



Understanding Infant Adoption 7 Handout

Bill of Rights for Expectant Parents Considering Adoption

An **expectant mother** considering adoption has the right...

- To be treated with dignity, respect, and honesty.
- To receive non-directive counseling to help her understand all of her options, implications, and resources available.
- To make the decision on whether to parent or place her child for adoption in a fully informed manner, without any pressure or coercion.
- To change her mind within the legal time period permitted.
- To be allowed to exercise any and all parental rights she wishes prior to placing a child.
- To have independent legal counsel to protect her interests during the adoption process, provided to her at no cost.
- To receive disclosure of services and costs from potential adoption service providers.
- To interview, meet, and choose from qualified prospective adoptive parents, the adoptive family for her child.
- To choose the level of openness and extent of confidentiality she desires in an adoptive placement.
- To receive coverage of maternity-related expenses, such as prenatal medical care, as well as an up-front understanding of any monetary expectations if she chooses to parent instead.
- To ensure the adoption is ethical and legal.
- To post-adoption care and support.

The **expectant father** has the right to be involved, when appropriate. The expectant father also has many of the same rights as the expectant mother, such as the right to non-directive counseling and to be treated with dignity, respect, and honesty.

Sources

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About the Adoption-Sensitive Clinical Care Project

It is critical that expectant parents who may wish to place a child for adoption have access to appropriately trained staff and comprehensive supports throughout the adoption process. The federally-funded Adoption-Sensitive Clinical Care Project and the Understanding Infant Adoption curriculum are being administered by [National Council For Adoption \(NCFA\)](#), [The Adoption & Foster Care Clinic](#), [Spaulding for Children](#), and [University of Washington School of Social Work](#) for the project period 2024-2026.

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