

Adoptive Families
"What a difference it makes to come home to a child"



Adoption Expert Q&A Webcast

Getting Started on an Independent Adoption

Janna J. Annest, J.D.

Type your questions in the box to the right. >>

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Getting Started on an Independent Adoption

Janna J. Annest

MILLS MEYERS SWARTLING
ATTORNEYS



Steps Common to all Domestic Adoptions

- Homestudy
- Family Profile and Dear Birthmother letter
- Consents/termination of biological parents' rights
- Finalization in court

Differences Between Independent and Agency Adoption

- Selecting your own social worker and attorney
- Networking and locating a birthmother
- Working directly with birthmother; no middleman
- Coordinating termination of rights
- Cost



Independent Adoption Appeals to People Who . . .

- . . . are eager to take action
- . . . are happy (or at least willing) to tell everyone they have ever met about their plans to adopt.
- . . . like the idea of working directly with a birthmother.
- . . . prefer handling their affairs themselves.
- . . . would rather not be “managed.”
- . . . are experiencing agency sticker shock.

Where do I start?

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen, with the text overlaid on the image. The hand is positioned in the center, with the fingers gripping the pen. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface.

Three phases:

- Education Phase
 - Initial (Private) Steps
 - Going Public



Education Phase

- Get a rough understanding of your state's laws
- Spend quality time online
- Find a community
- Explore financial assistance

Initial (Private) Steps

- Find an attorney
- Select a social worker
- Identify your networks and your cheerleader
- Have an honest conversation about limits with yourself and/or your partner
- Write your Dear Birthmother letter and create your family profile

Going Public

- Activate your networks
- Advertise, send letters, list online, get creative
- Join and participate in an adoption community
- Repeat

Questions?

Please enter your questions for Janna Annest
in the box to your right.



Please note: Attendance and all questions are confidential.
Only the moderator of the webcast will see the questions
and the names of the attendees.

Adoptive Families does not provide legal advice or counsel.
The material in this webcast is provided for educational purposes only.

Thank You!

We have more *Adoptive Families* Expert Webcasts coming up.

A recording of this session will be available to download from
www.adoptivefamilies.com/webinars

To continue the conversation, we invite you to join us at
AdoptiveFamiliesCircle.com

Adoptive Families' online community for meeting families like yours, sharing photos, and joining our ongoing adoption discussion groups.