

Adam DeBoer, William Humphrey, Dylan Roeder, and Parker Tegtmeier
The Process of Adoption

Only half of the children in the United States foster system are adopted to a new family, according to Adoption Network Law Center. Those children that are not adopted are left wondering if they ever will be, or if they will be left to fend for themselves. There are many emotions that families have to go through during the process of adopting a child.

The new director of the alternative school at Beatrice Public Schools is Charles Humphrey, who has had to deal with the adoption process for over three years and has dealt with many setbacks. Humphrey just recently finalized the adoption of his four-year-old son. Many people wonder how you can initially get into the adoption process. When asked how the process was introduced to Mr. Humphrey and his family, he said, "At first, we started with babysitting, and then from there we started foster care, which led up to where we are today."

The process of adoption is not just dependent on the government and the certain things that they have to go through. It also relies heavily on the internal conditions of the household. For example, there are lots of home-visits, safety checks, and many other stipulations that have to be met before the adoption can be finalized.

Many people have to work through the emotional process more than the actual physical aspects that have to go on before the finalization of the adoption. The foster children themselves have arguably one of the hardest transitions through the adoption process. One of the students at Beatrice High School, Mario Bukovnik, has experienced the process of adoption first-hand. One of the main questions people have about adoption is how hard the process of adoption actually is. When asked this question, Bukovnik answered, "The hardest part was getting used to the family." Along with the hardships of getting used to the new family, the feelings and emotional journey that foster children go through can really affect them through their childhood.

The transition from house to house can not only affect the foster child but it also affects the biological children that are already involved in the family and the decisions that the family is making. Cale Kaiser, one of the Spanish teachers at Beatrice High School, has been through this. When he was five-years-old, his family adopted a baby boy. However, he was very young at the time and easily adapted to the changes that his family was going through. For him it became just a way of life. Without any hesitation they were truly brothers. Kaiser always thought of the adopted child as his brother. When asked, Mr. Kaiser said that they did not really get along until the two were in college. However, the brotherly bond was always apparent in their relationship.

The process of adoption is only experienced by a handful of people every year. The process truly tests some families' ability to come together and make a better life for a certain child.