



Adoptions From The Heart®

Pennsylvania Birthfather Rights

Pennsylvania Adoption Law States That:

1. You, as the named birth father, will have to option to sign consent to the adoption. This can be signed at anytime, but it's preferred if this is signed after the birth of the baby. If you are unsure if you are the birth father but are still in agreement with the adoption plan, you can choose to sign a denial of paternity and consent to the adoption.
2. Once you give your consent to an adoption, it is irrevocable unless you revoke it within THIRTY (30) days after EITHER the birth of the child OR execution of the consent, whichever occurs LATER, and it must be delivered to the agency office (or to the attorney handling the adoption, or to the Clerk of Orphan's Court in the County of termination.)
3. Whatever your decision, about two to three 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. * * If you are under the age of 18, one of your parents will be notified of the court hearing.

Other Important Information:

- You cannot accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- Adopting parents can pay for legal and medical expenses.
- If the legal fees or medical expenses are paid for by adopting parents, this does not mean that you must place your baby with 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 counselor on the court's approved list. You can get this list at the hospital where you are having your baby.
- Adoptions are legal in Pennsylvania when completed through an agency or when completed privately with an attorney. Agencies, however, provide free counseling as part of their services.

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.
- 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