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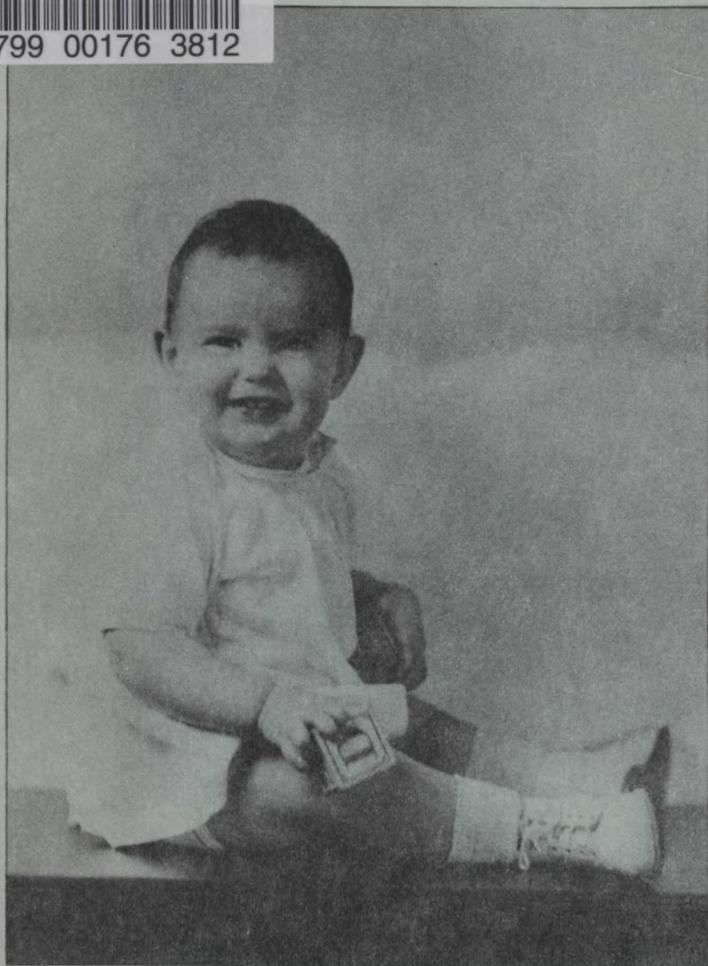
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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADOPT A CHILD

