

The adoption process

Becky, Nina and Ian talk about how they found the adoption process and the emotions that they experienced at different stages in the process.

Becky It was nerve wracking because some of the stuff what was said in the reports in the courts wasn't true and I didn't know what, I didn't know what they were saying and everything else. I had to ask my solicitor to explain to me what was happening and she was really good. She did explain to me and that, she sat down with me and she went through everything with me, so I could get a better understanding and a better picture of what was going on.

Nina Being told that my son was gonna be placed for adoption, em, and that the local authority were gonna take me to court so they could have him to be placed for adoption ... disbelief ... But at the same time ... you're in total awe but ... and you really don't think it's happening to you but at the same time ... almost a sense of ... I don't think so, I'm gonna ...you know, this isn't gonna happen. I've done nothing wrong, you know, there's no way I'm gonna let you take my child. But within the system that you're in, everything's stacked against you anyway, that it's just ... you're not gonna get what you want anyway. It's ... you're on your own and ... you come to realise that you're on your own without ... you start to know that all the professionals around you, it's almost like they're all working together with one goal and you're on the opposite team on your own with another goal.

My own experience, it was meant to be five days, Monday to Friday in County Court. Monday ... people were called up and gave their opinions on myself as a parent, they weren't good opinions. Tuesday ... more people got up and gave their opinions of me as a parent, again they weren't good. Wednesday, Wednesday morning... more people up to give their opinions, not good. And by Wednesday lunchtime I just ... I totally broke down and spoke to my solicitor and basically said, I can't do it any more. There's not one person fighting for me, not one person in my corner and I can't ... social services are gonna get him anyway and I don't want to put myself through this any more.

Ian It went quite bad ... They kept me at arm's length at all time ... banned from meetings, banned from contact. All they said were, oh your comments can be added later but they never were ... because I were upset, angry, depressed, suicidal and they just didn't want to be associated with that. They didn't want to help, they just wanted to make matters worse, make me look in a bad light, bad before adoption. If social services had taken a different attitude instead of saying, oh look at him like that, let's keep him at arm's length ... they could have done, oh let's help him ... it would be a better outcome then. Even if it still ended up in adoption, it could have been a more amicable situation instead of the forced adoption it was.