

Adoption Laws by State

State	When after birth can consent be given?	When does consent become irrevocable? If the consent is revoked, is return to birthparent automatic?	What birthparent expenses may be paid, and in what time period?	Can adopters advertise for birthparents?	Can out-of-state residents finalize an adoption?	Putative father registry?	ST
Alabama	Any time before or after birth.	14 days after signing. Return automatic if revoked before 5 days.	Medical, legal, living(rent, food, utilities, clothing, medical travel), lost wages(but court approval difficult). Up to 4-6 weeks postpartum.	Yes	Yes	Yes	AL
Alaska	Any time after birth	After 10 days, unless court finds revoking consent is in child's best interest. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living, lost wages. Post-payment disclosure to court required.	Yes	Yes	No	AK
Arizona	72 hours after birth.	Consents are irrevocable upon signing	Medical, legal, counseling, up to \$1,000 living (more after motion if court deems reasonable).	Yes	No	Yes	AZ
Arkansas	Any time; in practice, most wait 24 hours.	10 days after signing. If 10th day falls on weekend or legal holiday, period extends to next business day. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, living (housing, food, clothing, general maintenance)	Yes	Yes	Yes	AR
California	After birthmother's discharge.	Private adoptions, 30 days after signings; agency adoptions, after state acknowledgment (in practice, 30-45 days). (Pending legislation would make relinquishments irrevocable 2nd business day after signing.) In practice, return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (max. \$500 maternity clothing, housing, food of up to \$400/mo. and \$500 for birthmother and another child, transportation. 3 months prenatal to up to 11 weeks postpartum. Up to one year in jail and \$2,500 fine if birthparent accepts payment with intent to defraud. 2-4 years prison for sale/purchase of child.	No	Yes	No	CA
Colorado	Relinquishment may be done pre-birth, but may not be submitted to court until 4 days after birth.	After relinquishment order entered, unless fraud or duress shown within 90 days.	Medical and legal, with court approval.	In practice, yes	Yes, if using state-licensed agency	No	CO
Connecticut	48 hours after birth.	After finalization, which typically occurs within 30 days of filing consent. Return automatic.	Medical and legal, with court approval. Counseling. Max. \$1,500 living expenses, including telephone, clothing.	Yes	No	No	CT
Delaware	Birthmother, any time after birth; birthfather, any time.	14 days after signing. Return automatic if parties agree.	Medical (unreimbursed), legal. Living (food, clothing) if paid through agency; reimbursed with receipts.	No	Yes	No	DE
District of Columbia	Independent adoption, any time after birth; agency, 3 days after birth	Independent adoption, after consent filed in court; agency, 10 days after signing. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, reasonable living. District-licensed agency can seek reimbursement for up to \$2,500 living expenses if case is contested.	Yes	Yes if using D.C. agency	No	DC

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Florida	Birthfather, any time after birth. Birthmother, 48 hours after birth or until she discharged, whichever comes first. For children over 6 months old, any time.	For children under 6 months, when consent is signed. Over 6 months, after 3 business days. Return usually automatic.	Reasonable medical, legal. Housing, utilities, phone, medical travel; with in-state agency, up to \$2,500 allowed without court pre-approval. 6 weeks postpartum, no limit prepartum.	No	Yes	Yes	FL
Georgia	In agency cases, 24 hours after birth. In private cases, any time after.	10 days after signing; if the 10th day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then period extends to next business day. Return generally automatic.	Medical, legal, with affidavit. Reasonable living expenses if licensed agency adoption.	No (disagreement)	No	Yes	GA
Hawaii	In practice, after birth.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling, living, lost wages. (No law; reasonable standards applied). Usually 2 mos. postpartum.	No	Yes	No	HI
Idaho	After birth.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling. Living and lost wages: up to \$500 without court approval, up to \$2,000 with approval. No time limit, but total must not exceed \$2,000. Birthmother who revokes consent may be required to reimburse adoptive parents.	No	No	Yes	ID
Illinois	72 hours after birth; birthfathers also can sign any time before.	After signing.	Medical, legal (with court application), counseling. Reasonable lodging, food, clothing in nonagency cases, with court pre-approval; no limit or court pre-approval required in agency cases. Expenses must be shown to be necessary to protect health of birthmother or child. Lost wages in agency adoptions only. 30 days postpartum for private, 90 days for agency adoption. No transportation, gifts, lost wages, or education reimbursement in private adoptions; possible in agency placements. Accounting must be submitted to court within 14 days after completion.	Yes	Yes	Yes	IL

