



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 24-160

For business meeting on November 15, 2024

Title

Family Law: Adoption Forms

Report Type

Action Required

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

Adopt form ADOPT-203; revise forms ADOPT-050-INFO, ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, ADOPT-215, ADOPT-230, and ADOPT-310

Effective Date

July 1, 2025

Date of Report

October 16, 2024

Recommended by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee
Hon. Tari L. Cody, Cochair
Hon. Stephanie E. Hulsey, Cochair

Contact

Kerry Doyle, Attorney
415-865-8791
kerry.doyle@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends adopting one new form and revising six forms to simplify, clarify, and provide additional guidance necessary during the adoption process for all adopting parents, and their counsel, if represented. The committee further recommends revising the adoption request form to conform to Assembly Bill 1650 (Patterson; Stats. 2023, ch.76), which requires that the petitioner inform the court, in writing, whether the petitioner has entered, or has agreed to enter, into a postadoption contact agreement.

Recommendation

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 1, 2025:

1. Adopt *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203) as an adoption request form to be used only for stepparent adoptions and stepparent adoptions to confirm parentage;

2. Revise *How to Adopt a Child in California* (form ADOPT-050-INFO) to clarify the specific procedures necessary to finalize distinct types of adoptions, provide additional information and links to adoption resources available on the Self-Help Guide to the California Courts, and reference the new separate form for stepparent adoptions;
3. Revise *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200) to remove items related solely to the stepparent adoption process and reconfigure the section on consents and termination of parental rights;
4. Revise *Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-210) to clarify where an adopting stepparent should sign this form and to include language for adopting parents' signatures added during a remote hearing;
5. Revise *Adoption Order* (form ADOPT-215) to include proper notification language and to clarify language pertaining to adoptions where a parent or parents maintain their parental rights;
6. Revise *Adoption Expenses* (form ADOPT-230) to add instructions regarding which costs should be listed and remove expense categories to allow filers to comply with Family Code section 8610, which requires the itemization of each payment, not each type of service; and
7. Revise *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310) to add language referring to all types of siblings who could potentially be a party to the agreement and include instructions indicating that a copy of the agreement must be provided to all adult parties within 30 days.

The proposed new form and the revised forms are attached at pages 12–37.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200), *Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-210), and *Adoption Order* (form ADOPT-215) were adopted by the Judicial Council in October 1998 as part of a proposal for mandatory uniform adoption forms for all minor children subject to adoption proceedings.

Also in 1998, the Judicial Council adopted a rule of court and several forms, including what is now numbered as California Rules of Court, rule 5.451 and *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310) to implement procedures for “kinship” adoption agreements, which allowed for ongoing contact between adopted children and their birth relatives. All references to “kinship adoption agreement” were revised to “postadoption contact agreement” based on legislative changes in 2001. Forms ADOPT-200 and ADOPT-215 were revised in April 2001 to provide information on postadoption contact. Form ADOPT-310 was updated effective January 1, 2002, with a table employing icons to signify the type of postadoption contact agreed upon by the parties, and effective January 1, 2024, it was revised to correct an erroneous code citation and to reconfigure the table to facilitate accessibility for screen readers.

The council adopted the information sheet *How to Adopt a Child in California* (form ADOPT-050-INFO) in 1999 to provide basic information on the adoption process.

Form ADOPT-230 was adopted with the other adoption forms in 1998, but its original title was *Accounting Report—Adoptions*. By 2002, it had been renamed *Adoption Expenses*. The form has been revised multiple times to account for legislative changes and plain-language improvements and was last revised with an effective date of January 1, 2007.

Effective January 1, 2021, forms ADOPT-050-INFO, ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, and ADOPT-215 were revised in response to two important pieces of legislation affecting international adoptions and adoptions of children born to gestational surrogates in states that do not recognize both intended parents on the child’s birth certificate.

Effective January 1, 2024, form ADOPT-050-INFO was revised to clarify the steps necessary for a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage, and *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200) was revised to respond to new legislation.

