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Heard in Judiciary Interim Committee
on June 18, 2025.

Adoption Tourism in Utah

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June 18, 2025

What is Adoption Tourism?

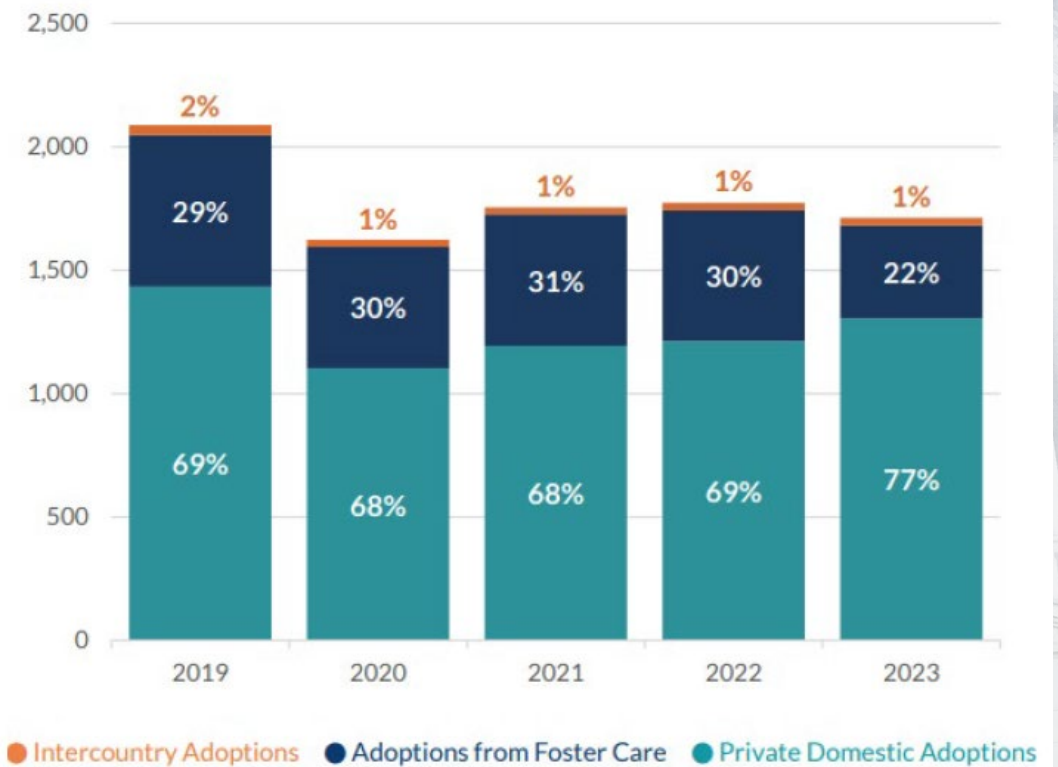
- Refers to Utah as an adoption destination for out-of-state birth mothers and adoptive parents
- Why Utah?
 - Adoption-friendly laws and reputation
 - Utah adoption agencies advertise services and financial assistance
- Adoption-friendly vs. exploitative



Private Domestic Adoption in Utah

- **Private domestic adoption:** US-based adoption through agencies or directly with birth parents
- Comprise 77% of Utah adoptions in 2023
- Utah's rate of adoptions per household is double the national average

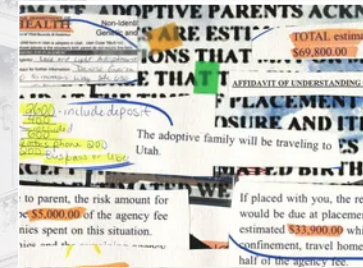
Figure 1: Total Adoptions in Utah, 2019-2023



Source: NCFA, 2025

Recent Investigative Reporting

- Several articles have criticized Utah's adoption system
- Reportedly, some agencies:
 - **Recruit** out-of-state women with financial assistance;
 - **Conceal** birth mother payments with opaque billing practices; and
 - **Circumvent** birth fathers' rights



FAMILY | JULY 12, 2024

'People Say, You Sold Your Baby' How Utah became the most exploitative state in private adoption.

By Gabrielle Glaser

INVESTIGATIONS

Cradle and All

The devastating cost of Utah's thriving adoption industry.

JULIA LURIE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE

Inside Utah's 'human marketplace' for adopted babies

Desperate women denied abortion access in much of the US are being offered a way out for the children they cannot raise themselves. It's not always what it seems

Comparative Analysis with Other States

Provision	Utah	Other States
Consent Timing	• Mother may consent to adoption 24 hrs after birth	• 21 states require 72+ hrs • 15 states have no waiting period
Consent Revocability	• Consent cannot be withdrawn	• 48 states allow revocation in limited cases
Putative Father Registry	• Must initiate paternity proceedings	• 29 states allow notice without court action
Birth Mother Payments	• Adoptive parents may pay reasonable expenses	• 9 states impose caps • 7 prohibit specific expenses

Policy Options and Considerations

- Policy options
 - Extend the consent waiting period
 - Allow limited consent revocation
 - Simplify putative father registry requirements
 - Regulate payments to birth mothers
- Policy considerations
 - Delicate balance of interests
 - Changes may increase costs and limit access



Questions?



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