

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?	Is there a putative father registry?	State
Alabama	Birthmother: before birth in front of a Probate Court Judge, or any time after birth in front of a notary public. Birthfather: any time in front of a notary.	5 days of child's birth, if signed prior to birth, or 5 days after signing, if signed after birth. Can be revoked for an additional 9 days, with reason shown in a Petition filed, and the Court will decide in the best interest of the child whether to return the child or not. Return not automatic.	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	10 days after consent, or birth of the child, whichever is later, unless court finds revoking consent is in child's best interest. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, living, counseling, lost wages. Post-payment disclosure to court required.	Yes.	Yes.	No.	AK
Arizona	72 hours after birth.	Upon signing.	Otherwise unreimbursed medical, legal, and counseling expenses without prior court approval. If living expenses exceed \$1000, court approval necessary in advance. If under \$1000, court approval need not be obtained.	Yes.	No.	Yes.	AZ
Arkansas	Any time.	10 days after baby's birth or signing, whichever is later. If 10th day falls on weekend or legal holiday, period extends to next business day. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, living (housing, food, clothing, etc.), reimbursement for expenses incurred or fees for services rendered related to the pregnancy, delivery and post-partum recuperation period. Expenses paid must be disclosed in an affidavit by the petitioners.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	AR
California	Birthmother: After discharge from the hospital, unless child is already discharged; then anytime after the child's discharge if birthmother's competency is verified.	Private: 30 days after signing, unless birthparent waives the right to revoke, in which case irrevocable upon signing. Agency: after Dept. of Social Services' acknowledgment of the relinquishment, which is deemed 10 business days after receipt, if not acknowledged earlier.	Medical, legal, counseling, living. No official guidelines. Payments in connection with placement for adoption or consent to adoption prohibited. Misdemeanor to violate. Up to one year in jail and \$2500 fine if birthparent accepts payment with intent to defraud. 2-4 years in prison for sale/purchase of child. Prospective adoptive parents required to offer \$500 (or more by agreement) to pay for independent representation for the birthparent and to pay for three counseling sessions upon request.	No.	Yes, if placing birthmother resided in CA at time of consent or when petition is filed.	No.	CA
Colorado	May be given pre-birth, but may not be submitted to court until 4 days after birth.	Upon filing in the courts and an order being signed by the Judge in Colorado. The birth parents must show fraud or duress within 90 days of placement to revoke consent.	Medical, legal, counseling and pregnancy related expenses.	In practice, Yes.	Yes, if using state-licensed agency. No adoption can take place without using an agency in Colorado.	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. \$1500 living expenses, including telephone, clothing.	Yes.	No.	No.	CT

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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	Yes	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.	No	Yes, if using D.C. agency	No	D.C.
Florida	Birthmother: 48 hours after birth, or after release from the hospital, whichever is earlier. Birthfather: any time after birth.	Newborn: Upon signing, unless fraud or duress proven; 6 mos. or older: 3 days after signing or when child is placed in adoptive home, whichever is later, unless fraud or duress proven. Statement of nonpaternity can be revoked only if fraud or duress shown.	Reasonable living expenses (including rent, utilities, phone, food, transportation, clothes, insurance), medical and attorney fees, and adoption-related expenses deemed necessary, up to 6 weeks postpartum.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	FL
Georgia	Any time after birth	10 days after signing.	Medical and hospital expenses related to the pregnancy and birth of child, other adoption-related expenses.	No.	No.	Yes.	GA
Hawaii	In practice, after birth.	After signing, unless court finds it is in best interest of child to revoke consent.	Medical, legal, counseling, living, lost wages. (No law; reasonable standards applied). Usually 2 mos. postpartum	No.	Yes.	No.	HI
Idaho	After birth, in front of judge.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling. Living and lost wages: up to \$500 without court approval, up to \$2000 with approval. No time limit, but total must not exceed \$2000. Can petition to over \$2000 limit. Birthmother who revokes consent may be required to reimburse adoptive parents.	No	No	Yes	ID
Illinois	Birthmother: 72 hours after birth; birthfathers: any time.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling. Reasonable lodging, food, clothing, and necessary transportation in nonagency cases, with court pre-approval; no limit or approval for agency cases. Expenses must be shown to be necessary to protect health of birthmother or child. 120 days before due date up to 60 days post-partum. No gifts, lost wages, or ed. reimbursement in private adoptions; possible in agency placements. Accounting must be submitted to court within 14 days of completion.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	IL
Indiana	Birthmother: Any time after birth; birthfather: Any time.	Upon signing, if birthfather signs before birth and it contains the statutorily prescribed language. Upon signing, but with a 30 day window to file a petition to withdraw consent, if signed after birth. After notice to adoptive parents, birthparent must prove it is in the child's best interest to withdraw consent. If birthparent confirms consent for the court, he/she loses the right to petition. Return not automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (housing, utilities, maternity clothing, pregnancy/adoption related travel, other necessary. \$3000 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 "hard-to-place" children	Yes	IN