Analysis/Rationale

California law sets forth the procedures for four categories of adoptions. Within each category, there are subcategories of adoption types, each of which has unique requirements. They are as follows:

- Agency Adoptions (Fam. Code, § 8700 et seq.)
 - Nondependent child
 - Relative
 - Nonrelative
 - Dependent child or nonminor dependent
- Independent Adoptions (Fam. Code, § 8800 et seq.)
 - Relative
 - Nonrelative
- Intercountry Adoptions (Fam. Code, § 8900 et seq.)
 - International
 - Re-adoption of child adopted outside of the United States
- Stepparent Adoptions (Fam. Code, § 9000 et seq.)
 - Adoption of spouse/domestic partner’s child
 - Adoption to confirm parentage (Fam. Code, § 9000.5)

Since the form was adopted in 1998, all four of these adoption types have been initiated using *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200). The committee now recommends the adoption of the new mandatory *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203), to be used only for stepparent adoptions, including stepparent adoptions to confirm parentage. The committee further

recommends removing all items that specifically reference the stepparent adoption process from form ADOPT-200 and revising the remainder of the adoption forms to respond to concerns expressed by self-help attorneys, courts, and stakeholders.¹

Assembly Bill 1650 (Patterson; Stats. 2023, ch.76) made several changes to the Family Code relating to custody, parentage, and adoption. Revisions to Family Code section 8616.5 require that the petitioner inform the court, in writing, whether a contact after adoption agreement has been or will be entered. This section further requires that before the finalization of the adoption, the petitioner must file the agreement with the court and provide a file-marked copy of the form to all signatories of the agreement within 30 days of receipt of the filed-marked copy. These changes require minor changes to form ADOPT-310.

Proposed adoption of new form and form revisions

How to Adopt a Child in California (*form ADOPT-050-INFO*)

The current version of this information sheet lists the forms that need to be completed to start the adoption process and to prepare for the final hearing. The committee recommends adding information that helps an adoptive parent determine what type of adoption they are filing and what agency will be handling their home study or investigation, as well as information that there may be additional forms and processes necessary based on the participation of the parent who is not filing or joining in the adoption request.

The committee also recommends additional guidance and definitions within this form if the child may be of Native American ancestry.

The committee recommends revising the section pertaining to “Open” adoption to refer to *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310). This section will now include the purpose and use of the form, when it should be filed (in accordance with the provisions of AB 1650), and who are or can be parties to this agreement.

Adoption Request (*form ADOPT-200*)

The committee recommends revising this form to remove all information related to the filing of a stepparent adoption; this information will be contained within the new form ADOPT-203. The committee also recommends significant changes to the items relating to consent and termination of parental rights. These questions have been replaced with an instruction box on page one of the

¹ As part of the development of this proposal, the advisory committee sought the input of staff attorneys at court self-help centers, the Academy of California Adoption Lawyers (ACAL), court clerks, judicial officers beyond those on the committee, and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The self-help centers identified stepparent adoptions as both the most common adoption types for which they provide assistance and the ones having the most confusing processes for self-represented litigants. This proposal includes a new *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203).

The self-help centers and court clerks also pointed out the numerous continuances required when self-help litigants arrived at court without the statutorily required pleadings and documents, depending on the status of the birth parent. The committee is proposing extensive changes to *How to Adopt a Child in California* (form ADOPT-050-INFO) to help inform self-represented litigants of all the necessary requirements to proceed with an adoption request.

form and an additional information box on page 4. There is also a reference to information to consult the Judicial Council's Self-Help Guide to the California Courts, and that there may be additional paperwork necessary to proceed.

The committee also recommends revising the form so that the assertions made by the adopting parents are placed at the beginning of the form, and removing the names of birth parents because they are not required to be contained within the petition.

The committee recommends adding a question to item 12 to determine whether and when *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310) will be filed. This language includes additional options that comply with Family Code section 8714.5 for dependent child agency adoptions and Welfare and Institutions Code section 16002 for contact between siblings, and states that the form must be filed before the adoption hearing.

Stepparent Adoption Request (form ADOPT-203)

The committee recommends adopting this new form, which will be used only for stepparent adoptions, including those filed to confirm parentage. This will eliminate any confusion for the court, court clerk, or self-represented litigants because much of the information contained in the current version of form ADOPT-200 is not applicable to stepparent adoptions. This new form will only be used for stepparent adoptions, and all items pertain to stepparent adoption or to confirm parentage only.

Adoption Agreement (form ADOPT-210)

The committee recommends revising this form and adding language to clarify that the signature line at item 4, which is for one adopting parent, is also where a stepparent would sign the form. This will clarify where an adopting stepparent would sign this form. Also recommended are additional boxes and language under item 9 to allow for the signing of the form by adopting parents who appear remotely (in 9c) or outside of the hearing (in 9a).