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Indiana	Any time after birth.	30 days after consent signed. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (housing, utilities, maternity clothing, pregnancy/adoption related travel, other necessary. \$3,000 max unless approved by court). Lost wages if job loss due to pregnancy, but offset by living expenses and unemployment benefits). 2nd or 3rd trimester to 6 weeks postpartum. Adoption deception by birthmother is crime punishable by jail time, restitution.	Yes	Only for "hard-to-place" children.	Yes	IN
Iowa	72 hours after birth.	30 days after filing of decree. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (room and board only). 30 days postpartum for living expenses, 60 days for counseling.	Yes	Yes	Yes	IA
Kansas	12 hours after birth, if hospital permits the signing. Birthfather, any time within six months before birth, unless he has Indian heritage.	After consent is signed, unless consent proven to not be voluntarily given. Return is automatic.	Medical, legal, reasonable and necessary living (no uniformity; some judges set limits). Usually up to 6 weeks postpartum.	Yes	Yes	No	KS
Kentucky	72 hours after birth.	20 days after signing or state/interstate approval, whichever is later. Return assumed, not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling. No law regarding expenses, but affidavit for expenses must be submitted to court. Expenses paid are subject to court approval and modification.	No	No	No	KY
Louisiana	Birthmother, 5 days after birth; birthfather, any time.	After signing.	Medical (plus medication and travel), legal (plus travel), counseling for birth- and adoptive parents, reasonable living, temporary foster care for child. 45 days postpartum. Preliminary estimate and accounting and final expenses affidavit must be filed 10 days before finalization. Payments to intermediary prohibited. Court may order excessive payments refunded by recipient, refuse to approve adoption, refer for criminal prosecution.	No	Yes	Yes	LA

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Maine	Any time after birth; in practice, usually week to 30 days due to court scheduling.	3 days after signing. Return is automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (including transportation). Only adoptive parent's affidavit of expenses is needed.	No	Yes	No	ME
Maryland	Any time after birth. Common practice is to wait at least 24 hours after birth.	30 days after signing. Return automatic.	Reasonable and customary medical, legal.	Yes	Yes	No	MD
Massachusetts	4th day after birth.	After consent signed. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, plus their related transportation. Living allowed when birthmother unable to pay due to pregnancy. Up to \$980/mo. in lodging, food, utilities, and clothing. Up to \$500/mo. in educational, vocational, recreational, religious services. Payments must be made through agency. Up to 2 round-trip airfares for birthparent to in-state agency for adoption services. Payments must be made directly to third party. Contingent payments prohibited. Max 8 mos., with 6 mos. prebirth max.	No	Yes, if child is state resident and probate court permits it.	Yes	MA
Michigan	Any time after birth, but it must be given during a court hearing, which must be scheduled.	When order terminating parental rights is entered, usually same day consent is given. Return usually automatic.	Medical not covered by insurance or Medicaid, legal, counseling, reasonable and necessary living. 6 weeks post-partum. No caps or preauthorization.	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Minnesota	72 hours after birth	10 days after signing. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, necessary living (transportation, utilities, phone, meals, lodging). Birthmother must show loss of income or increased expenses due to pregnancy. All payments must be made through agency or attorney. Gifts or educational expenses prohibited. Payments for placement is a misdemeanor. Contract requiring birthmother to reimburse adoptive parent's expenses if adoption fails is void. Generally 6 weeks postpartum.	Yes	No	Yes	MN

