

Alternative Forms of Adoption

Refer to the table of below for alternative forms of adoption, descriptions, and time frames for each type.

Adoption Alternative	Description
Standard Agency (Relinquishment) Adoptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The birth parent transfers his/her rights and responsibilities for the child to DCFS by signing a relinquishment to DCFS. ▪ The relinquishment is submitted to DCFS on the date agreed to by the birth parent and the CSW. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This typically occurs less than thirty (30) days after it is signed. ▪ The birth parent may revoke the relinquishment before it is filed with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). ▪ The birth parent's legal rights and responsibilities for the child end when the relinquishment is reviewed and filed by CDSS and the acknowledgement is issued. ▪ The birth parent may not rescind the relinquishment after CDSS has issued an acknowledgement unless DCFS agrees. ▪ The prospective adoptive parents must be assessed and approved by DCFS before the child is placed for adoption with the family. ▪ DCFS, not the birth parent, selects the adoptive parents, and the birth parent may or may not know the identity of the adoptive parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCFS, however, will attempt to respect all reasonable birth parent requests.
Designated Agency (Relinquishment) Adoptions	<p>These adoptions are the same as standard agency adoptions except that birth parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in the selection of the adoptive parents. ▪ Know the identity of the adopting parent. ▪ Have the right to rescind his/her relinquishment and regain his/her parental rights if either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The child is not placed with the selected family; or ▪ The placement is disrupted prior to the completion of the adoption. <p>The relinquishing parent has thirty (30) days from the date DCFS mailed the notice informing him/her that either the child was not placed with the selected family or the placement was disrupted prior to the adoption to rescind the relinquishment.</p>

<p>Independent Adoption by Relative(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Eligible relatives include all relatives whose status is preceded by the words “step,” “great,” “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of these persons, even if marriage was terminated by death or dissolution.▪ The birth parent agrees to the prospective adoptive parents’ proposed adoption of the child by signing a consent to the adoption.▪ The birth parent continues to be legally responsible for the child until the adoption is completed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This typically occurs within nine (9) months of the petition being filed.▪ The consent to the adoption becomes irrevocable on the thirty-first (31st) day after it is signed unless the birth parent waives the right to revoke the consent before the thirty (30) days expire<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The first day of the thirty (30) day period is the day the consent is signed.▪ The birth parent may sign and deliver a written statement to DCFS revoking the consent and, if he/she has legal custody, reclaim the child at any time before the consent becomes irrevocable.▪ When the consent becomes irrevocable, custody of the child may be resigned by the birth parent only if the potential adoptive parents agree to withdraw their petition for adoption or if the court denies the petition for adoption.▪ The birth parent has thirty (30) days from the date the consent is signed to sign a waiver to the right to revoke consent<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The consent may not be revoked after a waiver of the right to revoke consent has been signed.▪ The signing of the consent does not obligate the prospective adoptive parents to complete the adoption.▪ The prospective adoptive parents are evaluated as to their suitability to adopt the child either prior to the placement or after the child has begun living with them and they have filed a petition to adopt with the court.▪ The birth parent selects the adoptive parents.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The child typically begins living with the prospective adoptive parents before parental rights have been terminated.
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<p>Independent Adoption by Non-Relatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each placing birth parent is advised of his/her rights before agreeing to the prospective adoptive parents' proposed adoption of the child by signing a placement agreement and before a non-placing birth parent agrees to the proposed adoption by signing a consent. ▪ The birth parent continues to legally be responsible for the child until the adoption is completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The adoption is typically completed within eight (8) months of the petition being filed. ▪ A placement agreement becomes an irrevocable consent to the adoption on the thirty-first (31st) day after it is signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The exception is when the birth parent waives the right to revoke the consent before the thirty (30) days expire. ▪ The first day of the thirty (30) day period is the day the consent is signed. ▪ A non-placing parent's consent becomes irrevocable on the thirty-first (31st) day after it is signed unless he/she waives the right to revoke the consent before the thirty (30) days expire. ▪ When the placement agreement or consent becomes irrevocable, custody of the child may be regained by the birth parent only if the potential adoptive parents agree to withdraw their petition for adoption or the court denies the petition for adoption. ▪ The birth parent may revoke the placement agreement or consent and, if he/she has legal custody, reclaim the child at any time before the placement agreement or consent becomes an irrevocable consent. ▪ The signing of a placement agreement or consent does not obligate the prospective adoptive parents to complete the adoption. ▪ The prospective adoptive parents are evaluated as to the suitability to adopt either prior to the placement or after the child has begun living with them and after they have filed a petition to adopt with the court. ▪ The birth parent selects the adoptive parents. ▪ The child usually begins living with the prospective adoptive parents when a parent with legal custody has signed an adoptive placement agreement. ▪ The birth parent(s) have the right to a minimum of three (3) separate counseling sessions .
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