



## 2003 Adoption State Statutes Series Statutes-at-a-Glance Intestate Inheritance Rights

### What You Need to Know

Leaving a will is the best way to ensure heirs or descendants may inherit from your estate. Issues of property distribution may arise when a birth parent or adoptive parent dies without making a valid will or without naming an heir to particular property (referred to as “intestacy”). In these cases, State law determines who may inherit from whom. All 50 States and the Territories of the United States specify an adopted child’s rights of inheritance from and through the adoptive and biological parents.

### Birth Parents and Adopted Children

Generally, the court decree that finalizes the adoption ends the legal relationship between the biological parent (also referred to as the “birth” or “natural” parent throughout this document) and adopted child. There are, however, exceptions to this policy in some States. For example, Alaska and Idaho provide for a continuation of inheritance rights if stated in the adoption decree. Colorado requires the adopted child to file a claim against the estate of the biological parent within 90 days of the parent’s death. Illinois allows the biological parents to acquire from the adopted child’s estate any property gained from them through gift, will, or under intestate laws (laws that govern the distribution of property when a person dies without a valid will). Adoption by the spouse of a biological parent has no effect on the right of a child to inherit from or through either biological parent.

### Adoptive Parents and Adopted Children

The adopted child is treated by law as the natural child of the adopting parents, upon the entry of the final adoption decree. The adopted child, therefore, gains the right to inherit from the adoptive parents and adoptive parents’ relatives. Adoptive parents also gain the right to inherit from their adopted child.

This document sets forth the laws of each State and Territory regarding intestate succession as it affects adopted children.

The Statutes-at-a-Glance listings summarize specific sections of each State’s code. While every attempt has been made to be as complete as possible, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State’s code as well as agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures. Readers interested in the interpretation of specific statutory provisions within an individual jurisdiction should consult with professionals within the State familiar with the statutes’ implementation.

Statutes-at-a-Glance publications also are available on the Clearinghouse Web site (<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>). Our online State Statutes database is searchable by State or Region.



**Alabama****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

Not addressed in statute reviewed. However, a person may bequeath to anyone.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: §§ 43-8-48; 26-10A-29**

After adoption, the adopted person shall be treated as the natural child of the adopting parents and shall have all rights and be subject to all of the duties arising from that relation, including the right of inheritance.

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**Alaska****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: §§ 25.23.130; 13.12.114**

After adoption decree has been entered, the adopted person is a stranger to the birth relative for all purposes including inheritance, unless the decree of adoption specifically provides for continuation of inheritance rights.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 25.23.130**

The adopted person is entitled to inherit, in order to create a parent-child relationship between the adopting parent and the adopted person.

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**American Samoa****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 45.0423**

The birth parents are divested of all legal rights and obligations with respect to the child, and vice versa.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 45.0423**

After the entry of a final decree of adoption, the petitioner and the adopted person sustain toward each other the legal relation of parent and child, including the rights of inheritance from each other.

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**Arizona****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: §§ 8-117; 14-2114**

The relationship of birth parent and adopted person is completely severed upon entry of the adoption decree and all legal consequences of the relationship cease to exist, including the right of inheritance.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 8-117**

The adopted person is entitled to inherit from and through the adoptive parent and the adoptive parent is entitled to the same from the adopted person, as though the child were born to the adoptive parents.

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**Arkansas****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 9-9-215**

All legal relationships, including right to inheritance, are terminated between natural parents and adopted person upon entry of the adoption decree.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 9-9-215**

The adopted person is entitled to inherit, in order to create the relationship of parent and child between adopting parent and adopted person.

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**California****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Prob. Code App. § 6408.5; Prob. Code § 6451**

A natural parent may not inherit from or through a child on the basis of the parent-child relationship if someone, other than the spouse or surviving spouse of the natural parent, has adopted the child.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Prob. Code § 6450; Fam. Code § 8616**

A relationship of parent and child exists between an adopted person and the person's adopting parent or parents for the purpose of determining intestate succession.

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**Colorado****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 15-1-103(6)-(7)**

A birth child may inherit from a natural parent if there is no surviving heir under subsections (1) to (5) of this section, and if the birth child files a claim for inheritance with the court having jurisdiction within 90 days of decedent's death. For purposes of this subsection, the term 'birth child' means a child who was born to, but adopted away from, his or her natural parent.