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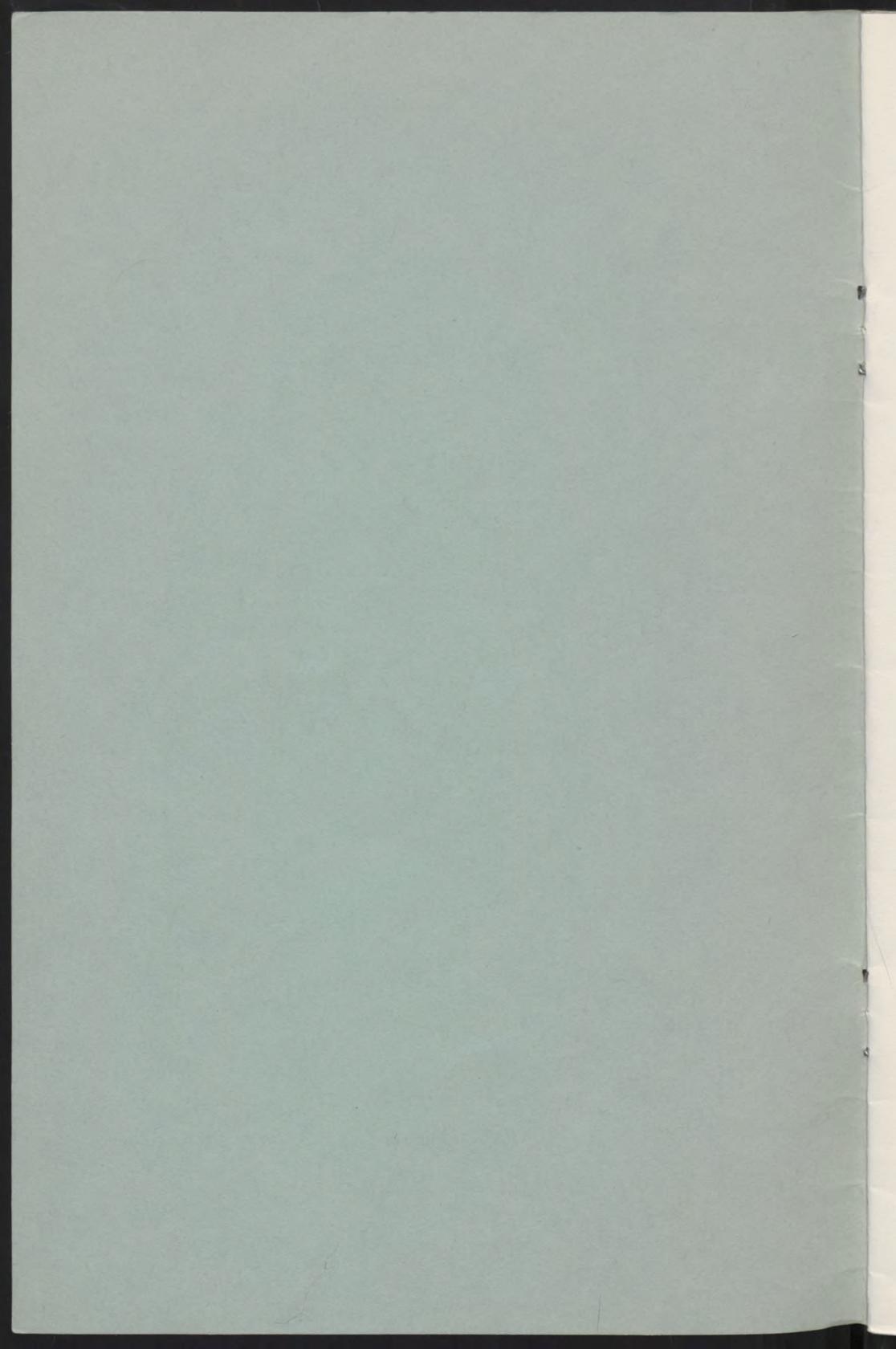


PUBLISHED BY

THE STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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ADOPTION IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS

You should be certain that you are making a decision to adopt a child that is based on a long and serious study of the child's needs and the responsibilities of adoption. The child should be adopted for his own sake and not for the sake of the adoptive parents. The child should be adopted for his own sake and not for the sake of the adoptive parents. The child should be adopted for his own sake and not for the sake of the adoptive parents.

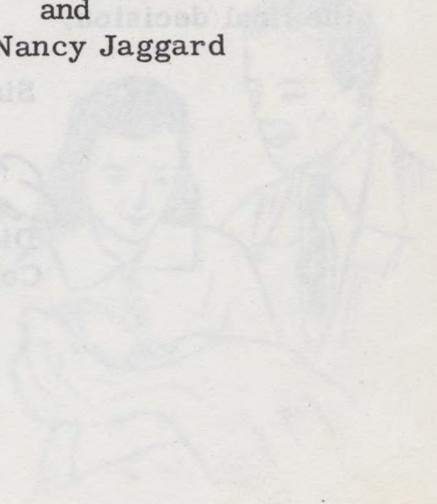
The Child Welfare Division

Prepared by a committee from the
Special Consultant Staff and the
Advisory Committee to the
Child Welfare Division

Illustrations by

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and
Nancy Jaggard

FEB 3 1953



Dear Adoptive Parents:

This pamphlet has been prepared to help you in deciding whether you wish to adopt a child and, if you do, what your responsibilities as parents will be. It will also assist you in determining good adoption practices, why it is advisable to go to a social agency, and why a social study should be made of your home, if you are being considered as adoptive parents. The social agency assists in determining whether the child to be placed in your home is one who will fit into your family pattern. This does not relieve you from assuming your responsibility in making the final decision.

