

Timelines for Parental Consent

The Child Protection Worker must obtain consent from the birth parent(s) no sooner than ten (10) days after the child has been voluntarily surrendered for adoption.

REFERENCE

NWT Child and Family Services Act, sections 37(1)(3.1), 39(3), 42(3)

PURPOSE

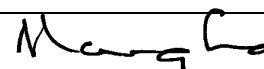
- To allow birth parent(s) time to review the decision to voluntarily surrender their child for the purpose of adoption.

PROCEDURES

1. Establish a Voluntary Support Services Agreement and a *Case Plan* in order to provide a foster placement and care for the child. If the parent(s) are over 19 years of age, a *Voluntary Services Agreement* should be used; however, if they are under the age of 19 years, use a *Support Services Agreement*. This documentation must be signed prior to or at the time of the child being voluntarily surrendered for adoption.
2. Ensure the birth parent(s) sign the *Consent for Services for a Child form* as soon as possible after the ten (10) days of surrender in case the need for serious medical treatments arises or when a Voluntary Support Services Agreement is in effect.
3. Advise the birth parent(s) to contact a lawyer to help complete the *Consent court document* ten (10) days after the child was voluntarily surrendered for adoption. Inform the birth parent(s) that consent may be revoked up to the time the Permanent Custody Order is issued and that verbal revocation is acceptable. Inform the birth parent(s) that the Permanent Custody Order may be appealed within 30 days of the Order being granted
4. Advise the birth parent(s) to contact a lawyer to help prepare a *Revocation of Consent court document* if they revoke consent.
5. Withdraw the Permanent Custody application, when the parent(s) revoke their consent, if it has not been heard in court. If the matter has already been heard in court and the *Permanent Custody Order* has been granted, assist the parent(s) in obtaining legal counsel to pursue an appeal.
6. Return the child to the birth parent(s) that had physical care of the child where consent

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is revoked.

Note:

If the birth parent(s) have left the child in care without contact and it has been difficult to connect with them, obtain legal advice on how to proceed such as dispensing with service on the parent(s).

FORMS

- Voluntary Support Agreement
- Voluntary Support Agreement Case Plan
- Support Services Agreement
- Support Services Agreement Case Plan
- Consent for Services for a Child
- Case Plan Report
- Consent for Services for a Child

TOOLS

- Surrender for Adoption Flowchart
- Permanent Custody Guidelines

COURT DOCUMENTS

- Consent and Affidavit of Execution
- Revocation of Consent and Affidavit of Execution
- Permanent Custody Order

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