The same is true for birth parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 15-11-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is the child of his or her adopting parent or parents and not of his or her birth parents, except for inheritance rights as specified in § 15-11-103(6) and (7).

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**Connecticut****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 45a-731(6)**

The biological parent or parents and their relatives shall have no rights of inheritance from or through the adopted person, nor shall the adopted person have any rights of inheritance from or through the biological parent.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 45a-731(1)-(3)**

The adopting parent and the adopted person shall have rights of inheritance from and through each other. Such rights extend to adopted relatives and the heirs of the adopted person.

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**Delaware****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 13, § 920**

Upon the issuance of a adoption decree, the adopted child shall lose all rights of inheritance from its natural parent and their relatives. The rights of the natural parent or relatives to inherit from such child shall also cease.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 12, § 508; Tit. 13 § 920**

For purposes of intestate succession, an adopted person is the child of an adopting parent.

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**District of Columbia****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 16-312**

All rights and duties, including those of inheritance between the adopted person and his or her natural parents, cease upon the final adoption decree.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 16-312**

A final decree of adoption establishes the relationship of parent and child between adopter and adopted person for all purposes, including mutual rights of inheritance.

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**Florida****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 63.172**

The adoption decree terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and the adopted person's relatives, except that rights of inheritance shall be as provided in the Florida Probate Code.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 732.108**

For the purpose of intestate succession by or from an adopted person, the adopted person is a descendant of the adopting parent.

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**Georgia****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 19-8-19**

An adoption decree terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and his birth relatives, including rights of inheritance.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: §§ 53-1-8; 19-9-19**

The adoptive parents and relatives of the adoptive parents shall be entitled to inherit from and through the adopted person under the laws of intestacy.

An adopted person, in the absence of a will, may inherit from his or her adoptive parent.

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**Guam****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 19, § 4214**

All the legal rights and privileges between a birth parent and an adopted person cease to exist upon entry of the adoption decree, including the right of inheritance.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 19, § 4214**

The adopted person shall be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the adoptive parents, and the adoptive parents shall be entitled to the same from the adopted person.

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**Hawaii****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 578-16**

All legal rights and duties between birth parents and an adopted child cease upon entry of adoption decree. Though not explicitly stated, it is implied that the right of inheritance is included.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: §§ 578-16; 560:2-114**

An adopted person and his or her adopting parent shall sustain towards each other the legal relationship of parent and child, including the rights of inheritance from and through each other.

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**Idaho****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 16-1509**

Unless the decree of adoption otherwise provides, the natural parents of an adopted person are relieved of all parental duties toward the adopted person, including the right of inheritance unless specifically provided by will.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 16-1508**

An adopted person and adopting parent shall sustain toward each other the legal relation of parent and child, and shall have all the rights and duties of that relation, including the right to inherit.

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**Illinois****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: 755 ILCS 5/2-4**

The natural parent and relatives shall take from the adopted person and the adopted person's adoptive family the property that the adopted person has taken from or through the natural parent or relatives by gift, will or under intestate laws.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: 755 ILCS 5/2-4**

An adopted child is a descendant of the adopting parent for purposes of inheritance from the adopting parent.

If the adopted person is adopted after the age of 18 years and the child never resided with the adopting parent before attaining the age of 18 years, he or she will not be able to inherit (intestate) from the relatives of the adopting parents.

An adopting parent and relatives of the adopting parent shall inherit property from an adopted child to the exclusion of the natural parent.

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**Indiana****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 29-1-2-8**

For all purposes of intestate succession, an adopted child shall cease to be treated as a child of the natural parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 29-1-2-8**

For all purposes of intestate succession, an adopted child shall be treated as a natural child of the child's adopting parents.

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**Iowa****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 633.223**

A lawful adoption extinguishes the right of intestate succession of an adopted person from and through the adopted person's biological parents and vice versa.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 633.223**

The adopted person inherits from and through the adoptive parents and vice versa.

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**Kansas****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 59-2118**

Upon adoption, all the rights of birth parents to the adopted person, including their right to inherit from or through the person, shall cease.

An adoption shall not terminate the right of the child to inherit from or through the birth parent.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 59-2118**

When adopted, a person shall be entitled to the same personal and property rights as a birth child of the adoptive parent.

