

Committee Opinion  
January 20, 1986

LEGAL ETHICS OPINION 741

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – ADOPTIVE  
PARENTS AND UNREPRESENTED  
BIOLOGICAL PARENT.

It is not improper for an attorney to represent adoptive parents in an independent adoption when the biological parent is unrepresented. The attorney may not, however, represent the adoptive parents in such an adoption and simultaneously undertake to represent the biological parent, even in the form of counseling in regard to anticipated inquiries from the court. [See Canon 5 ("A lawyer should exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of a client."), DR:5-105(B); Canon 7 ("A lawyer should represent a client zealously within the bounds of the law."), DR: 7-102, DR:7-103(A)(2); Canon 9 ("A lawyer should avoid even the appearance of professional impropriety."), EC:9-2.]

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