How Maven supports members through adoption

The journey to adopting a child is joyous and fulfilling but can also be long and complicated, with more emotional and logistical hurdles than people may expect. "Adoption can be very confusing," explains adoption coach and Maven provider Diane Hogan. "The Maven model works because we can take all that confusion and narrow it down and simplify it for members." Here's what you need to know about adoption—and how Maven supports members through the process.

WHAT ARE THE PATHS TO ADOPTING A CHILD?

- **Foster to adoption:** There are over 400,000 children currently in foster care in the United States. The primary goal for children being fostered is to ultimately reunite with their biological parents, but for those who aren't able to, families are able to adopt their foster children. Aspiring foster parents are required to complete a home study (a written report a caseworker creates from interviews, background checks, references, and more) and training to ensure fostering is the right fit.

- **Domestic infant adoption:** "Private domestic adoption is very popular and highly competitive," explains Hogan. People who want to adopt an infant domestically also start with a home study, and can then decide if they want to adopt through an adoption agency, consulting service, or a private adoption lawyer.

- **International adoption:** International adoptions still make up 26% of U.S. adoptions, despite a decline in the practice in the last two decades. The process, laws, and requirements for adoptive parents vary from country to country.

THE LENGTHY, COMPLEX PROCESS OF ADOPTION

Understanding your options → Selecting an agency or lawyer → Series of home studies → Waiting for a match → Bringing a child home → Early parenthood

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Open or closed adoption — finding the right fit

OPEN:
The adoptive and birth families share identifying information and stay in touch during and after the adoption process

SEMI-OPEN:
Referred to as "mediated adoptions,"no identifying information is shared and communication between the adoptive and birth parents is organized through an adoption agency

CLOSED:
The birth parents and adoptive parents do not communicate or share identifying information
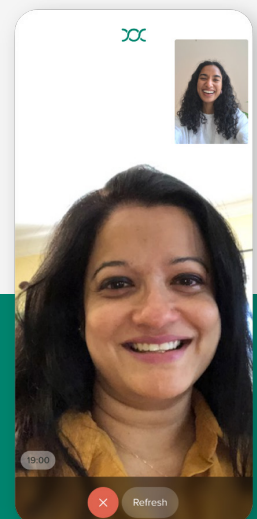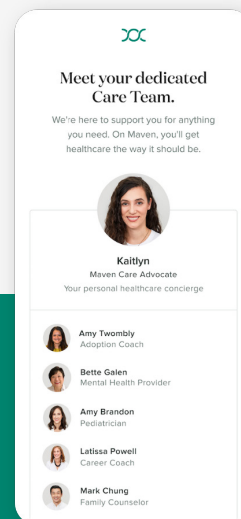
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ADOPTION

- **Stability and opportunities for the child:** By providing a permanent, comfortable home, adoptive parents can give their child a new sense of belonging and security.
- **Peace of mind for the birth parent:** Adoption offers a birth parent comfort by choosing the adoptive parents, being involved in the child's life if desired, and knowing the child is being cared for and protected.
- **A pathway to parenthood for adoptive parents:** Adoptive parents can provide a caring, safe home for a child who needs one.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF ADOPTION

- **Cost:** Whether adoptive parents work with an agency or hire lawyers or consultants, adoption can generally cost between $20,000 to $50,000.
- **Lack of control:** It's important to manage expectations going into the adoption process. "You can have preferences going into the adoption process, but you'll have to compromise," explains Hogan. There's also a risk factor: Pregnant people aren't required to put their baby up for adoption, despite any agreements they may have with adoptive parents.
- **Reunification during fostering:** While the goal of fostering is to reunite children with their biological parents, reunification can be hard on everyone. Coping with the transition can result in feelings of grief and loss for both the child and the foster parents.
- **Timing:** One of the hardest parts of adoption is waiting and being patient through a process imbued with difficult emotions. "There are so many people that want to adopt right now, but adoption can take a year and a half to two years," says Hogan.

HOW MAVEN SUPPORTS THE ADOPTION PROCESS

Maven Clinic is committed to making all paths to parenthood accessible for members. Maven provides guidance and emotional support for the adoption journey through dedicated Care Advocates who can provide referrals to highly-ranked, inclusive agencies and clinics, along with 24/7 access to more than 20+ types of specialized providers like adoption coaches and mental health specialists at no cost to you.

Activate your free membership by scanning the QR code or by visiting mavenclinic.com/join/support