



*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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