

Adopting as a Single Parent Outline

1. Single parenting is common. Are there distinctions between becoming a single parent through divorce, conception, and adoption?
2. How easy is it to adopt as a single woman or single man?
 - a. Domestic Infant
 - b. Foster Care-kids already legally free and those needing foster parents
 - c. International
3. Are there any additional requirements for single parents to be able to adopt? Any additional questions in the home study?
 - a. Legal issues. Importance of a will and naming a guardian.
4. What are some potential issues single parents should consider before they decide to adopt?
5. Time.
6. Support Network.
 - a. Help.
 - i. You can't be afraid to ask for help and
 - ii. You have to be clear and specific about what you need.
 1. Not: Would you consider babysitting sometime?
 2. Rather: "I'm looking to create a support system for my child. I'm wondering if you could watch my kid [insert number] times a week?" or "I know I'm going to need help, I'm not going to be able to afford to pay for a sitter all the time. What would you be able to commit to?"
 - iii. Is there another single parent or family that you could partner with to provide mutual child care support either full time or babysitting type arrangement?
 - b. Emotional support.
 - c. Consider moving closer to family.
 - d. Changes to your friend network after you become a parent.
7. Finances.
 - a. Costs for raising a child.
 - b. Look at your debt.
 - c. Will your housing have to change?
8. Child care.
 - a. May influence the age of child you decide to adopt.
9. Finding the opposite gender role model for your child.
10. Self-care.
11. Dating.
12. Are you ready to be a single parent?

- a. Are you ready to give up the fun parts of being child-free, like the freedom to do what you want when you want? The freedom to tackle a new time consuming work project, educational degree, hobby, travel, etc.
 - b. Are you ready to feel the inevitable time crunch of single parenting?
 - c. Are you ready financially?
- 13. Annoying comments you may hear.
 - a. You haven't given enough time to finding a partner.
 - b. It will be too hard.
 - c. Why take on someone else's problem?
- 14. Consider joining a single parent by choice support group. Online or in-person (check Meetup)
- 15. Resources
 - a. [Single Adoptive Parents: Our Stories](#) (Book by Lee Varon and Sherry Fine)
 - b. [Adopting On Your Own: The Complete Guide to Adoption for Single Parents](#) (Book by Lee Varon)
 - c. [Single Mothers By Choice](#) (organization and website)
 - d. [Motherhood Reimagined](#) (organization and website)
 - e. ChoiceMom.org E-guide: [Finding Support](#) (eGuide)