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**Kentucky****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 199.520**

Upon granting an adoption, all legal relationship between the adopted child and the biological parents shall be terminated. It may be inferred that the right to inheritance is included.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 199.520**

Upon entry of the adoption decree, the adoptee shall be deemed the child of the adoptive parents for purposes of inheritance.

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**Louisiana****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Ch. Code Art. 214**

Upon adoption, the blood parent and relatives of the adopted person are relieved of all of their legal duties and divested of all of their legal rights with regard to the adopted person, including the right of inheritance from the adopted person.

The adopted person is relieved all similar duties and rights to the blood parents and relatives, except the right of inheritance from them.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Ch. Code Art. 214**

The adopted person is considered for all purposes as the legitimate child and heir of the adoptive parent, including the right of the adopted person to inherit from the adoptive parents and their relatives.

The adoptive parent and their relatives also have the right to inherit from the adopted person.

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**Maine****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 18-A, §§ 9-105; 2-109**

An adopted person retains the right to inherit from the adopted person's biological parents if the adoption decree so provides, as specified in § 2-109.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 18-A, § 9-105**

An adopted person has all the same rights, including inheritance rights, that a child born to the adoptive parents would have.

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**Maryland****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Fam. Law § 5-308**

The Estates and Trusts Article shall govern all rights of inheritance between the adopted person and the natural relatives.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

Not addressed explicitly in statutes reviewed. May be inferred from Fam. Law § 5-308:

After a decree of adoption is entered, the adopted person is the child of the petitioner and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of and is subject to all the obligations of a child born to the petitioner.

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**Massachusetts****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Ch. 210, § 7**

Upon adoption, a person shall lose his right to inherit from his natural parents or family.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Ch. 210, § 7**

If the adopted person dies intestate, his property shall be distributed according to Chap. 190 and 196 among adoptive parents and family.

An adopted person may inherit from adoptive parents in the same manner.

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**Michigan****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: §§ 710.60; 700.2114**

After entry of the adoption decree, an adopted child is no longer an heir at law of the natural parent.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 710.60**

After entry of adoption decree, the adopted person becomes an heir at law of the adopting parent.

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**Minnesota****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 259.59**

The child shall not owe the birth parents or their relatives any legal duty nor shall the child inherit from the birth parents or their family.

The birth parents shall have no rights over the child's property.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 259.59**

By virtue of the adoption, the adopted person shall inherit from the adoptive parents or their relatives as though the adopted person were the natural child of the parents.

In case of the adopted person's death intestate, the adoptive parents and their relatives shall inherit the adopted person's estate.

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**Mississippi****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 93-17-13**

The natural parents and their relatives shall not inherit by or through the adopted child.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 93-17-13**

The adopted child shall inherit from and through the adopting parents and their relatives by the laws of descent and distribution of the State of Mississippi, and likewise the adopting parents and relatives shall inherit from the adopted child.

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**Missouri****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: §§ 453.090; 474.060**

If for purposes of intestate succession, a relationship of parent and child must be established to determine succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted person is not the child of the natural parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: §§ 453.150; 453.090**

An adopted person shall be considered for every purpose the child of the adoptive parents, including inheritance rights.

The adoptive parents shall be capable of inheriting from their adopted child.

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**Montana****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 72-7-124**

Inheritance from or through an [adopted] child by either natural parent or their family is precluded.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 72-7-124**

For purposes of intestate succession, a parent-child relationship exists between an adopted person and an adopting parent.

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**Nebraska****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 43-111**

After an adoption decree has been entered, the natural parents of the adopted child shall be relieved of all parental duties toward and all responsibilities for such child and have no rights over or to such adopted child's property by descent and distribution.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 30-2309**

For purposes of intestate succession, a parent-child relationship exists between an adopted person and an adopting parent.

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**Nevada****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 127.160**

After an adoption decree is entered, the natural parents of an adopted child shall be relieved of all parental responsibilities for such child, and they shall not exercise or have any rights over an adopted child's property.

The child shall not owe his natural parents or their relatives any legal duty, nor shall he inherit from his natural parents or family.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 127.160**

By virtue of an adoption, an adopted person shall inherit from his adoptive parents or their relatives as though he were the legitimate child of such parents.

