

# The Adoption Alternative

Adoption, whether it's handled through an attorney or by an agency, provides a good situation to what are distressing problems for the people involved. Adoptive parents who are unable to conceive children biologically, are able to offer both love and a secure, happy home to the child they adopt. The birth mother (or the birth parents) is able to feel good about her decision to place the best interest of the child above her own child receives the benefit of two loving parents and a good home.

The materials enclosed in this packet are designed to give you more information about adoption. There also are copies of several articles which have been written about how we handle adoptions. These go into greater detail on how the process works and what emotions are involved.

Whether you are a woman or man considering an adoption plan for your child, or a couple considering becoming adoptive parents, it is essential that you know and understand the adoptive process. If you would like further information, we can be reached at (317) 575-555 or toll free at (800) 333-5736, if you are a birth parent calling from outside of the Indianapolis area. Our office telephones are answered twenty-four hours a day, seven day a week. Evenings, weekends, and holidays, the answering service will page us and we will return the call promptly. We have provided additional information about adoption on our websites; [www.IndianaAdoption.com](http://www.IndianaAdoption.com). You may also contact us via email at [info@kirsh.com](mailto:info@kirsh.com).

As attorneys who work in the area of private adoption, we want everyone to understand fully how adoption can provide a very good alternative to very difficult situations. It is rewarding in more ways than you know.

Steven & Joel Kirsh  
Attorneys at Law

## **Mission Statement**

"To be the best adoption attorneys in the nation committed to setting the standard of excellence in the field of adoption by delivering the highest quality legal counsel, in the most caring, compassionate manner, while relentlessly pursuing client satisfaction."

# KIRSH & KIRSH

## ADOPTION LAW ONLY

**David**  
**Mannweiler**

### Babies are his life's lot

Fried pork chops and chicken salads of all descriptions were shared in Steve Kirsh's backyard on West 107<sup>th</sup> Street Saturday afternoon.

Something more was shared too.

They had names like Natasha and Courtney and Derek and Whitney and Jonathan.

Some were toddlers new to the idea of walking upright, or trying to, on two legs. Gravity and grass were their common undoing.

Some were boisterous boys, and games girls in ruffled party dresses, drawn like magnets to the yellow Tonka Toys in the sand pile, jungle gym, the playground equipment and the treehouse slide.

The vast majority were literally babies in arms.

From border to border, The Kirsh backyard was flush with bulging diaper bags, parked strollers and babies.

It was a sight of set

aflutter the heart of any Pampers or life insurance salesman.

Many of the 160 adults who stood around trading baby care tips were still in the first blush of parenthood. Their smiles betrayed them. So did their sleepy eyes. Each couple had a special reason to be thankful to be in Kirsh's backyard.

He was the one who had helped them adopt the children they had brought to the pitch-in picnic.

As far as Kirsh knows, he's the only attorney in the city who has limited his legal practice to adoptions.

#### ***Winner every time***

"It's the best job in the world," he said with assurance.

"This is the only area of the law I've found where everyone comes out a winner, or ahead of where they started," said the rail-thin 33-year-old Indianapolis lawyer.

"The adoptive parents obviously come out ahead. The baby us well provided for and gets a loving and secure home. Even the birth parents do well. They get a good solution to a bad problem."

Kirsh handled his first adoption five years ago.

In 1985, he helped 15 babies find new homes.

Last year, the number rose to 36.

"Since January, "I've placed 48," Kirsh said. "I have a woman in labor right now. I guess I'm three

babies away from doing as many adoptions this year as I did in the last two years.

Most would-be adoptive parents contact Kirsh. So do the "babies," he said.

"I mean the birth mothers know of my involvement in this area either through conversation with friends, social workers or doctors. Many times the adoptive parents direct a pregnant girl to my office."

Kirsh requires adoptive parents to talk to a social worker before proceeding with an adoption.

"I want to be sure the couples understand the issues involved in raising an adoptive child. I want to be sure they see that child as their baby and not second best to a baby they can't have."

Forty to 80 couples are waiting for each health, white infant, he said, but he's "desperately looking" for good homes for black and biracial infants.

"Babies are babies, but I wouldn't want someone to adopt an infant they wouldn't be comfortable with, whether that baby was black, white, green or purple.

"All babies," Kirsh said, "deserve a good home."

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## Letters to the editor

# *Indiana adoption laws different*

The story Jan. 25 from the *Los Angeles Daily News* on adoption could mislead Indiana readers.

It detailed difficulties met by adoptive parents in California who used an attorney in adoption procedures. The sense was that private adoptions carry more risk that birth parents will change their minds.

As an attorney who spends the majority of his time handling adoptions, I was concerned that readers would think the problems inherent in California private adoption also are problems in Indiana. They are not.

In Indiana a consent to adoption is final and irrevocable upon the birth parent's signing of the consent, and can be withdrawn only in a court proceeding in which birth parents establish by clear, cogent and indubitable evidence that the adoption is not in the child's best interest.

Such proceedings rarely are brought. A birth parent would have the same right and responsibility in an adoption through an agency, unless the agency went through the additional step of terminating

parental rights.

The story also implied that adoptive parents are responsible for payment of medical expenses even if the biological parents change their minds and do not proceed with adoption.

This is not the practice in Indiana. Generally, the payment of medical expenses is a matter of agreement between the adoptive parents, birth parents and medical providers, and in Indiana it is almost always the case that adoptive parents are not obligated to pay medical expense if the birth parents should elect not to proceed with the adoption.

I believe readers should understand that what is true in a California adoption handled through an attorney is not necessarily true in Indiana. Although there are some very important differences between the ways in which adoptions are handled by attorneys and agencies, additional risks, legal or financial, are not among them.

STEVEN M. KIRSH