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Mississippi	72 hours after birth.	Upon signing.	Medical, legal (private). Agency not restricted.	Yes	Only in agency cases.	No	MS
Missouri	Birthmother, 48 hours after birth; birthfather, any time.	After court approves consent. Court must approve the consent within 3 days or set a hearing on the consent. Returned assumed to be automatic; this aspect of law untested.	Medical, legal (plus court costs, administration expenses), counseling, living (food, shelter, utilities, transportation, and clothing within community norms; adoption-related travel).	Yes	Yes	Yes	MO
Montana (info verified by AdoptionLawSite, not by AAAA)	72 hours after birth.	After termination of parental rights.	Medical, legal, counseling (up to 10 hours for birthmother), travel and temporary living, not including education, vehicles, vacations, permanent housing.	No	Yes	Yes	MT
Nebraska	48 hours after birth.	After signing.	Medical not covered by insurance or public assistance, legal, birth-related living expenses and losses, doctor-verified lost wages.	Yes	No	Yes	NE
Nevada	72 hours after birth.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling, necessary living. In practice, \$1,000 for 5 mos. max.	Yes	No	No	NV
New Hampshire	72 hours after birth.	After final hearing. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, reasonable living, including transportation, lodging, clothing, meals, and excluding gifts over \$50, educational expenses. 6 weeks post-partum.	Yes	Yes	Yes	NH
New Jersey	72 hours after birth.	In agency adoption, after signing before judge or upon surrender. Private adoption, when judge terminates birthparents' rights, usually 2-4 months after birth. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling (religious, psychological, vocational), living (food, clothing, shelter). During pregnancy and 4 weeks postpartum.	Yes	Yes, if in-state agency used.	No	NJ
New Mexico	48 hours after birth.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (including travel). Up to 6 weeks postpartum.	Yes	Yes	Yes	NM

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New York	Any time after birth. A man denying paternity may make an irrevocable denial before the birth of the child	In private adoption, 45 days after signing and transfer of child to adoptive parents. In an agency adoption, usually after 30 days. Revocation of the consent triggers a "best interests" hearing if the adoptive parents or agency choose to contest the revocation.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (housing, maternity and baby clothes, transportation). From 60 days prebirth to 30 days post-partum, unless court finds extraordinary circumstances to extend.	Yes	Yes, although courts strongly prefer to work with in-state adoptive parents, unless there are extenuating circumstances.	Yes	NY
North Carolina	Birthfathers, any time; birthmothers: any time after birth. If child is at least 12 years old, then his consent is required and may be signed at any time.	7 days after signing. If last day falls on a weekend or holiday, revocation period extends to next business day. After that, consent only revocable if obtained by fraud or duress. Return is automatic.	Medical (including travel), legal, counseling when directly related to adoption, living. Court approval of expenses required. No reimbursement unless fraud by birthparent is proved. Up to 6 weeks postpartum.	Yes	No	No	NC
North Dakota	Agency adoption, any time after birth; private adoption, 48 hours after birth.	After finalization.	Medical. Counseling and living related to adoption and placement.	Yes	Generally, no.	No	ND
Ohio	72 hours after birth	After surrender to agency. In private adoptions, after decree issued. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal. Living and counseling in agency cases. Living expenses prohibited in private adoptions, but some courts permit. In interstate cases where Ohio is the sending state, rules of receiving state regarding birthparent expenses apply.	No	Yes	Yes	OH

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Oklahoma	Birthmother, any time after birth; birthfather, any time.	Immediately, if consent given before judge; after 15 days, if given before notary. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling. Living for birth-related necessities. Transportation, but no car payments or repairs. No furniture. Living expenses allowed after birthmother contacts agency or attorney and for up to two months after placement; counseling for up to six months after placement, with court approval. Court must pre-approve expenses over \$500. Payments must be made to third party when possible.	Yes	Yes, but discouraged	Yes	OK
Oregon	Birthmother, any time after birth. Birthfather, before or after birth.	In agency adoption, after child is placed. In independent adoption, after state requirements are met, usually within a few days of placement.	Medical, legal (with time records upon court request), counseling (typically \$1,000 max, up to \$4,000 if payments made through attorney). Limited living (about \$600 monthly rent, utilities, phone. About \$50/week in food. Public transportation. \$200-\$500 in maternity clothes. Direct payments required whenever possible). Birthparent counseling for up to one year postpartum. Living expenses usually approved for up to 4 mos. Financial disclosure affidavit to court required.	Yes	Yes, if birthmother is resident.	Yes	OR
Pennsylvania	Birthmother, 72 hours after birth; birthfather, any time.	30 days after birth or 30 days after signing, whichever comes later. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling.	Yes	Yes	No	PA
Rhode Island	Agency adoption, after 15 days. Private adoption, after parental rights terminated (in practice, 6 months)	180 days after decree entered. In practice, return automatic.	No law.	In practice, no.	Yes	No	RI

