

Position Statement on Newborn Infant Adoptions

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2013

Approved by the Assembly, November 2013

"Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees...These are...position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects..." – *APA Operations Manual*.

The American Psychiatric Association strongly recommends that decision making in the newborn adoptive process should be made in the best interest of the child according to the current knowledge of child development.

The decision to relinquish a newborn child for adoption should take into account the biological parent's competence to make the decision and their need for adequate time and support to make the appropriate decision.

It must also take into account the adoptive parents' and child's needs to build secure attachments and stable relationships with each other as early as possible.

Finalization of the adoption must be as timely as possible. Once the adoption is finalized, it should be inviolate. Disruption of the adoptive family relationship must be considered only under the same criteria applied to disruptions in a biologically intact family.

Revised by the Council on Children, Adolescents and Their Families and the Joint Reference Committee.