SLR 2026 FALL MEETING • BOZEMAN, MT • SEPTEMBER 24–27

American Adoptions & American Surrogacy



Presented by Shawn Kane and Dylan Mars

American Adoptions | American Surrogacy — Overland Park, KS

American Adoptions Introduction

Our Founding Story: The Mars Family

Founded in 1991 by Ted, Susan & son Scott Mars in Kansas. 157.

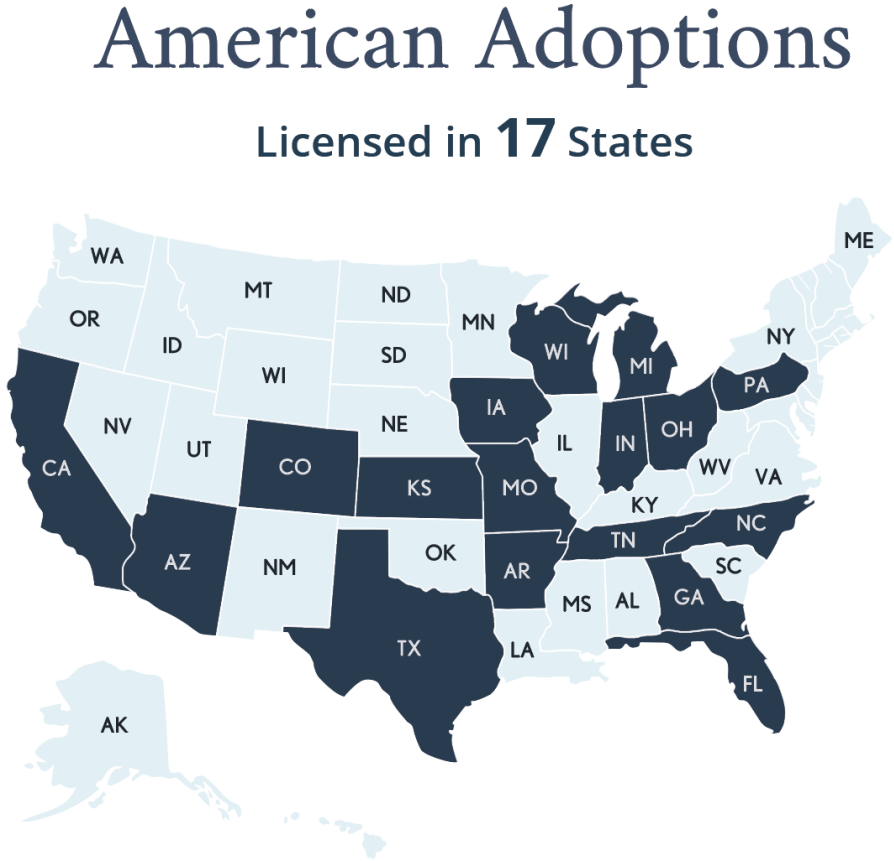
Business Model

Full-service private and voluntary domestic adoption agency providing end-to-end support.

National Leadership & Scale

Licensed in 17 states, with full operational capacity to coordinate adoptions across all 50 states.

Collectively built over 13,000 families since 1991.



Adoption: A Proven Regulatory Framework

Licensing & Compliance

Adoption operates within established systems such as:

- Home study system
- Requires background checks
- Agency licensure for child placement
- Legal safeguards and court oversight and ICPC compliance

Precedent & Stability

Adoption law has well over a century of statutes, case law, and precedent sit under this process today, creating a highly stable, structured, and widely understood system.

Public-Private Collaboration

Connecting private-sector expertise and resources with public child welfare to achieve permanency is where the biggest growth opportunity in adoption policy still sits today.

Strengthening Permanency Outcomes For Youth

Voluntary Adoption as an Option

1. Ensures Parents Are Informed of All Permanency Options
2. Voluntary Adoption Path vs. Court-Ordered TPR
3. Voluntary Option can Reduce Time in Care, Lowers Public Costs, and Improve Outcomes
4. Expands Immediate Permanency Capacity
5. Preserves Safe Family Connections

American Surrogacy Introduction

Founding Story

Established in 2013, built by the same team behind American Adoptions, bringing social work and licensed adoption experience into surrogacy.

