Legal and Medical Risks in Domestic Infant Adoption

Outline

• How can a hopeful adoptive parent find a baby to adopt in the US?
• What is the difference between an adoption agency, adoption attorney, adoption facilitator, and adoption consultant?
• 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?
• Adoption is covered by state law.
• Is it possible for a birth family to get the child back after an adoption is complete?
• What are some of the legal issues with birth fathers—both identified and unidentified?
• How does the Indian Child Welfare Act impact legal risk in adoption?
• What are some red flags that an expectant mom may not go through with the adoption plan and decide to parent?
• What are the most dangerous drugs or substances that an expectant woman can use during pregnancy as far as impact on the fetus and baby?
• What is the impact of alcohol on a fetus and baby, both short term and long term?
• What is the impact of opiates (prescription and non-prescription) on a fetus and baby, both short term and long term?
• What is the impact of methadone or suboxone on a fetus and baby, both short term and long term?
• What is the impact of heroin on baby, both short term and long term?
• What is the impact of methamphetamines on a baby, both short term and long term?
• Long term impact of prenatal exposure cocaine or crack?
• 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, HIV, syphilis?
• Is ADHD inheritable? Is there a gene for ADHD?
• Do certain mental illnesses have a genetic connection? What is the likelihood that the child will have depression, anxiety, bi-polar, schizophrenia, or other mental illnesses if the birth parents had the illness?
• Should adoptive parents worry if the expectant mom has not had prenatal care?