

Course Outline/Bibliography

Legal & Medical Risks in Domestic Infant Adoption (CE)

Legal:

- Is it possible to adopt on your own, or do you have to use an adoption agency or adoption attorney to adopt a baby?
- What is the difference between an agency, attorney, facilitator, and consultant?
- Is it advisable to adopt without the help of an agency or attorney?
- What is meant by an adoption-friendly state? Is there a state that is better than others to try to find an expectant mom who may want to place her child for adoption?
- What are the different time periods that expectant parents or birth parents have to change their mind?
- As you assess legal & medical risks of domestic infant adoption what are some factors you should consider?
- Is it possible for a birth family to get the child back after an adoption is complete?
- Who gets to make decisions for the baby in the hospital?
- What are some of the legal issues with birth fathers?
- Can a birth grandparent challenge an adoption?
- What are some red flags that you've seen that adoptive families should be wary of when adopting a baby in the US?

Medical:

- What are the most dangerous drugs or substances that an expectant woman can take as far as impact on the fetus and baby?
- Impact of alcohol on a fetus and baby, both short term and long term?

- Impact of opiates (prescription and non-prescription) on a fetus and baby, both short term and long term?
- Impact of methadone on a fetus and baby, both short term and long term?
- Impact of heroin on baby, both short term and long term?
- Impact of methamphetamines on a baby, both short term and long term?
- Impact of marijuana on a baby, both short term and long term?
- Is there an effect on the baby if the mother smokes tobacco during pregnancy?
- Is the impact to the child less if the child is not born dependent on the drugs?
- Timing of exposure to drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.
- If the birth mother stopped using drugs and drinking when she found out she was pregnant, will the baby be spared the worst of the impact?
- What are the risks to the baby if the mother has Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C?
- What is the heritability of certain mental illnesses?
 - Bipolar
 - Schizophrenia
 - Depression
 - Antisocial behaviors
- Is ADHD inheritable?
- Should adoptive parents worry if the expectant mom has not had prenatal care?

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