

5 Questions Expectant Parents Should Ask Any Adoption Professional

If you're an expectant mother considering adoption for your child, here are the **5 Questions** you should to ask any Adoption Professional before moving forward.

1 WHO ARE YOU?

It's not always easy to figure out the true identity of an adoption professional. This is especially true when it comes to the ones you find online. Before agreeing to work with anyone or fill out paperwork, you first need to get some basic information such as: the first and last name of the person you're communicating with, their location, and the full name of their company or organization.



2 WHAT ARE YOU?

It can also be hard to determine whether an adoption professional is actually licensed (aka an adoption agency or an attorney) or just someone with a website and a cell phone. When choosing your adoption professional, look for a licensed agency or attorney and confirm that they are actually licensed in **your** state.



3 WHO DO YOU REPRESENT?

This is an especially important question when it comes to lawyers. An expectant mother making an adoption plan should have her own lawyer from the **beginning** of the adoption process - not just when it comes time to sign adoption paperwork. Because adoption is such an important legal process, anyone who places a child for adoption should be fully informed about her legal rights and responsibilities **before** signing adoption paperwork.

A word of caution: Don't seek legal advice from your social worker (she's not a lawyer) or from the adoptive parents' lawyer (he/she is **required** to put their interests above yours).

4 WHAT SERVICES DO YOU PROVIDE?

Adoption brokers can only help you by "matching" you with an adoptive family. Here's how it usually works: the adoption broker sends you family profiles to choose from, "matches" you with one of the families, and then collects a fee from the adoptive parents. Once you're matched, the broker hands you off to others to complete the adoption paperwork.

(FYI: This is NOT the way adoptions are supposed to work! To avoid being a victim of this kind of a "bare-bones" adoption scam make sure you're working with a **licensed adoption professional** who can provide you with the services you need throughout the adoption process including counseling with an experienced adoption counselor, legal representation by an experienced adoption lawyer, a written open adoption agreement, help with living expenses, and post-adoption support.



5 WHAT FEES DO YOU CHARGE?

It may feel awkward to ask questions about money, but you need to know who's charging what for your child's adoption. You can tell a lot about an adoption professional by whether they're willing to be transparent about their fees. Adoptions require a lot of work and the process is often expensive for adoptive parents, but some adoption professionals take advantage of adoptive parents and their desire to have children by charging them a ridiculously high fees.

