Educational Webinar Series for Adults with Spina Bifida

Becoming a Parent with Spina Bifida - Adoption

June 2020
Is adoption for you?

Today’s session:
- Don’t take the “no”
- Making the decision to adopt
- Selecting the adoption agencies that are right for you
- The steps after selecting the adoption agencies
- Your questions
- Resources for more information
Our Speakers

Kelly Peterson, BA, MA
Parent and Special Education Teacher

Jennifer Kelly, MS
Special Angels Adoption
Don’t accept “no”

- Women and men with Spina Bifida CAN be adoptive parents.
- Your experiences are an asset, not a liability.
Making the decision to adopt

○ What factors went into your decision to adopt?
○ What should people considering adoption ask themselves?
  • What are your abilities and weaknesses?
  • What do you need emotionally?
  • Do you have a strong, local support system?
Don’t ignore your grieving process

- Be sure that you’ve grieved about your former plans so that you can be fully prepared for the emotions of the adoption process.
Select the adoption agencies that are right for you

○ This webinar will discuss private domestic adoption agencies.

○ What should you ask prospective agencies?
  • What are all of the fees? (Not only the ones up-front)
  • How does their financing work?
  • Domestic versus international adoptions
  • Do you like their work style and how they interact with you?
Select the adoption agencies that are right for you

○ Warning signs that an agency is not right for you

• Treat Spina Bifida as a liability rather than an asset.
• Don’t disclose all fees (some will make it seem that they did).
• Personalities don’t match.
• You’re getting asked a lot of questions that make it seem that they doubt your capabilities or are not comfortable with you.
The adoption process

You’ve picked your agencies. What should you expect next?

• Homestudy
• Matching
• Placement
• Intrastate Compact for the Placement of Children
• Supervision
• Finalization
Additional Resources

- Adoption.com
- National Council for Adoption
- North American Council on Adoptable Children
- Disabled Parents Facebook page
- Disabled Parenting Project Facebook Group
- Parents with Disabilities Facebook Group
Thank you!

Visit the archive of this presentation and its resources at https://www.spinabifidaassociation.org/education/sb-you/

Questions?

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