



Pregnancy Options

And

Adoption Services

601 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

IOWA ADOPTION LAW

- It is required that birthparents wait at least 72 hours from the time of birth before signing a “Release of Custody”.
- After signing a “Release of Custody”, the birthparents are allowed, a 96 hour waiting period should they decide to revoke the signed “Release of Custody” without cause.
- If the revocation did not take place within the 96 hour waiting period, the birthparents will need to petition the court and prove cause in order to regain custody of the child.
- Birthfathers have parental rights to the child. Adoption will not take place unless both birthparents are notified of their rights and responsibilities to the child. In situations where the birthfather is unknown or unable to be located, Catholic Charities is required to publish an ad in the last known location an attempt to notify him.
- A court hearing is held which formally terminates parental rights.
- An adoptive couple may legally finalize their adoption after a six month waiting period. During this period, Catholic Charities supervises the adoptive placement.

AREAS ASSESSED BY THE HOME STUDY

- State required criminal and child abuse checks
- Health and medical information
- Personal stability and characteristics
- Motivation for parenting and parenting philosophy
- Attitudes regarding adoption issues
- Marital relationship
- History of employment
- Lifestyle and values
- Home environment
- Financial information
- Education
- Family of origin history and relationships
- Religion