

# **Adoption Legal Checklist (American Adoption)**

## ***Step 1: Research & Decide Adoption Path***

- Choose your adoption type: Private Domestic / Foster-to-Adopt / International
- Confirm eligibility (age, financial stability, background check)

## ***Step 2: Select the Adoption Professional***

- Choose licensed agency or adoption attorney
- Request written fee schedule
- Verify agency license on ChildWelfare.gov

## ***Step 3: Gather Required Documents***

- Birth certificate, ID, marriage/divorce docs
- Financial & medical documentation

## ***Step 4: Home Study Checklist***

- Interviews, reference letters, background checks
- Home inspection & safety compliance

## ***Step 5: Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)***

- Consent signed by birth parents
- Legal termination before placement

## ***Step 6: Placement & Post-Placement***

- Post-placement visits scheduled
- Maintain communication (if open adoption)

## ***Step 7: Finalization in Court***

- Petition filed, hearing completed
- Final adoption decree issued

## ***Official Government Resources:***

- <https://www.childwelfare.gov>
- <https://www.usa.gov/adoption>
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov>