

Summary of U.S. State Adoption Laws

State	When May Consent Be Signed?	Time to Revoke Consent?*	Bfather Registry?	Ads Okay?	Father Prebirth Consent?	Time to Finalize?	Med. Exp/Bmom May Be Paid?	Liv. Exp/ BMom May Be Paid?
AL	Birthfather: Anytime before or after child born Birthmother: before birth, before a Probate Court Judge; anytime after birth	5-14 days 5 days, no questions. An additional 9 days for best interest of child	Yes	Yes	Yes	90 days	Yes, with court approval	Yes
AK	Anytime after birth	10 days	No	Yes	No	Usually takes 60 days	Yes	Yes
AR	Anytime after birth	10 days	Yes	Yes	Yes	11 days	Yes	Yes
AZ	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	No	3-6 months	Yes	Yes. Court approval required for expenses over \$1,000
CA	Anytime after birth, usually after hospital release	Agency: Until accepted by state, usually 3-4 days after signing Private: 30 days after signing, unless waiver executed. With waiver, consent is irrevocable	No	No	No	Usually 6 months	Yes	Yes
CO	After birth: court terminates to agency	Irrevocable	No	Yes	In some cases	6 months	Yes, with court approval	Yes, with court approval
CT	48 hours after birth	Anytime before court hearing terminating parental rights	No	Yes	No	About 6 months	Yes	Yes, up to \$1,200
DE	Anytime after birth	14 days	No	No	Yes	At least 6 months	Yes, but pymts. are made into escrow account, not directly to BMom	Yes, but pymts. are made into escrow account, not directly to BMom
DC	Anytime after birth	Irrevocable once filed with court	No	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	No
FL	48 hours after birth	Irrevocable if child	Yes	Yes, but	Yes	4-6 months	Yes, up to \$5,000	Yes, up to \$5,000

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		under 6 months. If child 6 months or older, 3 days to revoke.		only through an agency or attorney			living & medical exp. w/o court review. All expenses must be disclosed to the court.	living & medical exp. w/o court review. All expenses must be disclosed to the court.
GA	Agency: 24 hours after birth Independent: Anytime after birth	10 days	Yes	No	No	45-60 days from filing petition	Yes	No
HI	Anytime after birth	Irrevocable	No	Yes	Yes	About	Yes 2-3 months	Yes
ID	Anytime after birth, but it must be witnessed by a judge	Irrevocable	Yes	No	No	Agency: 8-10 mos Private: 3-5 months	Yes	Yes, \$2,000 limit.
IL	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	Yes	About 6 months	Yes	Yes. In agency adoption, expenses must be preapproved by agency. In private adoption, expenses must be preapproved by court.
IN	Anytime after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	Yes	At least 1 month	Yes	Yes, up to \$3,000.
IA	72 hours after birth	96 hours	Yes	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	Yes
KS	12 hours after birth	Birthparents may petition the court prior to finalization (30-60 days after signing) but has burden of proof	No	No	Yes	30-60 days	Yes	Yes
KY	72 hours after birth	20 days	No	No	No	3 months	Yes	Yes

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LA	5 days after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	No	Yes	Private: 1 year Agency: 6 months	Yes	Yes, rent and food and, if possible, paid directly to provider
ME	Anytime after birth, if a judge is available	3 days	No	No	No	About 1 mo.	Yes	Yes
MA	4 days after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	No	No	6 months	Yes	Yes. Monthly payments up to \$980/month, limited to lodging, food, utilities, and clothing.
MD	Anytime after birth	30 days	No	Yes	No	30 days	Yes	No
MI	Anytime after birth when court hearing can be scheduled	Only until order terminating rights is entered, which usually happens when consent is given	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes, if not otherwise covered by insurance or public assistance	Yes, if reasonable and necessary
MN	72 hours after birth	10 days	Yes	Yes	No	More than 90 days	Yes	Yes
MS	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	No	Yes	No	Right away to 6 months	Yes	No, unless through a MS agency
MO	48 hours after birth	Until filed with court. After filing, court must act within 3 days	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes	Yes
NE	48 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	Yes
NV	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	No	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes	Yes
NH	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	Yes
NM	48 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	No	4-7 months	Yes	Yes. Payments must be to third party, not to birthmother.
NJ	72 hours after birth	Agency: irrevocable	No	Yes	No	Agency:	Yes	Yes

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		Private: can be withdrawn prior to court action				8 months Private: 10-11 months		
NY	Anytime after birth	Agency: 30 days Private: 45 days	Yes	Yes	No	3-6 months	Yes	Yes
NC	Anytime after birth	7 days	No	Yes, with home study	Yes	6 months in most cases	Yes	Yes
ND	Agency: anytime after birth Identified adoption: 48 hours after birth	Irrevocable in most cases	No	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes	Yes
OH	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	No	No	7 months	Yes	No
OK	Anytime after birth	Irrevocable in most cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	2-3 months	Yes	Yes, up to \$500 w/o court approval
OR	Anytime after birth	Agency: irrevocable after placement Private: usually irrevocable 1-3 days after adoption petition filed	No	Yes, with home study	Yes	3-6 months	Yes	Yes
PA	72 hours after birth	Revocable until court terminates parental rights: 2-4 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	About 6 months	Yes	No
SC	Anytime after birth	Irrevocable	No	Yes	No	3-6 months	Yes	Yes
SD	Cannot be filed with court until 5 days after birth	Irrevocable	No	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	Yes, if reasonable and court approved
TN	72 hours after birth	10 days	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes	Yes
TX	48 hours after birth	Agency: irrevocable Private: 10 days to revoke	Yes	Yes, with home study	No	6 months	Yes	No
UT	24 hours after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes	Yes

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VT	36 hours after birth	21 days	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 months	Yes	Yes
VA	10 days after birth	15 days	No	Yes	No	8 months	Yes	Yes
WA	48 hours after birth	Until court approval	No	Yes, with home study	Yes	1-6 months	Yes	Yes, if disclosed to and approved by court and deemed proper
WV	72 hours after birth	Irrevocable	No	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	Yes
WI	Anytime after birth	Until termination of parental rights signed by judge	No	Yes, with home study	No	6 months	Yes	Yes, up to \$1,000
WY	Anytime after birth	Irrevocable	Yes	Yes	No	6 months	Yes	yes

Note: The State-By-State Adoption Law Chart is based on information I compiled from attorneys who are expert in state adoption law. (I was unable to obtain updated information from Montana and Rhode Island, so those states are not included on the chart.) I am not an attorney myself; thus, there could be some errors of interpretation. It's also true that state laws change, so do not assume the laws described on this chart are etched in granite for all time. They aren't. Instead, use the chart as a guide only, and consult with your adoption arranger on the current laws as of the time that you adopt.