

# Did You Know?

## Permanency Options-Adoption

Understanding why a child may say “no” to adoption is a crucial step in the communication that must be part of any permanency effort. It is not the end of the discussion but rather the beginning! A few reasons why a child may say no could be:

- Loyalty to birth parents: A child may feel they are betraying their birth parents to agree to adoption.
- Afraid of rejection: Sometimes when a child says they do not want to be adopted, they may fear rejection and determine it's better not to take the risk.
- Do not want to change their last name: A child's last name is all that remains from their life before foster care. It may be all they share with siblings.
- No more moves! Sometimes the move required for adoption is just one too many. They may be satisfied with their current placement and out of convenience would prefer to stay.
- Feel safety in independence, trusting is unsafe: Giving power and control over to a new family can be very scary.
- Believes untruths about benefits of foster care vs. adoption; children and families may falsely believe that benefits only serve children in foster care and end when adopted.
- There may extreme situations when allowing a child to decline adoption services is appropriate but in all cases, regardless of the reasons, saying no to adoption is declining the opportunity for emotional support for the rest of their life.

Please take a moment to view a video created by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption called Youth Voices; Life After Foster Care [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jie\\_iO44fs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jie_iO44fs)

“Did You Know?” is brought to you from the Division of Protection & Permanency. If you would like more information on this content, please contact the Adoption Services Branch by calling (502)-564-2147.