**Report on adoption versus fostering.**

Produced by Andrew Liddell on behalf of The DACCR Project

**PROLOGUE**

The key difference between adoption and fostering is a**legal** one. An adoption order ends the child’s legal relationship with their birth family, whereas children living in foster care remain the legal responsibility of their Local Authority and their birth parents.

To clarify, Adoption is a legal process, whereas fostering is not a legal process. This is one of the main differences between adoption and fostering. • The court transfers all the parental rights for the child to the new parents in the case of adoption. • Fostering, on the other hand, is the ability to provide family life for the child born to parents different from those that foster.

Foster parents cannot make medical decisions for a foster child. They also cannot make decisions about where the child will attend school or what religious services he should attend without the birth parents' consent. In some states, foster children can't even get haircuts without their birth parents' permission.

If it's determined that a [foster child](https://www.verywellfamily.com/what-does-fostering-a-child-mean-27120) cannot return to his biological parents, the state will move to terminate the parents' rights and will assume those rights until the child is adopted. He would continue living in the foster home, however, until he is legally adopted either by his foster parents or by another parent or couple.

In adoptive situations, the adoptive parents are responsible for all decision-making for their child, just as if he had been born to them. Adoptive parents are responsible for the child’s medical care, financial obligations, and his educational and spiritual development.

[Fostering and Adoption Links](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=fostering+versus+adoption&qpvt=fostering+versus+adoption&FORM=VDRE)

[Differences between Fostering and Adoption](https://www.verywellfamily.com/differences-between-foster-care-and-adoption-26612#:~:text=A%20primary%20difference%20between%20adoption%20and,commitment.%20Adoption%20is%20a%20permanent%20commitment.&text=A%20primary%20difference%20between,is%20a%20permanent%20commitment.&text=difference%20between%20adoption%20and,commitment.%20Adoption%20is%20a)