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Iowa	The Release of Custody can not be signed less than 72 hours after birth.	After signing, the birth parent has 96 hours to change his/her mind for any reason. If the birth parent wishes to object after the 96 hour period, he/she must appear at the final termination hearing and prove that signing was under duress, misrepresentation and/or fraud. If the consent is revoked within the 96 hour period, return automatic. If the birth parent objects after the 96 hour deadline, child could remain with the guardian/custodian until the Court determines whether parental rights are terminated.	Pregnancy-related medical care, living expenses for the mother in an amount not to exceed the cost of room and board and transportation for medical purposes, and counseling. Living expenses, no longer than 30 days after birth. Counseling expenses, no longer than 60 days after birth.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes. Address: Vital Records Bureau Paternity Reg. Iowa Dept. of Public Health Lucas Building 321 East 12th Des Moines, IA, 50319-0075	IA
Kansas	12 hours after the birth.	After consent is signed, unless signee can prove by clear and convincing evidence it was not her/his free and voluntary consent. Return is automatic.	Reasonable living during or as the result of the pregnancy. medical, legal. 4-6 weeks post placement.	Yes	Yes, they can finalize where the birthparents reside or if an agency placement, where the agency is located.	Yes	KS
Kentucky	72 hours after birth.	20 days after signing, or state/interstate approval, whichever is later. Return is not automatic. If Birthfather forces revocation, return is to birthmother.	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. If there is no court proceeding, all expenses must be reported to the state offices or ICPC.	No	No	No	KY
Louisiana	Birthmother: 5 days after birth; birthfather: any time.	Upon signing, or 5 days after birth if birthfather signs prior to that, except if fraud or duress are proven.	Reasonable medical and hospital (including prescriptions, travel), living expenses, child's medical, hospital, and foster care, counseling and training, attorney and court fees, others deemed reasonable and necessary; final expenses affidavit must be filed 10 days before finalization. Payments to intermediary prohibited. Court may order excessive payments refunded, refuse to approve adoption, refer for criminal prosecution. Up to 45 days after birth.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	LA
Maine	Any time after birth; in practice, usually week to 30 days due to court scheduling.	Any time after birth; in practice, usually week to 30 days due to court scheduling.	Medical, legal, counseling, reasonable living (including transportation). Only adoptive parents' affidavit of expenses is needed.	No.	Yes.	No.	ME
Maryland	Any time after birth; common practice is to wait at least 24 hours.	30 days after signing. Return is automatic.	Reasonable and customary medical and legal.	Yes	Yes	Yes	MD

