

Tennessee Birth Mother's Bill of Rights

Your legal rights in the adoption process:

1. Choose the Adoption Path

You can place your baby through a licensed agency or a private adoption.

2. Select the Adoptive Parents

You have the right to choose, meet, and learn about the adoptive parents.

3. Review the Home Study

You may read the adoptive parents' home study report before making your decision.

4. Decide on Contact After Adoption

You can request post-adoption contact (photos, updates, or visits), either through a legally enforceable agreement or informal understanding.

5. Name Your Baby

You may choose the name on the original birth certificate. Adoptive parents can name the child on the amended version later.

6. Have Your Own Lawyer

You can have independent legal counsel—paid for by the adoptive parents. Or you may choose not to.

7. Get Counseling

You can receive professional counseling during and after the adoption (up to 24 months). This is also paid for by the adoptive parents.

8. Receive Financial Support

You may receive help with pregnancy-related expenses (rent, food, transportation, etc.) during pregnancy and up to 90 days after birth along with birth-related medical expenses covered by adoptive parents.

9. See Your Baby

You decide whether to see and spend time with your baby before the placement.

10. Change Your Mind

You can change your mind at any point before signing a surrender form in front of a judge. After signing, you have 3 calendar days to revoke your consent.

11. Keep Copies of Everything You Sign

You're entitled to copies of the surrender form, and all other adoption documents you sign.