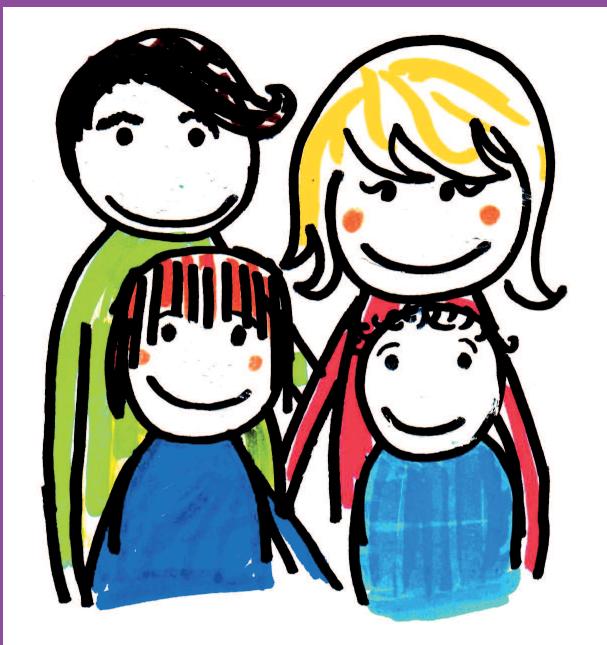


# A Guide for Children being Adopted



VALE of GLAMORGAN



[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

# A Guide for Children being Adopted

## 1 What is adoption?

If you can't live at home with your own family, you may be adopted. Adoption means you grow up in a new family where you are safe, loved and cared for.

## 2 Why are children adopted?

There are lots of reasons why children sometimes can't live at home. Maybe your parents find it hard to look after you properly - or to keep you safe.



### **3** What is it like being adopted?

You live in a new place with your new family. You may have new brothers and sisters. You might also get new grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles.

### **4** What are adopters like?

Families come in all shapes and sizes. There may be just one parent or there may be two. Sometimes it will be two women, sometimes two men. Some have other children of their own. They may go out to work or they may not work. Some live in the town, others live in the country.



## 5

### You're not alone - lots of famous people have been adopted!

Shaun Wright-Phillips - a professional footballer

Rhona Cameron - a comedian and TV presenter

Nelson Mandela - South Africa's first black President.

Moses - a leader in the Bible

David Dickinson - from TV's 'Bargain Hunt'

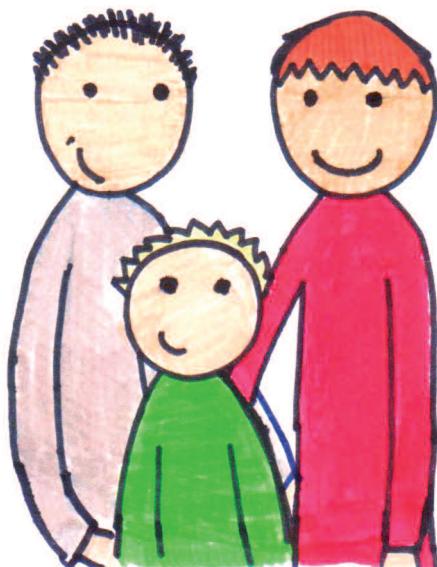
And Superman was adopted too!

## 6

### Who will help me become adopted?

A social worker is someone who helps children and their families when they have problems. They are there to help you, to make sure you are safe and happy, and to help find new families for children who need them.

A Children's Guardian is someone who listens to your feelings about what is going on and makes sure that you are listened to.



## 7

### Who can I talk to about adoption?

It is the job of your social worker or the Children's Guardian to make sure that:

- You know what is going on all of the time
- You have someone to talk to about what is happening
- You have contact with your mum and dad if you want and if it is safe to do so
- You have contact with anyone else who is important to you.