If an adopted person dies intestate, the adoptive parents and their relatives shall inherit his estate.

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**New Hampshire****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 170-B:20**

Upon the issuance of a final adoption decree, the adopted child and the natural parents shall lose all rights of inheritance from and through each other.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 170-B:20**

Upon the issuance of a final adoption decree, the adopted person and adopting parents shall acquire the mutual right to inherit from and through each other.

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**New Jersey****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 2A:22-3**

Upon final adoption decree, the natural parents and their family lose their right to take and inherit intestate personal and real property from and through the person adopted.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 2A:22-3**

Upon adoption, the adopting parents and the adopted person gain the right to take and inherit intestate personal and real property from and through each other.

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***New Mexico*****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 45-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is not the child of his natural parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 32A-5-37**

The adopted person and adopting parent shall have all rights and be subject to all of the duties of the parent-child relationship upon adoption, including the right of inheritance from and through each other.

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***New York*****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Dom. Rel. § 117**

The rights of an adoptive child to inheritance and succession from and through his birth parents shall terminate upon the making of the adoption decree; the rights of the birth parents over such adoptive child or to his property by descent or succession will also cease.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Dom. Rel. § 117**

The adoptive parent and the adopted child shall sustain toward each other the legal relation of parent and child and shall have all the rights and be subject to all the duties of that relation, including the rights of inheritance from and through each other.

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***North Carolina*****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 48-1-106**

After the entry of a decree of adoption, the birth parents are relieved of all legal duties and obligations due from them to the adopted person and are divested of all rights with respect to the adopted person.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 48-1-106**

From the date of the signing of the decree, the adopted person is entitled to inherit real and personal property by, through, and from the adoptive parents in accordance with the statutes on intestate succession.

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**North Dakota****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 30.1-04-09**

For purposes of intestate succession, an adopted individual is not the child of the biological parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 14-15-14**

Upon adoption, the adopted person gains the right of inheritance from the adopting parents, to create the relationship of parent and child.

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**Northern Mariana Islands****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Tit. 8 § 1412**

Upon the final decree of adoption, the right of the adopted person to inherit from the natural parents ceases.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Tit. 8 § 1412**

The adopted person gains the right of inheritance from the adopting parent upon final decree to create the relationship of parent and child, as if the adopted person were the legitimate blood relative of the adopting parent.

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**Ohio****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 3107.15**

The final adoption decree terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and the adopted person's birth parents and relatives, for all purposes including inheritance.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 3107.15**

The adopted person gains the right of inheritance from the adopting parent upon final decree to create the relationship of parent and child, as if the adopted person were the legitimate blood relative of the adopting parent.

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**Oklahoma****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Tit. 10, § 7505-6.5**

After a final decree of adoption, the biological parents of the adopted child shall be relieved of all parental responsibilities for said child and shall have no rights over the adopted child or to the property of the child by descent and distribution.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Tit. 10, § 7505-6.5**

From the date of the final decree of adoption, the child shall be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the adoptive parents in accordance with the statutes of descent and distribution. The adoptive parents shall be entitled to the same.

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**Oregon****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 112.175**

An adopted person shall cease to be treated as the child of the person's natural parents for all purposes of intestate succession.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 112.175**

An adopted person and the adoptive parents and their relatives shall take by intestate succession from each other.

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**Pennsylvania****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: 20 PCSA § 2108**

An adopted person shall not be considered as continuing to be the child of his natural parents except in distributing the estate of a natural kin, other than the natural parent, who has maintained a family relationship with the adopted person.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: 20 PCSA § 2108**

For purposes of inheritance by, from, and through an adopted person, he or she shall be considered the issue of his or her adopting parent or parents.

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**Puerto Rico****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Tit. 31, § 538**

Adoption by final and binding decree shall extinguish any legal nexus between the adopted person and his or her former biological or adoptive family.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Tit. 31, § 538**

Once the adoption has been decreed, the adopted person shall be deemed for all legal purposes as the child of the adopter, with all the rights, duties, and obligations corresponding to it, by law.

