

What is Adoption?



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Services

Family Choices, NFPC offers many valuable services to adopting parent(s) including:

- Domestic and International Home Studies
- Post Placement Services
- Foster Care Licensing
- Adoption Placement
- Subsidy Processing Assistance
- International Adoption Services
- Interstate Adoption Services
- Other Related Services



What is Adoption?

Adoption is a legal process that takes place in front of a judge. It creates a permanent parent-child relationship between the adopting parent(s) and the child/ren.



When the adoption process is complete, or finalized, the adopting parent(s) become the legal parents, and assume

all the rights and responsibilities of a legal parent. At that time the child becomes a permanent member of the family.

The adoption process can sometimes seem scary, drawn-out, and overwhelming. That is why our adoption placement experts are here to guide you through the adoption process. There are no guaranties in adoption, but diligently working with our adoption specialists and maintaining an open mind and heart can help you reduce the stress and risks throughout the adoption process.

Who May Adopt?

By Illinois law, A reputable adult of either sex, married couples, and co-parents may adopt. If married, both spouses must file jointly, unless they have been separated for more that one year. Residency requirements do not apply in related adoptions or placements by Illinois agencies.

An agency placement, or agency—assisted placement is an adoption placement in which a licensed, certified, or approved adoption agency places a child with adoptive parent(s) under the laws and regulations of the state where the child is born and where you live.

You should be aware that Illinois law and the laws of many other states prohibit the use of paid facilitators. Always ask for a copy of a current license or verification of “agency” status

Consent or Surrender:

The earliest point a birth mother may sign a Surrender or Consent for adoption in Illinois is 72 hours after the birth of the child. Once signed, the Surrender or Consent is final and irrevocable. Birth fathers may sign a Surrender or Consent before the birth of the child, but if documented they may revoke their Surrender or Consent prior to the child becoming 72 hours old. At 72 hours the father’s Surrender or Consent becomes final and irrevocable. Father’s may also sing Surrenders or Consents anytime after the child is 72 hours old. No one may sign a Surrender during the first 72 hours after the child’s birth. Illinois also has a Putative Father Registry. The registry is a system that allows a father to receive notice of

an adoption proceeding. The registry mandates that the punitive father file a parentage action within 30 days of registering.

Expenses:

While this will be explained in greater detail by the agency’s adoption specialist, the following are types of expenses that are allowed in Illinois adoptions:

- Reasonable birth parent living expenses
- Reasonable and actual medical and hospital charges
- Reasonable attorney’s fees—both adoptive parents and birth parents
- Reasonable agency fees and expenses

Under Illinois law adopting parent(s) may not seek reimbursement of living, medical, or counseling expenses paid to or on behalf of a birth parent in the event that the birth parent chooses not to place the child for adoption.

Other Steps:

There are many steps in the adoption process. These will be explained in greater detail by our agencies adoption specialists, but they include:

- Home Studies
- Pre and Post Placement Visits
- Criminal Background Checks/CANTS Checks
- Development of an Adoption Portfolio
- Adoption Education
- Counseling