



## You Have the Right To...

- be involved in making decisions about your child's future.
- request a paternity test
- register your name on the putative father registry in your state
- talk to a counselor about your options
- be involved in decision making at your own comfort level

## Your Adoption-Related Rights...

- Prior to signing legal consent or paperwork for the adoption, you have the right to be informed about the law and your ability to change your mind and time frame to revoke your consent to the adoption.
- Have continued counseling even after your rights have been terminated
- Select and meet the adoptive family
- Seek an open adoption including picture and letter updates as well as visits
- Have a legally binding future contact agreement, if allowed by your state

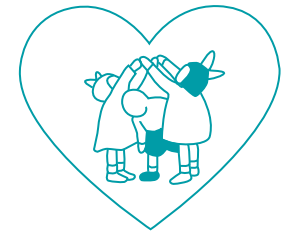
*Speak with a counselor in confidence*

**24 hours a day**

**800-355-5500**

TEXT 610-787-2453

**[afth.org](http://afth.org)**



**Adoptions From The Heart®**

AFTH is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency  
licensed in PA, NJ, DE, VA, CT and NY.

**Your Rights About  
Parenting and Adoption**

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**

## I Want to Parent. She Wants Adoption. What Can I Do?

You have equal rights in making a decision for your baby's future. Our counselors are able to speak with you about your wishes.

Below are steps to take if you want to parent:

- 1) Contact the agency
- 2) Have a plan for housing, childcare, financial resources, and support
- 3) Obtain a car seat, crib, diapers, formula and other baby items
- 4) Complete a paternity test after baby is born
- 5) Register on your state's Putative Father Registry

## Did You Know?

Some states also have a Putative Father Registry which allows an unmarried man who believes he could be a father to register his information to be contacted in case of an adoption placement. By putting your name on the registry you are claiming possible paternity and taking financial responsibility for the child.

You can register whether or not you know she's making an adoption plan in order to protect your rights.

## I Want to Learn About Adoption

At minimum you will to speak with a counselor about your feelings about adoption, provide medical background information, and sign legal paperwork.

Be advised if the above steps are not completed, the court may require the agency to take additional steps to inform you of your rights including publicizing in the local paper or sending a process server to find you.

**If you chose not to be involved**, the court may opt to terminate your parental rights on an involuntary basis.

**If you complete the legal paperwork**, your parental rights will be terminated on a voluntary basis and you can remain in contact with your child through open adoption.



## State Specific Information

Each state has different laws about adoption. In general, legal paperwork may be signed prior to the birth of your baby in some states and there is a set revocation period after the baby's birth in which you can change your mind.

PA - Revocation period: 30 days  
- Putative Father Registry: Yes

DE - Revocation period: 14 days  
- Putative Father Registry: Yes

VA - Revocation period: 7 days from signing legal paperwork or when child is 10 days old, whichever occurs later  
- Putative Father Registry: Yes

NY - Revocation period: 30 days, father cannot sign legal paperwork until after birth unless denying paternity  
- Putative Father Registry: Yes

CT - Revocation period: Until hearing  
Putative Father Registry: No

NJ - Revocation period: Father cannot sign legal paperwork until 72 hours after birth and then it is irrevocable  
- Putative Father Registry: No