



**THEM BEFORE US**

Children's Rights Before Adult Desires

# ADOPTION

## ADOPTION IS FOR CHILDREN, NOT ADULTS

In adoption, the child is the client. No adult- heterosexual or homosexual- has a right to adopt. Children who have lost their parents have a right to be adopted.

Adoption is an exhaustive, tedious, expensive process for potential parents because detaching a child from their biological parents and reattaching them to biological strangers is risky for kids. In adoption, payments to birth parents are prohibited, and costs are aimed at ensuring safe placements. In third-party reproduction (using a third party's sperm, egg, or womb), payment to the biological father, biological mother and birth mother is built into the business model, and include zero screening and background checks for potential parents.

Child-centric adoption includes:

- Placing the child with relatives whenever possible to preserve kinship bonds.
- Favoring homes with a mother and father so the child can experience maternal and paternal love.
- Prioritizing married couples to maximize long-term stability.
- Seeking only mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy adoptive parents.
- Ensuring adoptive parents have the financial resources to parent a child.
- With older children, considering the child's wishes and comfort.
- Prioritizing homes able to adopt biological sibling groups.

## GENEALOGICAL BEWILDERMENT

Some adoptees report feeling alienated from their families, feeling that they just don't fit in, and even have difficulty looking at their own reflections- something they share with donor conceived (DC) adults. Feeling like an outsider may contribute to adoptees' elevated risk of developing externalizing disorders such as oppositional defiant disorder, separation anxiety, ADHD, and major depressive disorder.

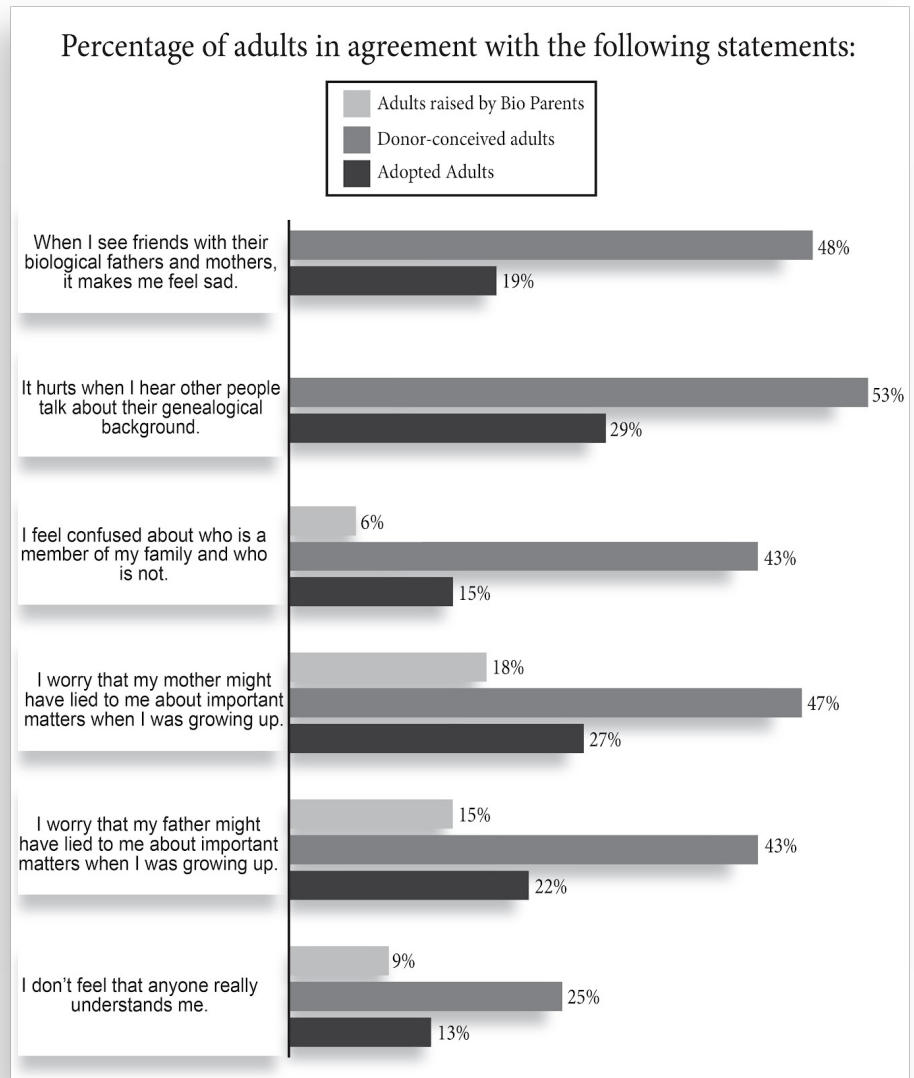
*"One thing that adult adoptees had in common is the feeling of looking into the mirror and not knowing who they were. What surprised me most is the accounts of feeling like an alien hybrid and being sent down to this earth and not born. They were silly thoughts, but I had them. When you look at people you see their mom, their dad, their sister. When you look at yourself you see nothing. I went on to find my parents and give my mirror back [its] reflection."*

- Anonymous Adoptee

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: ADOPTION PROTECTS, DONOR CONCEPTION VIOLATES

Many people wrongly believe that donor-conception is just another form of adoption. It's true that in both households, children are being raised apart from one or both biological parents. But that is where the similarities end. When it comes to the rights of children, adoption protects, donor conception violates.

- Adoptive parents didn't create a child's wound, but are seeking to mend it. Thus they are better positioned to support their adoptive child through grief and loss. Donor-conceived children are being raised by adults who inflicted their wound and are thus more likely to feel alone in their grief.
- Adoption exists to provide parents to an existing orphan, donor conception intentionally creates a biological orphan.
- In adoption, adults fill a void for the children. In third-party reproduction, the children fill a void for the adults.
- Adoption serves the needs of children, donor conception caters to the wants of adults.
- "Open adoptions" are now the norm because social workers recognize that connection with a child's first family maximizes adoptee health. Many #BigFertility clients favor anonymous donors, intentionally cutting children off from half or all of their biological connections.
- Adoptive parents are required to submit to home studies, financial assessments, physical exams, to provide personal references, attend pre-adoption parenting classes, post-adoption visits, and background checks. In order to commission a baby via #BigFertility, the only required check is the one from the bank. Many adults who would never have passed an adoption screening leave the hospital with an unrelated DC child.
- In our broken world, adoption is sometimes necessary. Third-party reproduction is never necessary.



A just society cares for orphans, it does not create them.

Excerpts from chapter 9 of "Them Before Us: Why We Need a Global Children's Movement"