

Relative Adoptions in Prince Edward Island



Family and
Human Services

Information for Birth Parents and Prospective Adoptive Parents

If you are considering a plan of adoption for your child with a relative, you, as the birth parents, need to contact the Provincial Adoption Coordinator and apply for a **Permit to Make an Adoption Placement with a Relative**.

The *Adoption Act* and Regulations have certain requirements which must be met before your proposed adoption plan proceeds. These requirements are to ensure that the plan proceeds smoothly, with consideration being given to the rights and interests of everyone involved.

Here is a list of the things that must be done:

1. The birth mother and the birth father, if he is entitled, must receive counselling from an authorized social worker for the following reasons:
 - to ensure that the plan of adoption is being made voluntarily;
 - to have an opportunity to consider other options and the implications of those options for the child;
 - to receive psychological support; and,
 - to sign the **Consent to Placement** form and the **Guardianship Agreement** with the adoptive parents.
2. An assessment of the proposed adoptive home must be completed by an authorized social worker to ensure there is no apparent risk to the child.

3. Background information forms on both birth parents and the child are to be completed, and a copy or summary provided to the adoptive parents and the Provincial Adoption Coordinator.

Background forms and the names of the authorized social workers can be obtained from the office of the Provincial Adoption Coordinator.

A **Consent to Adoption** is signed by you when your baby is fourteen days of age or older. Birth parents are strongly encouraged to seek legal advice at this time.

If the child is to be adopted by relatives outside the Province of Prince Edward Island, the same requirements must be met, and, as well, an **Application for Out-of-Province Placement** must be filed with the Provincial Adoption Coordinator.

In order to finalize the adoption, the adoptive parents will need to contact a lawyer and arrange for completion of a Pre-Hearing Study. These studies can be done by an authorized private social worker or an authorized government social worker.

For more information contact:

Provincial Adoption Coordinator
Adoption Services
Department of Family and Human Services
161 St. Peters Road
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
Telephone: (902) 368-6511

For legal advice, contact your lawyer or Lawyer Referral Services at (902) 892-0853 or 1-800-240-9798.



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