Sincerely yours,

Earl M. Keenan

Director
Colorado State Department
of Public Welfare

ADOPTION IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS

You undoubtedly have given the matter of adoption much thought and realize that you are seeking to assume a new role - that of parenthood. The child, however, is not able to control his situation and select his future parents. Therefore, all the safeguards that society can offer must be placed around him.

The CHILD must be protected* -



from unnecessary separation from parents who might give him a good home and loving care if sufficient help and guidance were available;

from adoption by people unfit to have responsibility for the care, rearing, and training of a child;

from interference by natural parents long after the child has been happily established in his adoptive home.

The NATURAL PARENTS must be protected -

from hurried decisions made under strain and anxiety to give up their child.

* From "Essentials of Adoption Laws and Procedures", published by U.S. Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C. 1949



The ADOPTING PARENTS must be protected -

from taking responsibility for children about whose heredity or physical or mental capacity they know nothing;

from later disturbance of their relationship to the child by natural parents whose legal rights have not been fully protected.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO ADOPT A CHILD?

Give this question your most serious thought. Weigh everything; take stock of what you will have to give up and how much it will cost you in time, money and effort.

The reasons for adoption are many and varied. Motives are often mixtures of emotions and well-thought-out reasons. The greatest number of applications come from childless couples who hope to have richer and fuller lives by bringing a child into a home. Interest in a particular child is another reason. Parents who cannot have a second child may wish, through adoption, to provide companionship for an only child. The success of this sort of placement depends upon the parents' ability to be impartial, to feel equal affection toward both children, and their natural child's ability to accept a newcomer. It is usually hazardous for parents to try to replace through adoption a child they have lost. Remember that a child is a person; he has needs of his own and he has rights!



WHO IS THE CHILD YOU WISH TO ADOPT?

The majority of children placed for adoption are born out of wedlock. While some unmarried mothers keep their babies, more relinquish them for adoption. The youth of the mother, the failure of relatives to assist in caring for the baby, or fear of social ostracism forces her to this decision.



Early placement of the baby in an adoptive home is desirable. However, it is often necessary to delay placement until the child's general condition and rate of development can be determined. Lack of information about the father of the baby, lack of prenatal care, birth injury - to mention only a few - are reasons why babies are observed before they are given to adoptive parents.

Sometimes children born to married couples are eligible for adoption because of death, desertion, or neglect on the part of the parents. This may result in the child's removal from the home by court action.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND HIM?

It is perfectly natural for prospective parents to want a child who will "fit". It is essential, therefore, that they apply to a child-placing agency of recognized standing.* A good child-placing agency has watched the development of a child and uses child specialists in medicine and psychology to fully understand him. The agency also knows all the facts that can be found about the parents.

* See page 8 for list of approved adoption agencies.

You will want to know, and the agency can tell you, all about the parents: their health, education, what kind of work they do, what interests or skills they have and what sort of people they are. You will want to know about the child's other relatives, on both sides. The agency will not keep you in the dark about anything you ought to know even if it is a count against the child, but they will not tell you who the real parents are or where they live, nor will they tell the real parents who you are or where you live.

In going to a qualified agency, adoptive parents can be assured that legal ties between the child and his own parents have been severed. This eliminates the risk of the child's own parents turning up at some future date and trying to claim him. An agency makes sure whenever possible that the child's own parents never know the names of his adoptive parents and that the adoptive parents do not know the names of the real parents or where they live.

If such an agency helps you in your adoption, you will be surer than by any other way that:

Your child will be normal - in body and in mind;

Legally everything will be in order;

The child will suit your type of family;

What you tell and what the social workers learn for you will be just between yourselves.



WHAT KIND OF HOME DOES THE CHILD WANT ?



The greatest need of every child is for a home in which there is a mother and a father and in which he may have the benefits of family life with its background of affection and understanding. He must also be wanted and have a real sense of belonging.

It is essential that both husband and wife agree upon the plan for taking a child into their home. Unless such an agreement exists, discord is bound to arise, and the adoption may result in future unhappiness for both the child and the adoptive parents.

