⁶¹ Mich. Comp. Laws § 712.3 (2005).
- ⁶² "Safe Delivery Fact Sheet," State of Michigan, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/FIA-Fact-SafeDelivery_82216_7.pdf, last updated March 15, 2005 (accessed July 19, 2005).
- ⁶³ Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1507b(2)(d) (2005).
- ⁶⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1507b(2)(j) (2005).
- ⁶⁵ National Council for Adoption, "NCFA's Policy Priorities," www.adoptioncouncil.org/policy_Policy.htm, (accessed June 22, 2005).
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁹ Steven Goldsmith, "Tough Child Support Laws Deter Single Men from Becoming Dads," University of Washington, June 13, 2005, www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2005-06/uow-tcs061005.php, (accessed on July 22, 2005).

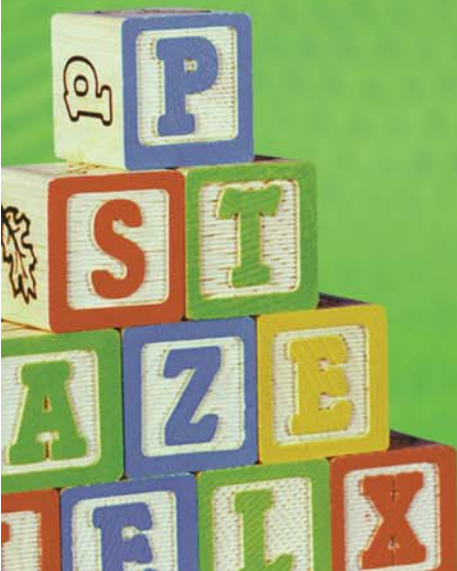
Adoption Resources

National Resources/Agencies

- Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
525 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10012
(212) 925-4089
www.adoptioninstitute.org
- National Council for Adoption
225 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2561
(703) 299-6633
www.adoptioncouncil.org
- National Adoption Information Clearinghouse
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20447
(703) 352-3488
<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>
- Adoptive Families Magazine
39 West 37th Street, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10018
(646) 366-0830
www.adoptivefamilies.com
- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
4150 Tuller Road, Suite 204
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(800)ASK-DTFA / (800)275-3832
www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org
- Adoption Exchange Association
8015 Corporate Drive, Suite C
Baltimore, MD 21236
(888) 200-4005
www.adoptUSkids.org
- Adoption.com
459 N. Gilbert Rd., Suite C-100
Gilbert, AZ 85234
(480) 446-0500
www.adoption.com
- International Adoption Project
The University of Minnesota
51 E. River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 624-0321
<http://education.umn.edu/ICD//iap/>

Michigan Resources/Agencies

- Michigan Federation for Children and Families
309 N. Washington Square, Suite 011
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 485-8552
www.michfed.org
- Michigan Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-2035
www.michigan.gov/dhs
- Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
330 W. Michigan Ave.
P.O. Box 6128
Jackson, MI 49204
(800) 589-6273 (in Michigan)
www.mare.org
- Bethany Christian Services
901 Eastern Ave NE
P.O. Box 294
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294
(616) 224-7610
www.bethany.org
- Catholic Social Service
913 W Holmes Rd., Suite 290
Lansing, MI 48910-0433
(517) 272-1524
- Christian Advocates for Adoption
P.O. Box 364
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 669-0655
www.cafadopt.org
- Lutheran Adoption Service
21700 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 1490
Southfield, MI 48075-4919
(248) 423-2770
www.lasadoption.org



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