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**Rhode Island****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 15-7-17**

The parents of the adopted child shall be deprived of all legal rights respecting the child, and the child shall be freed from all obligations of maintenance and obedience respecting his or her natural parents; except it will not deprive an adopted child of the right to inherit from and through his or her natural parents as provided in § 33-1-8.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 15-7-16**

A child lawfully adopted shall be deemed, for the purpose of inheritance from and through the parents by adoption and their relatives, the child of the parents by adoption the same as if he or she had been born to them in lawful wedlock.

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**South Carolina****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: §§ 20-7-1576; 20-7-1770**

The mutual right of inheritance between an adopted child and his or her birth parents terminates after a final order of adoption.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: §§ 62-2-109; 20-7-1576**

After the final decree of adoption is entered, the relationship of parent and child and all the rights, duties, and other legal consequences exist between the adopted person, the adoptive parent, and the family of the adoptive parent.

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**South Dakota****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 25-6-17**

The natural parents of an adopted child are, from the time of the adoption, relieved of all parental duties towards, and of all responsibility for the child so adopted, and have no right over the child.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 29A-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, from, or through a person, an adopted individual is the child of that individual's adopting parent or parents.

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**Tennessee****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 36-1-121**

An adopted child shall not inherit real or personal property from his or her biological parents or their relatives when the relationship between them has been terminated by final order of adoption, nor shall the biological parent or their relatives inherit from the adopted child.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 36-1-121**

The adopted child and the child's descendants shall be capable of inheriting and otherwise receiving title to real and personal property from the adoptive parents and their descendants.

The adoptive parents and their family shall have a right of inheritance but only as to property of the adopted child acquired after the child's adoption.

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**Texas****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: Prob. Code § 40**

The natural parents of an adopted child shall not inherit from or through said child, but said child shall inherit from and through its natural parents.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Prob. Code § 40**

An adopted child may, under the laws of descent and distribution, inherit from and through the adopting parents and their relatives and the adopting parents and their family may inherit from and through such adopted child.

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**Utah****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 75-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is not the child of the birth parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: § 75-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is the child of the adopting parents.

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**Vermont****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 15A, § 1-105**

All parental rights and duties of the birth parent of the adopted person terminate, including the right of inheritance from or through the adopted person, upon final decree of adoption.

The child's right to inherit from the birth parents also terminates.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 15A, § 1-104**

The adoptive parent and the adopted person have the legal relation of parent and child and have all the rights and duties of that relationship, including the right of inheritance from or through each other.

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**Virgin Islands****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 16, § 146**

The natural parents of an adopted child are deprived by a decree of adoption of all legal rights with respect to the child, and the child is freed from all obligations of maintenance and obedience with respect to his natural parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Statute: Tit. 16, § 146**

An adopted child is deemed, for the purpose of inheritance, the child of the parents by adoption, except that he is prohibited from taking property expressly limited to heirs *of the body* of the adoptive parents.

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**Virginia****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 64.1-5.1**

For the purpose of determining rights in or to property, an adopted person is not the child of the natural parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 64.1-5.1**

For the purpose of determining rights in or to property, an adopted person is the child of the adopting parents.

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**Washington****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 11.04.085**

A lawfully adopted child shall not be considered an 'heir' of his natural parents.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 26.33.260**

An adopted person shall be, to all intents and purposes, and for all legal incidents, the child, legal heir, and lawful issue of the adoptive parent, entitled to all rights and privileges, including the right of inheritance.

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**West Virginia****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 48-22-703**

Upon the entry of the final adoption decree, the birth parents shall be divested of all legal rights, including the right of inheritance from or through the adopted child.

Such child shall not inherit from any person entitled to parental rights prior to the adoption.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 48-22-703**

From and after the entry of the order of adoption, a legally adopted child shall inherit from and through the parents by adoption.

If the adopted person dies intestate, all property, including real and personal, of such adopted person shall pass to the adopting parents.

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**Wisconsin****Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**  
**Statute: § 854.20**

A legally adopted person ceases to be treated as a child of the person's birth parents for the purposes of intestate succession.

Rights of inheritance by, from, and through an adopted child are governed by §§ 854.20 and 854.21.

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**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 854.20**

A legally adopted person is treated as a birth child of the person's adoptive parents for purposes of intestate succession by, through, and from the adopted person.

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***Wyoming***

**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 2-4-107**

An adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and of both the natural parents for inheritance purposes only.

**Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**

**Statute: § 2-4-107**

An adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and of both the natural parents for inheritance purposes only.