

Adoption Orientation Form  
for pre-existing parents entering a voluntary plan of adoption

This 4-page form shall be provided to the pre-existing parent at the initiation of adoptive services and prior to entering into an agency/client relationship per R501-7-7-1(d). Each item shall be read aloud in the preexisting parent's preferred language and discussed with the agency representative.

This form shall additionally be provided to adoptive parents for their information.

This form does not constitute legal advice and is not required for public child welfare adoptions.

All rules governing licensed child placing adoption agencies are accessed here:

<https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r501/r501-07.htm>

Rule and statute citations are listed where applicable on each line of this form for your information.

**As a pre-existing parent with established parental rights, you have the following rights:**

1. Parent your child even if you have considered making a plan of adoption. 501-7-2.b(ii) and 501-7-2(e)
2. Parent your child even if you are a minor. 501-7-7-2-b(i)

**If you, as a birth mother or pre-existing parent, are making an adoption plan for your child, you have the right to:**

3. Work with an adoption agency of your choice or change to a different agency. You cannot accept financial assistance from more than one agency at the same time, or it may constitute fraud. 76-7-203-2
4. Even if you are a minor, you can meet privately with an agency and if you are giving birth in Utah, you can develop a plan of adoption for your child without the consent of your parent. 501-7-2.d(i)
5. Consult with an attorney regarding adoption-related legal advice, including the rights of the other birth parent. 501-1-7-4-1.d(v)
6. Give input about values and other things important to you about raising your child including, but not limited to: the selection of adoptive parents, religion, educational opportunities for the child, family interests and activities etc. prior to placement. 501-7-2-10 and 501-7-8-3.a(iii)

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7. Request help with reasonable adoption related expenses permitted by law. You are under no obligation to place your child for adoption or repay financial support received if you decide not to complete your adoption plan (unless you are convicted of fraud) 78B-6-106 and 62A-2-106
8. Request that your identifying information remain confidential unless required otherwise by Utah Law or Court order. Please note that your non-identifying information will always be shared in an agency-assisted adoption. 501-7-2-10
9. Receive up to three adoption related counseling sessions by an adoption service provider at the cost of the adoptive family or agency. You also have the right to refuse or waive this counseling. 501-7-7-2(b) and 501-7-2-7
10. Understand that any agreed upon ongoing post-placement contact with the adoptive parent and child cannot be enforced under Utah Law, but can be requested. 501-7-7-10
11. Have access to your child and all decision making responsibilities up until you have signed a relinquishment of parental rights or consent to adoption. 78B-6-120
12. Change your mind regarding parenting your child or placing for adoption up until you have signed a relinquishment of your parental rights or consent to adoption. 78B-6-120
13. Request as much time as you need to make your decision prior to signing a relinquishment of parental rights or consent to adoption. 78B-6-120 and 126
14. To be advised that when a relinquishment of parental rights or consent to adoption is signed, it is permanent and irrevocable based upon Utah law. Laws in other states may vary. 501-7-2(e)
15. Receive copies of all documents that you sign. 501-7-4-1(j)
16. Voluntarily share identifying information, including information on the original birth certificate of your child 501-7-2-10(c)
17. Be informed Utah Law does not currently allow adoptees access to their original birth certificate. 78B-6-145
18. Register with the Utah Mutual Consent Registry which makes it possible for birth parents and adoptees to be reunited when the adoptee is 18 years of age if both adoptee and birth parent have registered. 501-7-7-9
19. File a complaint with the agency and/or the Utah Office of Licensing ([licensingconcerns@utah.gov](mailto:licensingconcerns@utah.gov)) 501-2-8-A(6) and 501-1-9-2(b)
20. Update the agency with your current contact information should you ever have the opportunity to receive correspondence through the agency from adoptive parents post placement. 501-7-10(d)

An agency representative read all 20 items above aloud with me and I had all my questions answered to my satisfaction. **Initials:**\_\_\_\_\_

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As a **birth mother**, you additionally have the following rights:

1. Choose to identify or not identify the birthfather. Whether or not the mother identifies the birthfather may put the adoptive placement at risk. 78B-6-110.1 and 110.5
2. Give your child any name you choose at birth knowing that the adoptive parents may change the name. 78B-6-139
3. Sign a relinquishment or consent to adoption any time after 24 hours after delivery, but no earlier. 501-7-2-e(i)

An agency representative read the above 3 items aloud with me and I had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction. **Initials:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Mother Responsibilities:**

1. Provide all known drug/alcohol /tobacco use during pregnancy
2. Provide medical information and family background information about yourself and immediate family members.
3. Provide the necessary documentation as requested regarding financial need to make an appropriate determination of adoption related expenses (if you are requesting financial assistance).
4. Be forthcoming with honest and accurate information.
5. If you do not relinquish parental rights, you are financially responsible for the child.

I understand my responsibilities and agree to abide by them. **Initials:**\_\_\_\_\_

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As a **birth father**, you additionally have the following rights:

1. Establish parental rights to a child according to Utah Law 78B-6-110.1 and 110.5. You may have legal rights if:
  - a. You are married to the birth mother
  - b. You file a Voluntary Declaration of Paternity with the mother
  - c. Your parentage is adjudicated through a court of law
  - d. You strictly complied with the requirements of the Utah Adoption Act if you are an unmarried biological father
  - e. Other legal means
2. Consult with an attorney of your choosing and at your cost regarding the establishment of parental rights.
3. Register with the Utah Putative Father Registry to assist in establishing your parental rights. <https://vitalrecords.utah.gov/putative-father-information>
4. Have access to your child and all decision making responsibilities up until you have signed a relinquishment of parental rights or consent to adopt.
5. Seek legal counsel regarding the process to contest an adoption.
6. Sign a relinquishment of parental rights or consent to adopt for the purposes of adoption any time before or after the child's birth.
7. Register with the Utah Mutual Consent Registry which makes it possible for birth parents and adoptees to reunite when the adoptee is 18 years of age if both parties have registered. <https://adoptionregistry.utah.gov/>

An agency representative read the above 7 items aloud with me and I had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction. Initials:\_\_\_

**Birth Father Responsibilities:**

1. You are responsible to be forthcoming and honest with accurate and thorough information. 78B- 6-106
2. If you establish paternity and do not relinquish parental rights, you will be financially responsible for the child. 78B-6-110.1

I understand my responsibilities and agree to abide by them. Initials:\_\_\_\_\_

If no birth father is present, please provide a reason and any attempts to locate here:

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**Signatures**

Verify that you have read this 4-page form in its entirety aloud with an agency representative. Only sign once you have had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and have had all questions answered to your satisfaction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pre-existing Parent Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pre-existing Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Father Printed Name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Father Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Representative Printed Name and Credentials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date