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Massachusetts	Four days after birth.	When consent is signed. Return is 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, but court demands notice to father regardless.	MA
Michigan	Any time after birth, but it must be given during a court hearing, which must be scheduled.	Consents are not "revoked" . Parents have time to ask for reconsideration, but it is rarely granted and "a change of mind" is insufficient. If it is granted, 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.	No.	MI
Minnesota	72 hours after birth.	10 days after signing. Return is 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, except if related within 3 degrees or close family friend of child.	Yes	MN
Mississippi	72 hours after birth.	Upon signing.	Anything reasonably connected with the mother's pregnancy, the birth of the child, or the adoption process.	Yes	Yes	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. Return 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	72 hours after birth, after receiving at least 3 hrs. of counseling with a counselor from a state-licensed child placing agency.	After termination of parental rights. If consent is revoked before proceedings are completed, return is automatic (as long as birthparent has custody before proceedings began).	Medical, legal, counseling (up to 10 hours for birthmother), travel and temporary living, not including education, vehicles, vacations, permanent housing.	No.	Yes, but proceedings for adoption must be in the district court of the county where petitioners reside.	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	Yes	Yes	NE
Nevada	72 hours after birth.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling, necessary living.	No	No	No	NV

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New Hampshire	72 hours after birth.	After final hearing. Return not automatic. Birthparent can request hearing to decide on revocation. Must prove fraud or duress in signing surrender AND that revocation is in child's best interest.	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.	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 (including transportation), legal, counseling (religious, psychological, vocational), living (food, clothing, shelter). During pregnancy and 4 weeks postpartum.	Yes.	Yes, if in-state agency used or if baby is less than three months old. In the latter, papers must be filed in the county where the baby was born.	No.	NJ
New Mexico	48 hours after birth.	After signing.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (including travel). Up to 6 weeks postpartum	Yes, but attorneys do not advertise for birthparents for potential adopters.	Yes, using a NM agency; not for independent adoption.	Yes	NM
New York	Any time after birth. A man denying paternity may make an irrevocable denial before the birth of the child	Private adoption: 45 days after signing and transfer of child to adoptive parents; 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, but courts prefer to work with in-state adoptive parents, unless there are extenuating circumstances.	Yes	NY
North Carolina	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; Birthfathers: 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	Yes	Yes	NC
North Dakota	Agency adoption: any time after birth; private adoption: birthmother, 48 hours after birth; birthfather, anytime.	After termination of parental rights at a termination hearing in court and an order is issued. If a consent is part of an adoption (which is rare, but can happen in relative adoptions, etc.), a consent to adoption can be revoked any time before entry of a decree of adoption, but not after.	Medical. Counseling and living related to adoption and placement, for no longer than 6 weeks following delivery unless the court determines birthmother is can't be employed because of physical disabilities related to the birth. Living expenses do not include lost wages, gifts, educational expenses, vacations or other similar expenses.	Yes.	Generally, no.	No.	ND

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Ohio	72 hours after birth as long as the Birth Parent Assessment has been completed prior to birth. If not, then 72 hours after the completion of the assessment.	After surrender to agency. In private adoptions, after interlocutory order (usually at 30 days) or final decree issued. If fraud, duress, or misrepresentation, consent can be withdrawn at any time. Return not automatic; withdrawal of consent must be in child's best interest.	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.	In some courts.	Yes.	OH
Oklahoma	Birthmother: after birth (need judge); Native American Indian Birthmother: If child is registered in Federally Recognized tribe, 10 days after birth, with notices sent to all tribes for which the child is eligible and BIA by Registered mail. Putative birthfather: May sign Extra Judicial Consent with 15 days to revoke; can be served with "Adoption Plan", with 30 days to turn it in to Paternity Registry, or rights will be terminated. Legal Father or Indian Child Welfare Case (ICWA): If father is legal or child is registered Native American, Waiver/Confession after birth.	Upon signing before a Judge. The birthparent can file for child's return but unless she can prove fraud or duress, the putative father's rights cannot be terminated, or the adoptive parents did not file a Petition for Adoption within (9) mos. after the relinquishment, the relinquishment is irrevocable.	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 unless otherwise ordered by a Judge.	Yes but only adoptive parents with valid home-study. No outside agencies, attorneys or facilitators may legally advertise in Oklahoma.	Yes, but discouraged.	Yes	OK
Oregon	Birthmother: any time after birth; birthfather: any time.	Agency adoption: after child is placed; 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, up to \$4,000 if payments made through attorney). Reasonable living expenses (rent, utilities, phone) during pregnancy due to job loss or need. About \$100/week in food and misc.; public transportation or gas for medical appointments. \$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 after he learns of her pregnancy.	Birthmother: 30 days after signing; birthfather: 30 days after signing or birth, whichever is later. Increase to 60 days if they can prove fraud or duress. Return is not automatic, but difficult for adoptive families to win such cases.	Medical expenses directly related to birth and delivery. Legal expenses may occur, but encouraged that full disclosure be given to all parties, and to the court. Counseling fund overseen by the Court system, but difficult to access for birthmother expenses.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes (Bureau of Child Enforcement and Support)	PA

