



From being adopted to becoming a parent:

when adopted people become parents
and adopters become grandparents

Information for parents



Who we are, what we're doing and why:

We (Beth, Julia, and Irina) are researchers at the University of East Anglia. We are looking in depth into the later lives of adoptive families: when adopted people go on to have children of their own and adopters become grandparents.

Because adoption has changed so much in recent decades, we are focussing on **parents who were adopted within the last 30 years**. We want to hear from a wide range of people and experiences. For example, from those for whom parenthood has been quite straightforward and from those who have run into difficulties.

Our aim is to find out about adopted people's experiences becoming and being parents and to find out about any support needs they might have. We are interested in questions like:

- How adopted people feel about being a parent?
- If difficult experiences in childhood affect adopted people when they go on to become parents?
- How people feel about being adopted and whether this changes when they become parents?

How we're doing the research:

We're going to be interviewing 40 adopted people who are parents. (We will also be interviewing 40 adopters who are grandparents through adoption).

Who we want to hear from:

If you answer YES to the following two questions, you are eligible to take part:

1. Were you **adopted in, or after, 1989?**
2. Do you have a **child of your own?**
We want to hear from parents who have child/ren living with them and parents whose child/ren lives with someone else.

Please note we are not able to include step-parent adoptions.

What will be involved if I join the study?

We would like to visit and interview you face to face to hear your life story, including your experiences of being adopted and a parent. We aim for you to be in charge of the interview, which means you do not have to talk about anything which you do not wish to share. There are no right or wrong answers to any question. You can stop the interview or take a break at any time. The interview usually takes 2 hours at a time of the week/day convenient to you and the researcher, when you can be free of distractions and talk without other interruptions.

Do you want to interview other people in my family?

Potentially yes, you may have an adopted sibling who is also a parent now and they might be interested in taking part. We are also looking to interview adopter grandparents, so your parents might want to hear about the study and you could choose to tell them about it, or not. It is up to you. We would interview everyone separately and confidentially – we won't tell each of you what the other has said.

We do not want to interview your birth parents, or your partner, or your children for this research.

Will you tell other people what I say?

The interview is confidential and anonymous – this means that you will not be identified when we come to report the project. If you tell us something that makes us very concerned about your safety or that of another person, we are obliged to share information, but would discuss this with you first, wherever possible.

How will you remember what I say?

We would like to record the audio of interview so that we can concentrate on what you are saying rather than having to take lots of notes. This recording will be confidential and will be deleted after the research is finished.

Why should I take part?

Taking part is a chance to share your experiences and to help build an understanding of the support adopted families might need in the future. There are no direct benefits from taking part in this research, but most people find telling their story interesting and enjoyable and you will receive £30 as a thank you, for your time and attention.

What do I do if I am interested in hearing more about taking part?

Please contact us (details overleaf) to learn more about the study and to decide if you wish to be interviewed.

Thank you for reading this.



The research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and led by Beth Neil with Julia Rimmer at the University of East Anglia.

This study has been reviewed and ethically approved by the University of East Anglia's School of Social Work's ethics committee.

If you are interested in taking part, you can E-mail the project at: **Adopted.Parents@uea.ac.uk**, or

Telephone Julia or Irina at the Centre for Research on Children and Families on: **01603 597501**.

Text or WhatsApp us on: **07721 108 991**.



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This study is led by Prof. Beth Neil.
Elizabeth Fry Building, University of East Anglia,
Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UK. Tel: 01603 592068