# CALLING ALL PREADOPTIVE FAMILIES!
# FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A LAWYER FOR YOUR DEPENDENCY ADOPTION



## ADOPTION ATTORNEYS DO MORE THAN JUST FINALIZATION: MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE AN ATTORNEY THAT MEETS YOUR NEEDS.

### Benefit and Subsidy:
An attorney can help you learn what benefis are available, especially important if you have a special needs child.

### Post Adoption Contact:
An attorney can help you negotiate appropriate post adoption contact with the child's birth family.

### Adoption Applicant Review Committee and Competing Placements:
An attorney can help you prepare for and participate in the Adoption Application Review Committee process. These take place when the Department is considering denying the adoption application or there are competing families.

### Interstate Adoption Rules:
The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) can take months if you don't work with an attorney with ICPC experience.

### Home Studies & Background Checks:
When you are concerned about passing the home study.

### Foreign Born Kids and Immigration Issues:
When you are adopting a Child that was born outside of the United States, you will need assistance with the Child's immigration status and citizenship.



## FIND OUT YOUR RIGHTS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Hiring your adoption attorney **early** in the process is important. The attorney can:

- Inform you of important rights before you waive them
- Help make sure the Child's records, (birth, child welfare, medical and mental health), are complete
- Help you understand disclosures

Adoption Intervention May be Availble

- Choose an Attorney Who Can Explain the Intervention Process
- Is Knowledgeable about the Timing and Can Act Quickly

## WHERE TO FIND HELP & RESOURCES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST
FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

SCAN HERE FOR A RESOURCE GUIDE

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can choose your own adoption attorney!

**Florida's Children First believes that children are best served when their adoptive parents are fully advised and zealously represented in the adoption process.**

If you are an adoption attorney who would like to be a resource to potential adoptive families, email Florida's Children First at JFFY@floridaschildrenfirst.org.