

Adoption.

There are no barriers in the UK preventing LGB people from adopting and we believe we can make wonderful parents. There is less of an expectation that we will become parents at all, so it's a role we consider, and prepare for, especially carefully. Many of us have suffered prejudice and so are sensitive to the needs of an adopted child who, growing up, may feel different to their peers.

The adoption process

Contact your local authority or an adoption agency to express your interest.

They will carry out a series of initial checks to see whether you meet their basic criteria. They will contact your GP, carry out a criminal records (DBS) check and ask you to provide three references from people who know you well.

You will undergo a six to eight month assessment which is likely to involve meeting with other potential adopters, [??] hearing about the challenges ahead from adoption professionals as well as having many in-depth discussions with your social worker, so that they can get to know you.

Remember that the majority of children who are adopted have had a difficult start in life. They may have been removed from homes where there is domestic or sexual abuse, severe neglect, or drug or alcohol abuse. Your meetings with a social worker are not tests designed to catch you out – they are to help you understand the challenges, to decide whether adoption is right for you and to be clear what kind of child you would be able to parent. Between 3% and 9% of adoptions break down and your social worker is doing everything possible to ensure they make a good match.

Once your social worker is satisfied, your request to be an approved adopter will be considered by a panel, comprising professionals and lay people, who will formally approve you.

Once you are approved, you and your social worker can begin to seek matches with a potential child.



The Adoption and Children's Act 2002 gave same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples to become adoptive parents and this became law in 2005.

- There were 2,950 adoptions in England in 2022 and 540 of those adopters were same-sex couples. That's around 18%
- If you are adopting as a couple, you don't have to be married or in a Civil Partnership
- You can adopt as a single person
- HIV positive status is not a barrier to adoption

Children of LGB adopters thrive; research published by BMJ Global Health, based on an analysis of 34 studies published between 1989 and April 2022 concluded that parents' sexual orientation is not an important factor in children's development.

All information on this page is based on official guidance and current law.