Adoption Order (form ADOPT-215)

The committee recommends adding language within item 6 that includes the assertion that proper notice to all persons with actual or possible parental rights has been provided, and their voluntary or nonvoluntary participation is documented in the court file. This language was not contained in the prior form versions. The committee also recommends including language that allows the court to identify any persons with parental rights who agree to this adoption and who will maintain their existing parental rights, and who have executed an agreement waiving termination of parental rights. This language applies to all adoptions under Family Code section 8617(b), could be applicable for those adoptions with more than one additional parent, and would not apply to those situations where a person with parental rights either signed a consent to the adoption or where their parental rights were terminated.

Adoption Expenses (form ADOPT-230)

The committee recommends that item 3 of this form be revised to allow the adopting parent to write in all types of services provided as well as to include more than one payee for a particular

service. The existing form only allows one entry per service, such as attorney fees or medical care. The recommended form changes allow for the inclusion of many professionals who have provided the same service, such as different doctors, and more than one attorney. Typically, there are legal fees for the adoptive parent and separate legal fees for the birth mother or father. This will allow the adoptive parent to comply with Family Code section 8610, which requires the itemization of each payee, not just each type of service.

The committee also recommends that the instructions for item 3 include examples of the types of services that need to be listed, such as court filing fees, pregnancy expenses, and counseling.

Contact After Adoption Agreement (*form ADOPT-310*)

The committee recommends including language to describe the different types of siblings who may want to maintain contact and become a party to this agreement. This includes siblings who may be dependents and currently in foster care, or nonminor dependents who are over 18 years of age and continue in extended foster care. The committee also recommends including language to alert siblings that there is an additional form available through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) that can be signed by each sibling. It can be used in the event this agreement becomes unenforceable and the siblings want to maintain contact. The committee recommends including the website address and the CDSS form numbers on this form.

The committee further recommends the addition of language on page 2 in the Notice box to provide instructions that the adopting parents must file this form before the adoption finalization hearing and that within 30 days of the filing of the form they must provide a file-marked copy to each person who signed the agreement and to any licensed adoption agency that placed the child for adoption or consented to the adoption.²

Relationship to Child item

Adoption Request (form ADOPT-200), *Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-210), *Adoption Order* (form ADOPT-215), and *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310) currently contain an item to specify “Relationship to Child.” The committee recommends retaining this item on form ADOPT-200 only. The applicant’s relationship to the child is relevant at the beginning stage of adoption proceedings because the judicial officer and—in some cases—the California Department of Social Services need to know this information to apply the correct legal standards and processes. For example, in an independent adoption, relatives can file a petition without birth parent consent;³ in an agency adoption, relatives and some foster parents can have an abbreviated home study.⁴

When the applicant is signing form ADOPT-210 at the hearing to finalize the adoption, when the court is issuing the order of adoption on form ADOPT-215, and when parties are entering into

² Fam. Code, § 8616.5(m)(2)(B).

³ Fam. Code, § 8802.

⁴ Fam. Code, § 8730.

postadoption contact agreements on form ADOPT-310, the applicant is, or very soon will be, the child's parent and their prior relationship with the child is not as relevant at these stages. The committee thus recommends removing the item regarding the applicant's relationship to the child from these forms.⁵

Policy implications

This proposal responds to judicial branch Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public. The committee is recommending a dedicated form for stepparent adoptions and stepparent adoptions to confirm parentage because these are processes that are widely undertaken by self-represented adopting parents. The dedicated form will allow self-represented litigants to pursue these types of adoptions without having to sort through multiple requirements and additional forms that do not apply to this type of adoption. This will improve both access to the court process and the quality of the forms for the public seeking this type of adoption. In addition, the proposal responds to recent legislative changes in AB 1650. The committee's recommendations are designed to ensure that court rules, forms, and processes are consistent with the legislative requirements presented in the Family Code.

Comments

The proposal was circulated for comment from March 29 to May 3, 2024, and received comments from six commenters. Three commenters agreed with the proposals as written, two agreed if modified, and one did not indicate a position. Comments were received from four superior courts, a county bar association, and the Family Law Section of the California Lawyers Association. The comments were all supportive of the proposal, and several commenters provided minor recommendations for revisions to the forms, most of which were accepted and incorporated into the proposal.

In addition to the comments discussed below, the substantive comments and feedback largely indicated that the implementation of the new *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203) will greatly benefit litigants by providing them with a clear and distinct petition tailored to their circumstances. The proposal will also enhance clarity and efficiency in the adoption process, ultimately benefiting both litigants and court personnel.

A chart with the full text of the comments received and the committee's responses is attached at pages 38–52.

Additional Adopting Parents

The committee sought specific comment on whether there should be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parents' names. Four of the six commenters replied to this question.

