

Salt Lake City Adoption Attorneys in Utah

Adoption affects the lives of the biological mother, the adoptive parents, and the adoptee. It is very special for everyone involved, but **it can also be a lengthy, and at times, confusing process**. The laws concerning adoption are fairly straightforward, however, it is always a good idea to work with an attorney in such an important legal matter. **Utilizing an attorney can help you to avoid costly missteps and errors, and ensure that someone is looking out for your best interests**. The offices of [Schmidt & Gladstone](#) are ready to help guide you through the adoption process with the necessary resources, knowledge, and experience to make the experience smooth and efficient.

What Are the Adoption Laws in Utah?

[The Department of Child and Family Services](#) is the department that handles all Utah adoption cases. Before beginning the adoption process, **it is important to understand the guidelines and laws surrounding the process**, and ensure that your situation is conforming.

- Any single person or married couple that is eligible to adopt a child when they are at least 10 years older than the adoptee. If it is a married couple that is looking to adopt, at least one spouse must be 10 years older than the child, but both do not need to be.
- Both spouses must give their consent to the adoption.
- Persons that are cohabitating but not married, are not eligible to adopt.
- In the case of a spouse adopting a stepchild, the child must have lived with the stepparent for at least one year.
- If the child is 12 years of age or older, they must give their consent to the adoption.
- Adoptions will take a minimum of six months to finalize, and 12 months in the event that the adoptee is a stepchild.



Benefits of Utilizing an Attorney During the Adoption Process

Adoption is a legal matter that must be addressed with the utmost care and attention, and is something that all parties want completely properly from the outset. While the Utah Child and Family Services does its best to work closely with all parties, **they are advocates for the adoptees, and their focus is upon the child**. It is important to [have someone working on your behalf](#) to understand the legal requirements and standards, and have knowledge of the process in order to guide you through it in the best possible manner. However, while all of those factors, and more, are very important, **the most compelling reason to utilize an attorney is in the event of unforeseen events**. If something unexpected does occur, having an experienced lawyer by your side will minimize the impact of any complications that may arise during the adoption process.

How Schmidt & Gladstone Can Help

If you are considering adoption, [contact us today](#) to learn more about how Schmidt & Gladstone can help you. We are currently offering a **free 30-minute consultation** to discuss any concerns that you may have concerning your pending adoption. Call 801-895-3113 today to learn more about how Schmidt & Gladstone can work with you to

finalize your adoption in the most seamless way possible. Our attorneys also specialize in guiding our clients through [divorce](#), [custody disputes](#) and [support](#), in addition to adoption. With the guidance of Schmidt & Gladstone, ***you can rest assured that your case will be handled with professionalism and efficiency***, and we can help you to avoid costly mistakes and oversights. Call or visit us today to talk to one of our experienced attorneys and let us take some of the worry out of your legal situation.