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Rhode Island	Agency adoption: 15 days after birth; private adoption: after termination of parental rights (in practice about 6 mos).	180 days after decree is entered, unless mitigating circumstances filed by court. In practice, return automatic.	No law.	No.	Yes.	No.	RI
South Carolina	No minimum time. In practice, usually at least 24 hours after birth.	Consent is irrevocable immediately unless birthparent 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	5 days after birth.	30 days after finalization. Return not automatic	Any charges approved by court.	In practice, No.	In practice, No.	No.	SD
Tennessee	Three days after birth (not including day of child's birth)	10 days after consent, unless 10th day is a weekend or holiday, and then period extends to next business day. Return automatic unless petition is filed showing that child is at risk of substantial harm to be returned to custody of birthparents.	Medical, legal, counseling, living (housing, maternity and baby clothing, utilities, transportation). Educational and car payments prohibited. Max 90 days pre-birth, 45 days after birth or surrender. Court may extend times upon motion and birthparent/adoptive parents affidavits.	Yes	No	Yes	TN
Texas	Required termination of parental rights, rather than consent.	Private: Relinquishment revocable for 10 days, or irrevocable for up to 60 days after signing. If properly revoked during appropriate time, return is likely. Agency: after signing.	Private: medical, legal, and counseling. Agency: medical, legal, counseling, living expenses (rent, clothing, food, gas). No reimbursement for expenses paid or incurred prior to contact with agency. 6 weeks postpartum. No reimbursement if adoption fails.	No	Yes.	Yes	TX
Utah	Birthmother: 24 hours after birth; birthfather: any time.	Upon signing, unless fraud, duress, undue influence, or lack of capacity proven. Return not automatic, but unless parental rights are terminated, return is likely.	Reasonable adoption related expenses, including, but not limited to Medical, legal, living, transportation, counseling. No law regarding time limit, but limited to time of pregnancy and confinement, usually six weeks after delivery. Three months is not unusual in practice.	Yes	Yes if child was born in Utah, or is in the custody of a Utah child placing agency.	Yes. If he knows of placement, birthfather must file paternity action, file with state registry, and offer to pay portion of birthmother's pregnancy and childbirth expenses before birthmother signs or he loses all rights.	UT
Vermont	36 hours after birth.	21 days after birth, or if fraud or duress is proved. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling, plus related transportation. 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.	No.	VT

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Virginia	Birthmothers: 3 days after birth; birthfathers: any time.	10 days after signing. 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	Yes.	Yes	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	72 hours after birth.	Upon signing, if consent complies with WV code. Return automatic.	Medical, legal, counseling	Yes	No	No	WV
Wisconsin	Birthmothers: any time after birth, in court; adjudicated/presumed father: any time after birth, in court; putative father: any time after birth, does not need to be in court. Court must hold hearing after birth and within 30 days of filing petition to terminate rights.	When the judge signs the order terminating rights. 30 days to appeal on basis of fraud, mistake, undue coercion or inadvertence. Return is automatic, unless the birthmother chooses another placement option, such as foster care.	Medical, legal, pre- and post-adoption counseling. Up to \$5,000 living. Post-finalization payments must be court-approved. Birthmother gift up to \$100. In interstate placements, law of birthparent's home state applies to expenses. Payments should be made to third parties.	Yes. Only home studied parents and Wisconsin-licensed agencies may advertise, not facilitators or agencies from other states.	No.	Yes.	WI
Wyoming	Any time after birth	After signing, unless fraud, duress, or coercion; or unless other birthparent does not consent and rights aren't terminated.	No law.	Yes	No	Yes	WY