



# Expectant Parents Guide

WHEN

CONSIDERING ADOPTION

**Guide 3: Understanding Your Legal  
Rights and Protections**



# UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

Adoption laws are designed to protect everyone—especially you. This guide explains your legal rights before birth, during the hospital stay, and after placement.

## YOUR RIGHTS BEFORE BIRTH

You maintain full parental rights throughout pregnancy. You may: - Change your mind at any time before signing consent - Receive counseling - Obtain legal advice at no cost to you - Choose the adoptive family.



# CONSENT TO ADOPTION

Consent is the document that terminates your parental rights. It must be: - Signed after birth - Completed voluntarily - Witnessed according to state law - Explained clearly by an attorney or licensed professional. To understand more, contact us call or text 720-371-1099 (Christy Ikeler).



## REVOCAION PERIODS

Some states allow consent to be revoked for a certain number of days; others do not. Your agency will explain your state's rules so you know exactly what to expect. In Colorado, state law allows a birth parent to sign a consent after 4 business days after the birth of the child. You will have met with your own attorney for her to explain your rights.



## BIRTH FATHER RIGHTS

Your agency will help determine what legal procedures apply, such as notice or registry requirements.





# POST-PLACEMENT CONTACT AGREEMENTS

You may choose: - Open adoption (ongoing contact) - Semi-open adoption (pictures/letters) - Closed adoption (no contact)

Not all states enforce openness legally, but agencies honor agreements ethically. In Colorado, there is a statute allowing a PACA to be signed and filed in the case. To learn more, call Christy Ikeler, 720-371-1099 (text or call 24/7).

## YOUR RIGHTS ARE THE FOUNDATION

Your rights are the foundation of an ethical adoption. You must never feel rushed or pressured. Adoption Choices is here to help!  
[www.adoptionchoices.org](http://www.adoptionchoices.org).