Age of adoptive parents may affect their ability to give sympathetic guidance to a child, especially as he grows older. Reasonable economic security should be assured to provide proper living conditions, a desirable neighborhood and educational opportunities. The standard of living should be such that the child will have good diet, satisfactory sleeping conditions, and proper medical care. The physical condition of the parents should be sound.



WHY STUDY AN ADOPTIVE HOME?

In the infant or young child for whom adoption is planned, we have a small person who cannot

 speak for himself; the natural parent can speak out as well as the adoptive parents, but the one whose future is being determined can say nothing about it. The agency thinks and speaks for this small citizen.



It is the agency's responsibility to choose homes in which children will have the best opportunity for sound physical, mental and emotional development. When a child is ready for adoption, the home selected for him from the list of approved homes is on the basis of "matching" in as many ways as possible. This may seem like an overzealous attempt at perfection because own children often do not match families, but the fact that a child is available for adoption means he is starting out under a handicap. He has lost his family ties and even a baby can show his distress at being insecure and unwanted. Because of these things, we believe that matching him and the adoptive parents gives him a better start than would otherwise be possible. This takes time.

WHY COURT ACTION IN ADOPTION?

Only court action can make adoption legal. Only by court action can the child and the adoptive parents get sure protection. Some parents, after giving up their child, change their minds. They may want to take the child back; often they do. If the adopting parents had had the help of a good social agency, that tragedy would not have happened. When a good agency places a child for adoption, the rights of the own parents have already been ended.

CONCLUSION

We wish to emphasize that getting a child through a qualified child-placing agency insures him as well as you the protection to which you are all entitled.



ADOPTION AGENCIES

The County Departments of Public Welfare
in 63 counties of Colorado

The Colorado State Home for Dependent
and Neglected Children
2305 South Washington Street
Denver, Colorado

Private Agencies in the Denver Area

Children's Aid Society
Room 301, 314 - 14th Street
Denver, Colorado

Denver Catholic Charities
1665 Grant Street
Denver, Colorado

Jewish Family and Children's Service
Room 504, 314 - 14th Street
Denver, Colorado

Lutheran Service Society
Room 409, 314 - 14th Street
Denver, Colorado

Private Agencies in Pueblo

Catholic Charities of Pueblo Diocese
Suite 421, Central Building
Pueblo, Colorado

Family Welfare Service of Pueblo
322 West Fifth Street
Pueblo, Colorado

SUGGESTED READING

THE ADOPTED FAMILY, YOU AND YOUR CHILD:

A Guide for Adoptive Parents - Book I
by Florence Rondell & Ruth Michaels
Crown Publishers, Inc., N.Y. - 1951

THE FAMILY THAT GREW

A Picture Story Book for the Child - Book II
by Florence Rondell & Ruth Michaels
Crown Publishers, Inc., N.Y. - 1951

OUR DAUGHTER WAS EIGHT WHEN WE FOUND HER

Coronet Magazine - March 1947

THE CHOSEN BABY

by Valentina P. Wasson
J.P. Lippincott Co., N.Y. - 1939, 1950

SO YOU WANT TO ADOPT A BABY

Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 173
by Ruth Carson
Public Affairs Committee, Inc.
22 East 38th Street, N.Y. - May 1951

PREPARING PARENTS FOR ADOPTION

by Richard B. Gehman
Tomorrow Magazine - June 1949

BABIES FOR SALE

by Henry and Katharine Pringle
Saturday Evening Post - December 22, 1951

A REPORTER AT LARGE - OUR SON

by Katharine T. Kinkead
The New Yorker - March 4, 1950

SUGGESTED READING

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

THE ADOPTED FAMILY, YOU AND YOUR CHILD:

A Guide for Adoptive Parents - Book 1
by Florence Howarth & Ruth Miskin
Crown Publishers, Inc., N.Y. - 1951

THE FAMILY THAT GROWS

A Picture Story Book for the Child - Book II
by Florence Howarth & Ruth Miskin
Crown Publishers, Inc., N.Y. - 1951