⁵ Additionally, form ADOPT-210 is required for requests for stepparent adoptions to confirm parentage. Stepparents have a presumption of parentage under Family Code section 7611(a), so asking for the stepparent's relationship to the child on this form could lead to confusion. Since the applicant's relationship to the child is available elsewhere in the file, the committee concluded it would be preferable to remove this item rather than causing confusion by keeping it on the form.

One large court commented that there should be space for more than two parents. Another large court commented that they have not had a need for more space, and when it is needed, petitioners put more than one name on the line. The Family Law Section of the California Lawyers Association commented that additional space could create confusion and that an addendum is used in practice. One large county bar association commented that there should be space for additional parents or reference to an attachment.

Based on comments received, the committee recommends including instructions to attach a sheet of paper to be used for any additional adopting parents at item 1 on *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200), *Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-210), and *Adoption Expenses* (form ADOPT-230); including a similar instruction on form ADOPT-210 at items 7 and 8; adding an additional signature line for adoptions where there are more than two adopting parents to forms ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, and ADOPT-230; and adding the option for a third parent and an additional address to *Adoption Order* (form ADOPT-215) at item 1. The committee also made minor changes to the forms to ensure that references to singular or plural adopting parents were consistent.

The committee recommends including on the new *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203) an instruction to file a separate ADOPT-203 form for any case where more than one stepparent wants to adopt the child.

How to Adopt a Child in California (form ADOPT-050-INFO)

Comments received suggested (1) including directives to fill out the forms only in blue or black; (2) specifying the amount of the filing fee and how it is set; (3) rewording language on page 2, under the note after petition to terminate parental rights, to state: “In some courts, this can be filed within the adoption case but in other courts it is a separate court action”; and (4) providing the adoptive parent or their legal representative with a copy of the filed forms and an instruction to complete form VS-44, a California Department of Social Services form used to produce the amended new birth certificate at the time of the final hearing.

Although the committee initially agreed to include language to complete the forms using blue or black ink only, the committee has now determined it may not be necessary. Upon review of California Rules of Court, rule 2.106, which states that the font on papers presented for filing must be black or blue-black, as well as rule 2.118, which states that a clerk may not reject a filing that is in handwriting in a color other than black or blue-black, the committee has decided not to include the proposed language. The remainder of the above suggestions were accepted and incorporated into the revisions the committee is recommending.

Another commenter suggested, where the filing fee is mentioned within this document, including language to alert the adoptive parents that a fee waiver may be sought. Although the committee appreciates this suggestion, it is unclear whether doing so would create the need for an entirely separate paragraph within the form to include information, hyperlinks to the self-help website on when and how to file a request for a fee waiver—and the possibility of the additional opportunity to request fee waivers for court investigations—and other costs that may be associated with an

adoption request. The committee carefully considered this request and included the actual filing fee for forms ADOPT-200 and ADOPT-203, stating that the filing fee is set by the Health and Safety Code.

Adoption Request (*form ADOPT-200*)

As discussed above, in response to a request in the invitation to comment for input as to whether there should be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parents' names, some commenters suggested including instructions to attach a sheet of paper to be used for any additional adoptive parents listed in item 1. A few typographical errors were also highlighted. All these suggestions and corrections were implemented.

Three commenters suggested leaving in the child's name after the adoption is finalized. One large court stated that it uses the child's new name to initiate the case in its case management system, and another large court stated that the information is used by the court to refer to the child throughout the life of the case. One commenter did not state a reason for their suggestion.

The committee initially determined that the name the child will have after the adoption should not be included in form ADOPT-200 and that, under relevant Family Code sections, the name is not required to be included. After careful consideration of the comments received about how some courts use the child's adoptive name for case management purposes, the committee determined that leaving the option of including the child's name after the adoption could be helpful; therefore, this information will remain in form ADOPT-200.

One comment suggested that the information regarding the birth parents' names not be removed from the form. The commenter explained that their court uses the names of the birth parents to verify court-received consents. The committee carefully considered this suggestion and determined that removing the names of the birth parents would reduce the possibility for confusion in instances where the listed individuals may not meet the statutory requirements of the term "birth parent," and thus would not be required to sign a consent or other documentation. Because the court receives supplemental information, such as reports and investigations, which identifies any persons who have or may have parental rights and what types of documentation or consents are necessary, the committee determined that there would be sufficient information in the file for the court to decide whether the court had received the appropriate consents.

