

Why a Confirmatory Adoption Order Is Needed in Addition to a Birth Certificate:

- A birth certificate is a document issued through an administrative process. It is not a court order and therefore not subject to the Full Faith and Credit clause under the U.S. Constitution
- The listing of parents on a birth certificate is the record of the relationship between married parents at the time of birth. It does not create a relationship between parent and child.
- Parentage solely dependent on a birth certificate can be challenged in a divorce—and there are several cases out there where that has happened.
- Parentage based solely on a birth certificate might not be recognized by all judges/courts/statutes.
- Issuance of a birth certificate through an administrative process does not ensure that parental rights of any donor of genetic material are terminated.
- Parentage based solely on a birth certificate may not be sufficient to adequately establish a basis for passing an inheritance by intestacy laws, for the child to qualify for Social Security benefits and for claiming the child as a dependent under tax codes.