



2.6.7 Adoption

An **adoption** serves to provide a child who cannot live with their birth family long-term with the opportunity to grow up in a (legally) stable family environment under the care of social parents.

In 2021, 3,843 underage children were adopted in Germany. Various forms of adoption exist:

Form of adoption	% share of all adoptions (n = 3,843) in 2021	
Domestic third-party adoptions	998	26%
International third-party adoptions	178	4.6%
Adoption of a step-child (domestic/international)	2,535	66%
Adoption by relatives (domestic/international)	1322	3.4%