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South Carolina	No minimum time. Usual practice is at least 24 hours after birth.	Consent is irrevocable immediately unless birth parent can prove consent was involuntary and withdrawing consent is in the child's best interest. In practice, return automatic.	Medical, legal, living (receipts required). Reasonable time period. Reimbursement of fees for required investigations, guardian ad litem, child-placing and child-sending agencies permitted.	Yes	Yes	No	SC
South Dakota (verified with state adoption unit.)	5 days after birth	30 days after finalization. Return not automatic.	Charges approved by court.	In practice, no.	In practice, no.	No	SD
Tennessee	Surrender can be given 3 days after birth.	10 days after surrender, unless 10th day falls on a weekend day or legal holiday. Then, period extends to next business day. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (housing maternity and baby clothing, utilities, transportation. Educational and car payments prohibited. Max 90 days pre-birth, 30 days after birth or consent/relinquishment. Court may extend times upon motion and birthparent affidavit.	Yes	No	Yes	TN
Texas	48 hours after birth.	In private adoption, 10 or 60 days after signing, depending on type of affidavit used. In agency adoption, after signing. Return likely.	Medical, legal, counseling. Living expenses allowed in agency cases are rent, clothing, food, transportation (gas but not car payments). No reimbursement for expenses paid or incurred prior to contact with agency. 6 weeks postpartum. No reimbursement if adoption fails.	Yes	Yes	Yes	TX
Utah	Birthmother, 24 hours after birth; birthfather, any time.	Upon signing, unless fraud, duress, undue influence proven. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, living. No law regarding time limit, but in practice, usually up to 3 months.	Yes	Yes	No	UT
Vermont	36 hours after birth	21 days after signing in court. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, plus transportation related to all three. Living: no specifics in law, but no direct payments to birthparent without court pre-approval. Max 6 weeks postpartum, except counseling, which is allowed for reasonable time pre- and postplacement.	Yes	Yes, if using state-licensed agency and other conditions are met.	No	VT

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Virginia	Independent adoption, 10 days after birth; agency, any time after birth.	15 days after signing for independent adoption, 15 days after signing for agency adoption or until child is 25 days old or placed in adoptive home, whichever comes later. Return automatic.	Medical (birth-related, plus health insurance premiums), legal, and counseling, plus their related transportation. Food, shelter, and clothing if birthmother can't work due to pregnancy. Partial expenses if work ability is limited. Renter's insurance, furniture payments, and living expenses for birthparent dependents are possible. Unspecified phone bills and auto insurance, repairs, and payments prohibited.	Yes	No	No	VA
Washington	Any time before birth; can't be approved until 48 hours after birth.	Upon court approval, which can take place 48 hours after birth or consent signing, whichever is later.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (rent, food, clothing, utilities, transportation. Lost wages possible but not in addition to general living expenses. No time statute, but in practice, about 2 months postpartum, longer in extraordinary circumstances.	Yes	Yes	No	WA
West Virginia	After 72 hours.	Upon signing of an irrevocable consent, except in case of fraud or duress. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling.	Yes	No	No	WV
Wisconsin	Court must hold hearing after birth and within 30 days of filing petition to terminate parental rights.	After court terminates rights. 30 days to appeal on basis of fraud, mistake, undue coercion or inadvertence. Return is automatic.	Medical, legal, pre- and post-adoption counseling. Up to \$1,000 living. Post-finalization payments must be court-approved. Birthmother gift up to \$50. In interstate placements, law of birthparent's home state applies to expenses. Payments should be made to third parties.	Yes	No	No	WI
Wyoming	Any time after birth.	After signing.	No law.	Yes	No	Yes	WY