## 8

### Who decides I am going to be adopted?

The judge sits in Court and decides whether or not you should be adopted. The judge listens to your parents, your social worker and your Children's Guardian.

Use this space to write down any worries you have or any questions you want to discuss with your social worker or Children's Guardian.



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## Who chooses my new family?

Social workers are always looking for people who want to adopt children. Your social worker will talk to you about the type of family you want and they will take great care choosing a family that is right for you.

Do you want to make a list of things to talk about with your social worker?

**10**

## Will I be able to meet my new family before moving in with them?

Yes! You will meet your new family and have the chance to get to know them, and if you like them, you may go and live with them in their home.

**11**

## But what about my foster family?

They will help to prepare you for your new family by talking to you about them, showing you photographs and helping you think about what your life will be like when you live with them.

Foster families often stay in touch with the children they have looked after.



## **12 Will I still be able to stay in touch with people who are special to me?**

Your social worker will talk with you very carefully about this.

When you are adopted it does not mean you forget your birth family. You may have memories of your birth mum/dad/sisters/brother/grandparents or foster carers who looked after you.

Your social worker will talk to you about what is important to you. Perhaps your adoptive parents can write a letter every so often to let people from your past know how you are, and they may get a letter in return. This is known as the Letterbox Service.

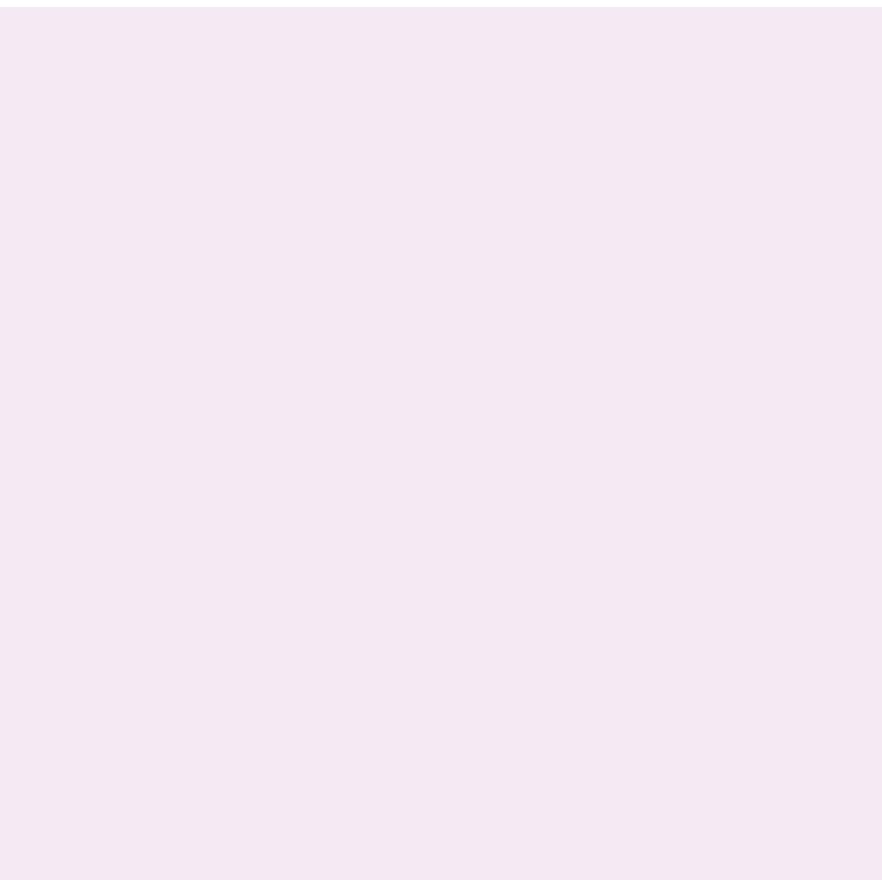


**13**

### How do I get adopted by my new family?

When you and your new family are ready, all the information is sent to the Court. The judge makes the final decision for you to be adopted by your new family. They will want to make sure that this is the best decision for you.

