CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xv
ABOUT THE AUTHOR xvii

CHAPTER 1 ADOPTION OVERVIEW 1
Introduction 1
Development of Law 2
Parties to an Adoption 6
Who Can Adopt? 6
Who Can Be Adopted? 8
Types of Adoption 10
Adoption Flowchart 11
Finality of Adoption 11
Terminology 13
Summary Points 15

CHAPTER 2 CLIENT INTAKE, ADVICE, AND CONSULTATIONS 17
Initial Contact Intake 17
Clarifying the Attorney Role 19
Initial Consultation 22
Adoptive Parent Intake 22
Birth Parent Intake 23
Being Retained 24
Adoption File Tracking Checklist 24
The Unrepresented Birth Parent 25
Dealing with Client Preferences 26
Ethnic Background and Race 26
Drug and Alcohol Exposure 27
Religious Preferences 28
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 3  HOME STUDY</th>
<th>39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Home Study</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Process</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Requirements</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Exam</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearances</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Report</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Study Updates</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addendums</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary Points</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 4  DOMESTIC PRIVATE AGENCY ADOPTION</th>
<th>51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What an Agency Can and Does Do</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Requirements of Agencies</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping Clients Select an Agency</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing Adoptive Parents Working with an Agency</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing Birth Parents Working with an Agency</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Representing an Agency | 64
Special Needs Children | 64
Agency Termination and Consent | 65
Agency Supervision of Adoptive Placements | 66
Finalization of Private Agency Adoption | 67
Cost of Private Agency Adoption | 68
Summary Points | 69

**CHAPTER 5  PUBLIC AGENCY ADOPTIONS** | 71
Overview | 71
Special Needs | 72
Medical Issues | 73
Federal or State Adoption Assistance | 75
Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 (PL 105-89) | 76
Federal Child Welfare Policy | 77
Summary Points | 77

**CHAPTER 6  INDEPENDENT ADOPTION** | 79
Overview | 79
Interstate versus Intrastate | 80
Determining Applicable Law | 81
Independent Adoptions Not Allowed in All States | 85
Helping Clients Make a Decision | 87
Advertising | 88
Risks | 89
   - Living Expenses | 90
   - Medical and Counseling Expenses | 91
   - Legal Fees and Costs | 92
   - Refunded Expenses | 92
Intermediaries, Facilitators, Consultants, and Advertisers | 93
   - Paid Facilitators or Intermediaries | 93
   - Unpaid Facilitators | 95
   - Referalists and Consultants | 96
   - Advertisers | 96
   - Questions Clients Should Ask | 97
   - Dual Representation | 99
Summary Points | 101
## Chapter 7  Interstate Compact on Placement of Children

Overview 103
History of ICPC 104
Compact Administrators 105
ICPC Structure 106
Purpose 107
Application 108
Process 110
Private Adoptions Regulation No. 12 110
  Written Notice 114
  Home Study 115
  Receiving State 116
  Case Closed 116
Enforcement 117
Interstate Private Agency Adoption 117
ICPC and Independent Placement 118
ICPC and the Indian Child Welfare Act 118
Summary Points 120

## Chapter 8  Biological Fathers

Introduction 121
Interviewing the Birth Mother about the Birth Father 123
Classification of Biological Fathers 124
The Legal Father 126
The Putative Father 128
Putative Father Registries 130
Access to PFR Information 131
Involuntary Termination of Putative Father Rights 132
Ending of Parental Rights 134
Separate Legal Representation for Birth Fathers 134
Conclusion 135
Summary Points 136
The Child as a Party to the Contact Agreement  176
Enforceability of the Agreement  176
Post-Adoption Contact State Statutes  177
   States with Enforceable Post-Adoption Contact Agreements  177
   States with Statutes That Address Post-Adoption Contact  179
Summary Points  179

CHAPTER 12  INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT  181
Overview  181
History  182
Children Covered  184
Eligibility in an Adoption  185
Involuntary Proceedings  185
   Active Efforts  185
   Right to Intervene  186
   Minimum Standards  186
Jurisdiction  187
   Exclusive Jurisdiction  187
   Concurrent Jurisdiction  187
Notification  188
   Involuntary Proceedings  188
   Voluntary Proceedings  189
Approval of Adoption by Parent  191
   Consent  191
   Revocation/Withdrawal  192
Existing Indian Family Exception  193
Good Cause Exception  196
   Exception  196
   Placement Preferences  198
Full Faith and Credit  199
Attorney ICWA Checklist  199
Summary Points  200

CHAPTER 13  STEPPARENT ADOPTIONS  203
Overview  203
Process  204
Consent of Legal/Birth Parents  205
Consent of Child  206
Representing the Child  208
Inheritance Rights  210
Summary Points  211

**CHAPTER 14  COST AND FINANCING**  213

Overview  213
Agency versus Independent  214
Federal Adoption Tax Credit  216
Expenses Covered by Federal Tax Credit  217
State Adoption Tax Credit  218
Employer Benefits  219
Health Insurance  220
Grants and Loans  221
Military Benefits  222
Summary Points  223

