

TIPS FOR CHOOSING AN ADOPTION ATTORNEY

Contact an attorney as early as possible in the decision-making process.

Know what the attorney charges, how fees are structured and that they are affordable.

Learn about the specific types of adoptions and services the attorney provides. Ask what percentage of the practice is dedicated to adoption and how many adoption proceedings the attorney has handled.

Ask for references. Ask lots of questions, share your concerns and provide the attorney with all relevant documents.

Choose an attorney who is experienced in the type of adoption you are considering.

The American Academy of Adoption Attorneys has members throughout the U.S. and Canada who are experts in the complexities of adoption law as well as interstate and international regulations surrounding adoption. The Academy is the largest and most accessible resource for finding an adoption attorney.

 **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
Adoption Attorneys**

(202) 832-2222

www.adoptionattorneys.org

WHY HIRE AN ADOPTION ATTORNEY?

Adoption is a wonderful option for expanding your family, but the laws governing the process are quite complex. Working with an expert in adoption law will help ensure that or adoption proceeds smoothly. An adoption attorney will:

Provide an unbiased explanation of adoption procedures and develop a legally secure plan tailored to your needs;

Explain your rights and the adoption laws in our state or refer you to attorneys who practice in other states or internationally;

Assess the risks involved, including determining what costs are permissible and ensuring that birth parents' rights are legally terminated before placement is finalized;

Review and negotiate adoption agency contracts to ensure your interests are served;

Clarify your options for post-placement arrangements, if any, with birth parents and draft or review an agreement to ensure your interests and those of the child are served.