PENDER & COWARD
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

PRACTICE AREA

ADOPTION

Adoption is a meaningful way to build or expand your family—and is an important part of family law in Virginia. It is also a legal process governed by specific statutes, court procedures, and consent requirements.

At Pender & Coward, our experienced Virginia adoption attorneys provide clear, compassionate guidance for stepparent adoption in Virginia, private adoption in Virginia, and family adoptions. We help clients navigate the adoption process in Virginia with confidence, ensuring every requirement is met so your adoption is legally secure from start to finish.

Understanding Adoption Law in Virginia

Virginia adoption laws are designed to protect the best interests of the child while ensuring that adoptive parents and birth parents comply with strict legal requirements. Even in uncontested or family-based adoptions, Virginia law requires specific court filings, consent documentation, statutory waiting periods, and judicial approval.

Working with a knowledgeable Virginia adoption attorney helps ensure that every legal requirement is satisfied, deadlines are met, and potential complications are addressed early—reducing stress and avoiding unnecessary delays in the adoption process in Virginia.

Types of Adoption Our Virginia Adoption Attorneys Handle

Our Virginia adoption attorneys assist families with a variety of adoption types, each governed by specific legal requirements under Virginia adoption laws. Whether you are pursuing a private adoption in Virginia, stepparent adoption in Virginia, or another type of adoption, we guide you through the process to ensure compliance, protect your rights, and support your family every step of the way.

Private / Independent Adoption

Private adoption in Virginia arranged directly between birth parents and adoptive parents, requiring careful handling of consent, parental rights, and court approval under Virginia law.

Agency Adoption

Adoptions facilitated through licensed public or private agencies, including domestic infant adoption, with additional regulatory and documentation requirements.

Stepparent Adoption

A streamlined legal process allowing stepparent adoption in Virginia to become a child's legal parent while terminating the rights of the noncustodial parent when required under termination of parental rights in Virginia.

Relative & Family Adoption

Adoptions involving close relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other relatives seeking legal parental rights and long-term stability for a child.

Adult Adoption

Legal adoption of an adult for inheritance planning, family unity, or personal reasons, as permitted under Virginia law.

What Is the Virginia Adoption Process?

While each adoption is unique, most Virginia adoptions involve several common legal steps, including:

- Preparation and review of required legal documents
- Compliance with Virginia consent laws and termination of parental rights in Virginia
- Completion of a home study when required
- Court filings and attendance at required hearings
- Entry of a final adoption decree by a Virginia court

Our Virginia adoption attorneys guide you through each stage of the process, explain what to expect, and manage the legal details so you can focus on your family.

Why Work with a Virginia Adoption Attorney

Adoption is more than a legal transaction—it is a life-changing decision. Working with an experienced Virginia

adoption attorney helps protect your rights, your time, and your family's future.

Clients choose Pender & Coward because we offer:

- Focused experience on Virginia adoption laws
- Clear, honest communication at every stage
- Sensitivity to the emotional aspects of adoption
- Attention to detail to help avoid costly delays
- Legal strategies tailored to each family's situation

Speak With a Virginia Adoption Attorney Today

If you are considering adoption in Virginia, the sooner you speak with a Virginia adoption attorney, the smoother your journey will be. At Pender & Coward, our experienced attorneys can answer your questions, explain the adoption process in Virginia, and guide you every step of the way. Schedule a consultation today via our contact page or visit one of our local offices in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, or Suffolk to get started.

PENDER & COWARD
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