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Let's Talk About Adoption

How do I handle shocking information my child shares with me? (video)

from [Creating a Family](#)

You want to know how to help your child with issues that arise out of the blue. There are things that happen that you're not aware of, and it just shocks you and throws you off. As an adult, it's hard to know how to handle some of these things because you can make it worse for the child.

Here are a few suggestions. First, learn how to practice the art of the pause. You need to release yourself from the pressure of having the right response or even an immediate response. Then take a deep breath. Let the child know you are taking a deep breath and ask if you can take a minute or two to process what they just shared.

Watch the video [here](#) to find out what is next.

Adoption Q&A

How soon after my adoption can I expect my child's newly revised birth certificate?

The newly issued birth certificate will be mailed to your address in approximately 4-6 months after your adoption finalization. Adoptive families can contact Louisiana Vital Records at 504-593-5100 if you have not received the revised birth certificate within this timeframe.

Can my adoption subsidy be transferred to another person if I transfer custody of the adopted child to someone else?

No. The adoption subsidy can only be transferred if the adoptive parent passes away. Adoptive parents please identify a family member that you want to take care of your child(ren) if something happens so that s/he can be designated as the tutor guardian, and they would be able to receive the subsidy payments on the behalf of the child. Please be sure to report this information to your adoption subsidy worker.

How long do I have to return the subsidy packet when it is time for my adoption subsidy renewal?

Adoption subsidies are renewed every year or every five years. You will receive a subsidy renewal notice two months in advance of your renewal deadline. The completed subsidy packet should be returned to the Adoption subsidy worker within 30 days of receipt to avoid missed payments.

Resources for Adoptive Families

- [DCFS's Adoption Page](#)
- [Center for Adoption Support and Education](#)
- [Louisiana 211](#)
- [Mobile Crisis Hub](#)
- [988 and Louisiana988.org](#)
- [National Training and Development Curriculum \(NTDC\) for foster and adoptive parents](#)

The Impact of Adoption on Teen Identity Formation

By Cam Lee Small, MS, LPCC

Separation from biological parents can be traumatic for infants, youth, and teens. The psychological overwhelm can leave long-lasting imprints on the brain, body, and soul. For me, I feel fortunate to have escaped the tragedy that developmental trauma so often perpetrates against adoptees and their families. Not everyone escapes.

This topic of the “teen years” especially resonates with me as I remember that time in my own life as tumultuous and confusing. By God’s grace I was somehow carried through to seasons of restoration and joy, but not without struggle and certainly with ongoing, normative needs for help and community.

DCFS Adoption Highlight

Braylin is a quiet, yet highly focused and dedicated student who excels academically. Her sharp attention to detail allows her to grasp complex concepts quickly, and she consistently performs well in all her subjects.



Braylin is a passionate artist with a special interest in drawing and animation. She spends her free time bringing her creative ideas to life through sketches and digital art. Braylin demonstrates remarkable skill and originality. Her quiet demeanor is a balance of respect and kindness.

She desires to maintain her family connection with her sister Lauryn and wants a family who will support their relationship.

State Office Closures:

July 4 - Independence Day

September 1 - Labor Day

If you are reading this, you might be an adoptive parent looking for ways to support your child/teen through a particularly stressful season. You might be at the beginning stages of considering adoption, conducting some preliminary research on your own before embarking fully on the journey.

Whoever you are, whatever your role, I am glad you have taken the time to read, and I hope that you gain new insights to better equip you to understand and respond to the needs of adoptees during crucial periods of identity formation.

Read the complete article in *The Adoption Advocate* [here](#).

Focus on Behavioral Health

LDH launches Mobile Crisis Response toll-free number, crisis hub

LDH’s Mobile Crisis Response provides behavioral health crisis services. When called, an MCR team will go to an individual’s home to assess, intervene, and de-escalate a crisis. MCR is covered by Medicaid, and you do not need any prior authorization.

You can visit the [Mobile Crisis Response Hub](#) to learn more or call **1-855-24CARE5 (1-855-242-2735)** to request service.

Please note that LDH is currently looking for a provider in Region 9 (Monroe). We will let you know when one has been identified.

Learn more about the mental health needs of children in Child Welfare

The [National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services](#) aims to improve mental health outcomes for children and families impacted by child welfare by providing technical assistance that bridges the gap between child welfare and mental health systems. Check out their video, [Understanding the Complex Mental Health Needs of Children in Child Welfare](#).