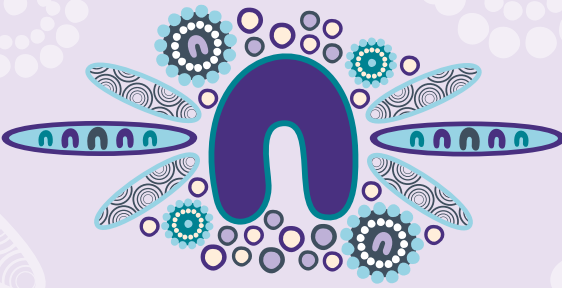


# Six steps to open adoption from out-of-home care

Getting ready	1	Application	2	Assessment	3	Preparing for court	4	Going to court	5	After adoption order	6
<p>a. Thinking about permanency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural consultation</li> <li>Permanency consult, include adoption caseworker</li> <li>Adoption requirements</li> </ul> <p>Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belonging</li> <li>Family time</li> <li>Culture</li> <li>Life story</li> <li>Carer readiness</li> </ul> <p>b. Talk with child, carer and family. Provide MWI to parents and children over 12yrs</p> <p>c. Getting ready through action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family finding</li> <li>Cultural connection</li> <li>Family meeting</li> <li>Life Story Work</li> <li>Other casework</li> <li>Carer development</li> </ul> <p>d. Attend Preparation for OOHC Open Adoption seminar</p> <p>e. Consultation about permanency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include adoption caseworker</li> </ul>	<p>a. Invite carer to apply</p> <p>b. Carer submits application to be an adoptive parent</p> <p>c. Complete probity, suitability and referee checks (for carers and household members over 16yrs)</p> <p>d. Inform the child, carer and parents of the decision to progress to the open adoption assessment</p> <p>e. Prepare files and referral for assessor</p>	<p>a. Assessor completes open adoption assessment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with child, carer and family</li> <li>A written report</li> <li>A draft adoption plan (with cultural component)</li> </ul> <p>b. If exceptional circumstances exist, identify out of guidelines financial requests</p> <p>c. Prepare documents to support an approval decision</p> <p>d. Discuss report and recommendation with child, carer and family</p>	<p>a. Provide carer and parents with redacted assessment</p> <p>b. Hold meeting with child, carer, family and PSP provider (if applicable) to discuss next steps</p> <p>c. Prepare documents to support court application including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S91 court report</li> <li>Adoption plan</li> <li>Delegate and Prospective adoptive parents affidavits</li> </ul> <p>d. Arrange registered counselling and consent for parents and children over 12 years</p> <p>e. Legal officer to review and settle documents</p>	<p>a. File court documents</p> <p>b. Serve 'notice' on parents</p> <p>c. Prepare and file affidavit of service</p> <p>d. Request application be placed before a judge 14 days after 'notice' is served on parents and all evidence is filed in court</p> <p>e. Inform carer, child, family and PSP provider (if applicable) of court dates</p> <p>f. Directions hearing, preliminary hearing and serve parents with court documents (if contested)</p> <p>g. Court hearing</p>	<p>a. Inform child, adoptive parents and birth family of the order</p> <p>b. Provide adoptive parents with the court order and relevant documents including outcome of legal audit/claim</p> <p>c. Provide birth parents with written confirmation and relevant documents</p> <p>d. Inform relevant agencies of the order</p> <p>e. Update administrative data such as ChildStory carer authorisation, legal, placement and financial records</p>						

<p><b>Decision:</b> DCJ approve case plan goal change</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b> approve probity and suitability checks</p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>commence adoption action</li> <li>carer's suitability to adopt</li> <li>Minister's consent</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decision:</b> delegate signs court application</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b> the court makes an order</p>	<p>Approved financials are managed by DCJ</p>
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- f. Update case plan and action outstanding tasks. Update cultural support plan, if applicable. Consult with the child, carer and family.
- g. Check for any legal entitlements for the child including Victims of Crime. Complete an application if required.



Supporting children to live safely with their parents is always the first goal. When this is not possible, guardianship and open adoption are other permanent options.

Living with family and kin is preferred for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are not able to live with their parents. Open adoption remains the last permanent option for Aboriginal children.