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Coronet Magazine - March 1951
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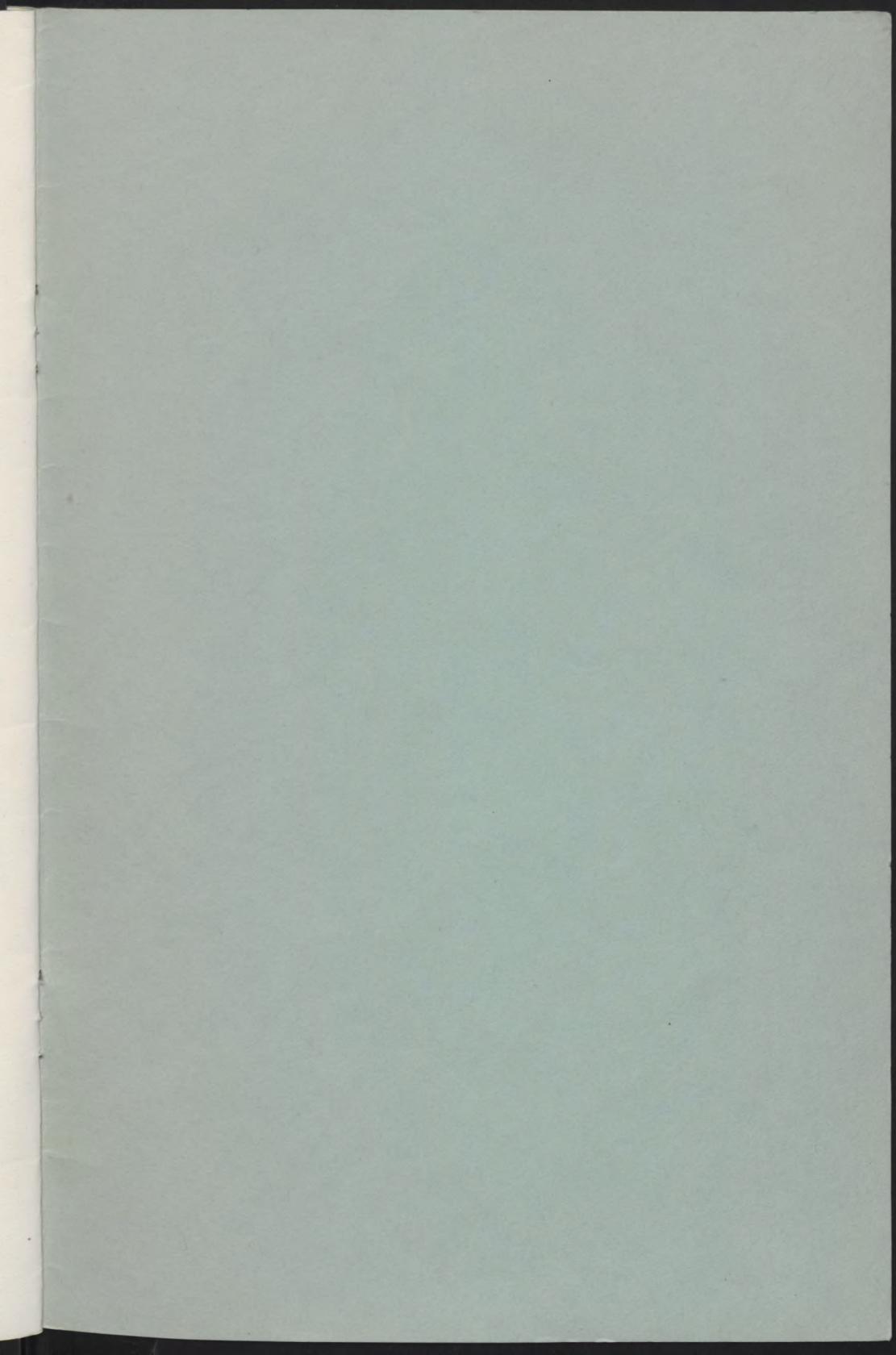
by Richard H. Gendman - 412, 404 more
Tomorrow Magazine - June 1951

BABIES FOR SALE

by Henry and Katherine Pringle
Saturday Evening Post - December 27, 1951

A REPORTER AT LARGE: OUR SON

by Katherine T. Kibben
The New Yorker - March 4, 1950



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