**CHAPTER 15  ADULT ADOPTION**  225

Overview  225
Adult Adoption Allowed  226
Reasons for Adult Adoption  227
   Estate Planning  227
   Solidifying an Existing Relationship  228
   Locating Birth Parents  229
   Lifelong Care  229
Factors for Adult Adoption  230
Adult Adoptions Denied  231
Questions to Ask  233
Summary Points  233

**CHAPTER 16  OPEN ADOPTION RECORDS**  235

Overview  235
Adoption Search and Reunion  237
Preparing the Adoptee or Birth Parent to Open Records  240
Nonidentifying Information  242
Identifying Information  243
Mutual Voluntary or Mutual Consent Registries 244
Other Methods of Obtaining Consent 246
Restrictions on Release of Nonidentifying Information 247
Original Birth Certificate 248
Summary Points 249

CHAPTER 17 DISRUPTION 251
Overview 251
Disruption before Finalization 252
Disruption after Finalization 254
Helping the Client Avoid Disruption 255
Support for Families Involved in Disruption 257
Summary Points 257

CHAPTER 18 FAILURE OF DISCLOSURE AND TORT OF WRONGFUL ADOPTION 259
Overview 259
Types of Wrongful Adoption Cases 262
Disclosure Requirements 263
Disclosure Don’ts 265
Questions to Ask at Intake of a Wrongful Adoption Case 266
Summary Points 267

CHAPTER 19 INTERCOUNTRY OR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION 269
Overview 269
Background 270
U.S. Citizenship 271
Relative Adoptions 273
Foreign Children Present in the United States 275
Re-Adoption and Foreign Finalizations 276
  Name and Birth Date Change 279
Summary Points 280

GLOSSARY 281

APPENDIX A 311
Sample Petition for Adoption 311
APPENDIX B  PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS INTAKE SHEET  317

Affidavit of Birth Parent to Accuracy of Statements  319
  Affidavit  319
Waiver of Counsel  321
  Waiver of Right to Counsel and Acknowledgment of No Representation  321
Birth Mother’s Medical History Form  322
  Birth Mother’s Physical Characteristics and Preferences  322
  Health History of Birth Mother  323
Social History Form  338
  Birth Father’s Social and Family History  338
  Birth Father’s Race/Ethnicity  339
  Native American Indian Tribal Membership  340
  Employment Information  341
  Education  341
  Military History  342
  Criminal History  343
  Religion  343
  Interests/Talents/Hobbies  343
  Birth Father’s Other Children  344
  Birth Father’s Extended Family  346
  Birth Father’s Grandparents  347
Marital History of Birth Mother and Birth Father Identification  349
  Marital History  349
  Relationship between Biological Parents  351

APPENDIX C  361

Maryland Home Study Requirements  361

APPENDIX D  371

Advertising Chart  372
Affidavit Waiving Rights under D.C. Law/Choice of Law Statement  378
Acknowledgement/Waiver of Counseling  379
**APPENDIX E  ICPC RISK STATEMENT**  
Legal, Financial, and Emotional Risk Statement 381  
Sample Medical At-Risk Statement 384  
Instructions for Completing 100A 387  
  Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Request 387  
Instructions for Completing ICPC-100B 394  
  Interstate Compact Report on Child’s Placement Status 394  
ICPC Regulation 12 Private/Independent Adoptions 399

**APPENDIX F**  
Putative Father Registry Chart 408  
PFR Contact Information 410

**APPENDIX G  SAMPLE MARYLAND CONSENT WITHOUT TPR**  
Maryland Consent without Termination of Parental Rights 413  
  Instructions 413  
Sample Consent to Independent Adoption without  
  Termination of Parental Rights 418  
Sample Arizona Consent 422  
  Consent of Birth Parent to Adoption to Adoptive Parents 422  
Sample Illinois Consent 424  
Certificate of Acknowledgment 426  
Sample Maryland Child’s Consent 427  
  Form 9-102.7. Consent of Child to an Independent  
  Adoption 427  
Consent of ___________ to Independent Adoption 429

**APPENDIX H**  

**APPENDIX I**  
Sample One Post-Adoption Contract Agreement 449  
Sample Two Post-Adoption Agreement 455  
Sample Three Open Adoption Agreement 457  
Sample Four Agreement for Post-Adoption Contact 460  
Sample Five Post-Adoption Contact Agreement 462
Appendix J  ICWA Affidavit  465
EIF Case List  467
States Rejecting the EIF Exception by Decision  467
States Upholding ICWA’s Constitutionality, Including
Those Rejecting the EIF Exception  468
States Rejecting the EIF Exception by Statute  469
States Adopting the EIF Exception by Decision  469
Sample Judicial Consent to Termination of Parental
Rights Pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act  470
Certificate of Judge  471
Sample Judicial Certification and Findings of Fact  472

Appendix K  475
Grant and Loan Financing Chart  476
Tax Form 8839  494

Appendix L  505
Petition to Break Seal Sample  505
Maryland Disclosure Veto  510
Mutual Consent Registry and Adoption Search Services  510
Alabama Form for Obtaining Pre-Adoption and
Other Birth Certificates  512

Internet and Adoption Resources  515

The Adoption Lawyer’s Library  523

Recommended Reading for Clients  525

Index  529

Appendix material is available at an online site for downloading