

Becoming an Adoptive Family

Adoption will grow and expand the circles of love in your life and the lives of the children to whom you will become family.

If you want to know more about adoption please call 519-753-8681 and ask to speak to our Recruitment Worker. Our adoption staff are happy to answer any questions you might have.

If you are a relative or stepparent, you have the option of applying directly through the courts.

To apply at Brant Family and Children's Services agency (also known as FACS, CAS, Children's Aid Society), you must live in Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations or Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations areas.

Support Services

Our skilled and experienced adoption staff offer a range of services, at no charge, intended to guide and support you before, during and after you become a family.

These include:

- Adoption Training (PRIDE)
- Home Study Process (SAFE)
- Matching
- Post Placement Counseling and Adoption Support (to adoptive and birth families)
- Full Range of Adoption Disclosure Services (to adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings, relatives and adoptive parents), including reunion support and counseling if requested.

For further information on disclosure services, call the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services-Adoption Disclosure Register at: 416-327-4730

We are here to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with any child protection concerns you may have.

Office Hours: 8:30 to 4:30

Call us during business hours to learn more about our service programs, adoption, foster care and/or volunteering.

The Mission of Brant FACS

The well-being and safety of children and youth is our primary focus. Together with our community we strive to protect children and youth, and strengthen families.

Our Ten Year Vision

- All children, youth and families are valued.
- Together, with the entire community, we share the responsibility of nurturing, protecting, educating and guiding all children, youth and their families.
- Families possess the wisdom, abilities and resources to build a successful family plan. We support their journey towards self-determination, safety and care.
- Children and youth have a voice and are involved in decision-making; we ensure they have the necessary resources to be well supported for success.
- Mutual trust and understanding is built through listening and communicating with respect and compassion.
- Hope replaces fear and families are open to receive help early.

POSITIVE SPACE



Welcome to our positive and anti-oppressive space, where every individual, regardless of age, is valued and respected whatever their culture, faith, ethnicity, race, ancestry, class, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity.



**Brant Family and
Children's Services**

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**Brant Family and
Children's Services**
Since 1894

Adoption

**Pro-actively-creating
a Family**



Eight in a Series
Working with Brant Family
and Children's Services



Children need and deserve permanency

To experience healthy development and create a sense of their own self-worth, children need to have roots and feel like they belong to a family that cares for them. Some birth parents and/or birth families cannot provide their children with adequate care, safety and stability. Adoption is the legal process that gives a family to a child whose birth parents cannot care for him or her. It is intended to provide the child with permanence and security.

In Ontario, adoption can be arranged through Children's Aid Societies, private adoption agencies, or directly through the courts if you are a relative or stepparent. A judge may grant an order of crown wardship to the birth family so that children can become legally free to be placed for adoption. Some birth parents believe they cannot provide the kind of upbringing they want for their children and may choose adoption as a plan for them. With changes to legislation, children with access orders to the birth family can now be adopted.

Birth families:

We invite birth families to partner in the adoption process through the sharing of their stories and information, meeting adoptive families and engaging in non-identifying correspondence or contact. Birth parent(s) may provide input about the kind of family they would like for their child. Openness in adoption can be considered depending on the child's needs, birth family wishes, and the adopting family's level of acceptance. This is carefully examined through the adoption process.

Families and homes:

The goal of everyone involved in child welfare is for a child to return to their own family. Many children are living temporarily with kin/kith or foster families while efforts are being made to help their own



families function better so they can safely return home. When this cannot happen, the adoption process is a way to match children who need a family with adult(s) who are looking to create a family. Adoption is a life long commitment and can be a rewarding experience for families and children.

Children of all stages of development can be adopted. They come from a variety of cultural, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are older children, children with special needs and sibling groups waiting to be adopted.

Adoptive Parents can be:

- Children's Kin-grandparents, aunt, uncle, older sibling
- Parents who are raising or have raised their own children
- Adults who do not have any children
- People with or without training in child care or related professions
- Single people
- Older / Younger couples
- Married / Common-law / Same-sex couples

Adoption process:

When you contact Brant Family and Children's Services, the recruitment worker will set up a face-to-face meeting to discuss your interest and tell you about the adoption application and home study process. If you decide to proceed,

you will participate in a required education group designed to help you understand the needs of our children and other important adoption issues. Following this, you will participate in the home study process, during which you'll be encouraged to assess your own attitudes and abilities. You will also be asked to provide documentation including current medical and criminal record checks, character references and a financial statement.

Each child is unique. How long does it take?

Adoption placement is based on the children's needs, so the waiting time depends on an appropriate match being made between a child(ren) needing adoption and a family approved for adoption. Once a potential match is made:

- All relevant information available is shared to ensure an informed choice.
- Several visits take place to allow the child to get to know the new family and surroundings before moving into the home.
- The law states there must be a minimum 6 month adjustment period from the time a child moves into the new home until the adoption can be completed. A longer period may be required depending on the needs of the child(ren) and the adoptive family.

