

An aerial, high-angle view of a dense urban skyline, likely New York City, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is in grayscale and has a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The text is centered over the image.

STEVE MUELLER'S –
SYNDICATE LEGAL SERVICES

ADOPTIONS

Syndicate Legal Services – Adoptions



SYNDICATE LEGAL SERVICES

Team of:
Attorneys / Lawyers
Law Clerks
Paralegals
Industry Specialists

Adoption is the legal process when one assumes parental rights and responsibility for another. Usually, the process involves a child, but it can also involve an adult. Adoption is a serious and formal process because legal relationships are being permanently changed. There are many steps to the process, and it can be complicated to navigate them on your own. Prospective adoptive parents want to put their best foot forward when they are trying to stand out in the eyes of an adoption agency, while expectant mothers want to know that their needs are being met and advocated for and that child will be placed with a family that they feel is the best placement for their child.

Types of Adoptions that we can Assist you with:

- Private Adoptions
- Adoptions in Divorce
- Adoption through an Agency
- Stepparent Adoption
- Adult Adoption
- Foster to Adoption
- International Adoption and Readoption
- Relative & Guardianship to Adoption
- Same Sex Adoptions

Syndicate Legal Services – The Basic Process for all Adoptions



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Though adoptions come through many different types (as detailed on the previous page), the steps to complete any adoption generally come through the same process. How long the process takes depends on the type of adoption at issue. If you already have a relationship with the person or child to be adopted (stepparent adoption and foster adoption), the process can be easier and take less time, but each case is fact specific and therefore each case has a unique timeline. Here is some of what you can expect during the adoption process:

The first step is to complete a home study. That can be done through a private agency or through the Department of Social Services. We can locate an agency or agencies to work with for the adoption.

The home study involves an extensive investigation into your fitness to be parents that will include interviews and a home visit. The agency wants to be absolutely certain that they are placing a child in a safe environment.

Then, *and only if applicable*, depending on the terms of your adoption match and needs of the birth mother, you may need to come to an agreement for the terms of a post-adoption contact agreement and, *only if applicable*, any charitable giving for pregnancy related birth mother expenses.

The second step is to obtain consent to the adoption and/or terminate birth parent rights. This will differ based on the type of adoption.

Finally, once the home study agency approves the adoption, your hearing to finalize the adoption in court will be scheduled.

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