Introduction

- Not Legal Advice
- Legal Information Only
- No Attorney/Client Relationship
Topics of Discussion

- What Is Adoption?
- Who Can Be Adopted?
- Who Can Adopt?
Adoption is **NOT** so Simple

- Child + Parent does not equal Adoption
- Adoption is a LONG Process
- Adoption can have PITFALLS
Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)

- Usually children in foster care have this (TPR) done.
- A “private” adoption may involve a TPR.
- Biological parents can consent to TPR.
Adoption Case

- Filed in Family Court
- Served on Biological parents and minor child through Guardian Ad Litem.
- Court will hold final hearing to determine whether to grant or deny adoption.
Requirements

- Background investigation by licensed social worker.
- Pre-placement report
- Post-placement report
- Accounting
Guardian Ad Litem

- Must investigate all the circumstances and give a report.
- Must visit adoptive home
- Try to contact biological parents.
- Talk to witnesses.
Familial Adoptions

- Don’t’ Require So Much
International Adoptions

- Add a strong statement that summarizes how you feel or think about this topic
- Summarize key points you want your audience to remember
Surrogate Adoptions

- If artificial insemination is used, the father is a natural parent.

- May not be able to force adoption if Mother does not want it.

- Father would have a claim to custody.
What about situation where fertilized egg is implanted into surrogate?
If you are interested in adoption...

- Contact Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Become a foster parent
- Contact a reputable agency—Call the Better Business Bureau and do research!
- Talk to your attorney
- Call the South Carolina Legal Services
Benefits to DSS Adoption

- Legal fees paid
- Subsidy for child/children may continue
- Medicaid in some cases
- Not available for other adoptions
Benefits to Adoption

- A WONDERFUL child!!!
- The privilege to parent!!
- All adoption expenses are tax deductible.
- Certain tax benefits associated with daycare.