Business Model

Full-service surrogacy agency: extensive pre screening, coordination and advocacy for all parties.

National Leadership & Scale

Operating in all 50 states, with offices throughout the country.



Surrogacy: Legal and Legislative Issues

IVF & Personhood Risk

- No IVF = no surrogacy and personhood rulings on embryos (like Alabama's) threaten both, while only one state (NY) licenses surrogacy agencies at all.

Mixed in With Immigration

- International surrogacy is getting pulled into immigration and birth-tourism debates and broad proposals risk hitting domestic practices too.
- We only work with domestic intended parents so it does not affect us directly, but the wrong legislation can

Horror Stories: The Regulation Gap

- A PA sex offender case and a 21-child agency scandal (Marks Surrogacy), both trace back to one cause: no licensing requirement to catch it.
  - Who is responsible for background check clinic, attorney, agency or all?

Embezzlement & Mismanagement

- Embezzlement Cases of
  - $16M Seam "escrow agency"
  - $5M Surroconnections surrogacy agency
  - $1.8 million attorney case- Theresa Erickson

Two Live Examples Worth Knowing

Case 1: Multi-State Parentage Conflict

Contract Termination & Birth Location

Alaska surrogate refused a contract's termination clause after a treatable fetal diagnosis, traveling to givebirth in Texas instead. Texas AG ruled child to receive life saving care.

Existing California Custody Order

A California court had already named the intended parents legal parents before birth, they currently have custody under that order.

Current Texas Court Contest

The surrogate is contesting in Texas. This is a conflict-of-laws dispute, not an open parentage question; experts expect the California order to hold.

Case 2: The August 6 Executive Order

Political Context & Background

Tied to the birthright citizenship fight, issued weeks after the Supreme Court ruled against a related administration position.

Narrow Target & Scope

Does not ban surrogacy, invalidate contracts, or touch state parentage law, targets federal citizenship recognition in specific international scenarios only.

Business Impact & Outlook

It pauses most if not all international surrogacy arrangements until this can be heard in court. It doesn't touch our business but it's a clear signal this issue isn't going away.

Positive Solutions and Trends

Bills In Motion

Florida HB 1487: Agency Licensure Bill and Screening Requirements

Pennsylvania SB 968: Background Check Bill (Adam Walsh as standard)

Federal SAFE KIDS Act: The federal SAFE KIDS Act is stalled in the Senate but has real co-sponsor momentum.

Arizona Bill 4073: Legalizing contracts, legal requirements and screening standards

Pro-Law and Regulation

NY: The one state with agency licensing (CPSA, 2021)

NE & LA: The only two states still banning compensated surrogacy, just leaves families to go out of state.

Michigan: 37-year criminal ban (1988–2025): full repeal, now regulated

Adoption-Proven Solutions

Licensing & Agency Oversight: Every state already licenses adoption agencies

Rigorous Background Screening: The Adam Walsh Act (2006) standard

Fund Management: Financial solvency and bonding are standard conditions of licensure

How We Work With Government Affairs Today

Tier 1: Lobbyist Retained

Kansas & Missouri: one hired lobbyist covering both states where we have been operating the longest.

Tier 2: Trade Group Representation

Florida & Georgia: represented through trade groups with their own lobbyists, giving us coordinated industry-level advocacy without carrying it alone.

Tier 3: Committees & Affiliations

New York, Texas, Pennsylvania and others: active involvement through committees, professional affiliations, and industry councils, even without a formally retained lobbyist.

What We Bring: A Resource on Both Sides

How We Can Be a Resource

35 Years in Adoption & 13 in Surrogacy
Nationwide reach with the unparalleled experience of building over 13,000+ families.

Direct Insight & Full Process Visibility
Deep understanding and active perspective across every single party in the process.

Legislative & Advisory Readiness
Prepared to testify, educate legislators, assist in drafting legislation, or serve as an expert sounding board.

Family-Formation Landscape

150+ Professionals, One Unified Agency
Both adoption and surrogacy programs operating at scale, supported by a vast network of industry specialists.

One Relationship, Dual-Sided Industry Access
A streamlined partnership that seamlessly provides comprehensive access and expertise across both sides of the industry.

Thank you for your time.

Are there any questions?

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