



Adoptions From The Heart®

Delaware Birth Father Rights

1. You, as the birthfather, will have sign a consent to terminate your parental rights and place the child for adoption. You cannot sign this consent until the baby has been born, and only certain people are permitted to take consents by Delaware Law. If you are married or were married during the year before your baby is born, you will be asked to give your consent whether or not you are the father of the baby. You can sign a termination of parental rights paperwork prior to the birth of the baby in certain circumstances.
2. Once you give your consent to an adoption, you can change your mind, but it must be done in writing within 14 days from the date you signed your consent, and it must be delivered to the agency office. Whatever your decision, about four to five months after the birth of your baby, there will be a hearing at the courthouse. You will receive a letter giving you the date and time of the hearing, which you may or may not have to attend. *You can sign a written statement that you do not want to know about the hearing date when you sign your consent to terminate your parental rights and place the child up for adoption.

*If you are under the age of 18, your parents do not need to be notified of the court hearing- however you do need to be represented by your own attorney to advise you of your rights.

Other Important Information

- You cannot accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- Adopting parents living in Delaware can pay for housing, expenses, food, clothing, and legal and medical expenses. These payments are made into an escrow account and are never to be paid directly to a birth parent.
- If these expenses are paid by adopting parents, this does not mean that you must give your baby to the adopting parents. If you change your mind, you do not have to repay them unless you have agreed to do so.
- You have the right to have counseling about whether or not to choose adoption for your baby. This counseling must be provided, at no cost to you, by an agency or counsel.
- Adoptions are legal in Delaware when done through an agency, unless a relative is an adopting parent.

In Addition: You have the right,

- To have counseling to help you with your decision.
- To have counseling even after your rights have been terminated
- To select and meet the adoptive family.
- To ask to get letters and pictures of your child after placement.



Adoptions From The Heart®

- To get help from the hospital social worker:
 - About your decision
 - If someone is bothering or pressuring you
 - For a list of adoption agencies and counselors in your area