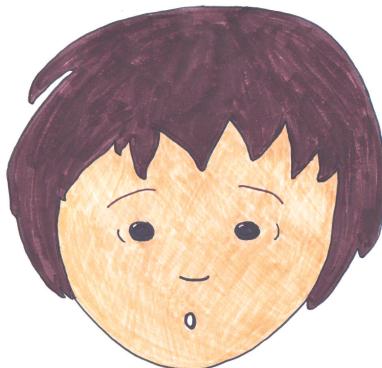
What do judges look like? Have you seen one on TV?  
Could you draw one here?



**14**

## What if I've got some worries about being adopted.

You should talk to your social worker. They will listen to your reasons and explain the way you feel to the judge.



**15**

## Maybe you might like to read one of these stories with your foster carer or social worker?

- 'Finding a family for Tommy' by Rebecca Daniels
- 'Dennis Duckling' by Barbara Orritt
- 'Chester and Daisy' move on by Angela Lidster
- 'Nutmeg gets Adopted' by Judith Foxan
- 'Nutmeg gets a Letter' by Judith Foxan
- 'Belonging doesn't mean Forgetting' by BAAF
- 'Katie Kitten gets Adopted' by Catherine Adair

## 16

### Who will help if I am not happy?

If you are unhappy then it is important to talk to someone who can help sort things out. If you want to complain about something ask your social worker for a copy of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Complaint's leaflet for Children.

- or call Amanda Green, Complaint's Officer on 01446 704 800.
- or email [agreen@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:agreen@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

NYAS is an advocacy service for children and young people, they can help you if you want to complain.

- call 0800 616 101
- or visit [www.nyas.net](http://www.nyas.net)

You can also write to the Children's Commissioner for Wales. His name is Keith Towler. His job is to listen to children and young people and speak up for them. He works to make sure that children are kept safe.

- The Children's Commissioner for Wales -  
Oystermouth House  
Phoenix Way  
Llansamlet  
Swansea  
SA7 9FS
- or call 01792 765 600
- or email [post@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:post@childcomwales.org.uk)

## **16 Who will help if I am not happy? More**

You could also speak to someone from the National Assembly.

- Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)  
National Office  
Welsh Government  
Rhydycar Business Park  
Merthyr Tydfil  
CF48 1UZ
  
- or call 0300 062 8800
  
- or email [cssiw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cssiw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

These people will listen to your complaint and help you decide whether your complaint has been treated fairly by social services and that the care you receive is up to standard.

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## Later on...

### After you have been adopted.

There may be times when you have questions or worries. You or your adoptive family can contact Children's Services to ask for help. This is called adoption support.

- Call the Intake and Family Support Team on 01446 725 202

or write to

- Intake and Family Support Team  
Haydock House  
Holton Road  
Barry  
CF63 4HA

The adoption service also has a person called the Adoption Support Services Adviser. They will arrange to come and see you and find out what the problem is. They will try and sort it out.

- Call 01446 729 601

or write to

- Adoption Support Services Adviser  
Haydock House  
Holton Road  
Barry  
CF63 4HA



Illustrations by Madz Amos

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## Summary of Statement of Purpose

Your social worker works for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This is the Adoption Agency that arranged your adoption. Every Agency has to have a ‘Statement of Purpose’, which lets people know how it carries out its adoption work. Here are some of the important things in the Vale of Glamorgan Adoption Agency’s Statement of Purpose:

- Where children cannot live with their birth family adoption may be the best alternative.
- We must find a family that is best for you.
- We must listen to your wishes and feelings.
- We must listen to you and your new family now and when you are growing up, and if any of you have any questions or worries we must try to find ways to help you.

If you would like to know more about how the Vale of Glamorgan does adoption work please ask your social worker and he or she will find out more information for you.