

## OUTLINE OF STEPS IN INDEPENDENT ADOPTIONS

Identify potential adoptee through family, word-of-mouth networks, newspaper ads, etc.



Meet with birthmother or her representative



Select an experienced adoption attorney to represent you



Obtain a Pre-Placement Assessment (PPA)



Retain separate attorney for birthmother



Obtain copies of birthparents' medical records



Make pre-natal care and hospital arrangements together with birth parents



Birth of baby (if adopting an infant)



Sign documents providing birthmother's legal consent to placement



Obtain ICPC approval before bringing child to adoptive parents' state  
(If child is born out of state)



File petition with the court; child placed on a temporary basis with adoptive parents



Attend hearing to terminate birthparents' parental rights



Adoption finalized by court six months later



Obtain new birth certificate

