



CROSSON & RICHETTI

LEHIGH VALLEY FAMILY LAWYERS

PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTION TUTORIAL

3 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The following information should not be considered legal advice, but simply an informational guide about local adoption laws.

The information below will offer you an overview of the basic domestic adoption laws in PA that may affect your Pennsylvania adoption process:

WHO CAN ADOPT IN PENNSYLVANIA?

PA adoption laws are some of the least restrictive in the country. Any adult may adopt if they meet the adoption requirements of their adoption professional and the home study process.

There is no adoption age limit, age minimum or marriage requirement listed in Pennsylvania adoption laws. However, individual adoption professionals, including American Adoptions, may have their own preferences for prospective adoptive parents.

While all hopeful adoptive parents must complete the home study process with a Pennsylvania-licensed home study provider, the adoption requirements for adoptive families will also vary depending on the type of adoption they are pursuing.

WHO CAN BE ADOPTED IN PENNSYLVANIA?

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PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTION LAWS REGULATING BIRTH PARENT EXPENSES

States also individually regulate how much and what is allowed to be paid to help expectant and birth parents throughout the pregnancy and adoption. PA adoption laws allow the following birth parent expenses to be paid by the adoptive parents:

- Medical costs related to the birth mother's prenatal care, birth, and postnatal care
- Expenses related to the care of the child prior to the decree of adoption being issued

While PA adoption laws don't enforce repayment of any paid expenses should the birth family decide to parent, American Adoptions offers a unique Risk-Sharing program to financially protect adoptive parents from adoption disruptions.

Requested birth parent expenses are reviewed by Pennsylvania courts, and any expenses deemed "excessive" or "unnecessary" are not permitted to be paid by the adoptive family. Any form of payment, including money, gifts or favors in exchange for the placement of a child into an adoption is strictly illegal.

TO LEARN WHAT ADOPTION LAWS IN PENNSYLVANIA MAY AFFECT YOU, CALL (610) 351-2264 NOW TO SPEAK TO A PA ADOPTION ATTORNEY SPECIALIST.

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