The committee also reviewed the relevant family law statutory language regarding the information required to be provided within the requests for adoption—including Family Code sections 8802(d), 8714(d), 8912(b), and 9000(c)—which favors limiting information that can be contained within the caption and body of form ADOPT-200. Although the names of the birth parents are not prohibited to be provided within the requests for adoption, their names are not required to be included.

The committee also included informational boxes within the request for adoption form as well as within form ADOPT-050-INFO to alert prospective adoptive parents of these possible birth parents or other determinations of those who may have parental rights. The form also includes

hyperlinks to the Judicial Council’s Self-Help Guide to the California Courts on parentage and adoption procedures.

A large court suggested that the committee consider leaving in the hearing box on the face of the adoption request. The commenter stated that their county completes this box at the time the adoption request is filed and removing it would impact their adoption case initiation process in their juvenile court. The committee noted that before the distribution of the request for comment, it reached out to adoption professionals who indicated that the hearing is not typically set at the time of filing of this form, except in some adult adoptions. The committee carefully reviewed the statutory requirements for information to be included in the requests for adoption either by the adoptive parents or by the court, and there is no requirement that the information contained within the hearing box be included. However, the committee recommends leaving in the hearing box, and any court that uses this hearing box information will be able to do so.

Adoption Order (*form ADOPT-215*)

The committee received a question, rather than a comment, which asked if the address of the adoptive parents is needed if the adoptive parents have an attorney representing them. Although the committee appreciates this question, this question is outside the scope of the proposed changes and modifications during this review cycle. Additionally, such a change would require additional public comment; therefore, the committee determined that it may seek to address this comment in a future proposal.

Alternatives considered

The committee considered not making any changes to the forms. However, the committee concluded that a separate form would assist parties, the courts, and self-help center staff by simplifying the process of a frequent adoption request and one that is often pursued by self-represented litigants. The commenters were supportive of a separate form for stepparent adoptions and stepparent adoptions to confirm parentage.

The committee also considered developing a new information sheet specific to stepparent adoptions, but instead added significant new material and clarifications to the current form ADOPT-050-INFO so that all the information would be contained on one form. The committee also considered adding information to form ADOPT-050-INFO regarding remote hearings to finalize adoptions but concluded that it would be too confusing to include information about remote hearings while also ensuring self-represented litigants bring the required documents to the court hearing when it is held in person.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

Three commenters indicated that the proposal does not appear to provide any cost savings. Two commenters indicated that the proposal would require one-to-two or two-to-four hours of training for judicial officers and court staff.

The committee anticipates that this proposal will require courts to train court staff and judicial officers on the newly adopted and revised forms. Courts may also incur costs to incorporate the forms into the paper or electronic processes.

The committee received information from self-help centers before this proposal, which alerted the committee that on a regular basis the self-help centers were required to assist self-represented litigants with their adoption requests and with additional documentation such as consents and termination of parental rights. This includes help in completing forms, making corrections, and follow-up after self-represented litigants' requests were denied or continued by the court for lack of sufficient documentation. The committee anticipates that a separate stepparent adoption form will alleviate many of the issues self-represented litigants face and lessen the workload of the self-help centers. The committee also anticipates that by including more information in form ADOPT-50-INFO about the necessary paperwork, the number of continuances granted to gather the correct paperwork will decline.

Because these recommendations are being presented to the council at its November meeting, the committee is recommending a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2025. This will give courts 7.5 months to implement the new and revised forms.

Attachments and Links

1. Forms ADOPT-050-INFO, ADOPT-200, ADOPT-203, ADOPT-210, ADOPT-215, ADOPT-230, and ADOPT-310, at pages 12–37
2. Chart of comments, at pages 38–52
3. Link A: Assembly Bill 1650,
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1650

General Information on Adoptions

Before you begin

Seek legal advice about your family's options before beginning any adoption. Every family is different and adoption may not be necessary for some families. Visit the Self-Help Guide to the California Courts adoption page to get copies of adoption forms, look for organizations that provide legal help with adoptions, and learn how to complete the adoption process on your own if you do not have a lawyer: www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-adoption.htm. You can also get copies of adoption forms at your local court clerk's office.

What type of adoption will you be filing? In California there are several kinds of adoptions. This information sheet provides steps for the following types:

- Stepparent and domestic partnership
- Stepparent and domestic partnership confirmation of parentage
- Independent
- Agency (within the United States) and includes:
 - Agency placement or agency joinder
- Intercountry

For more information and definitions on these types of adoptions, see selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/adoptions.

What department or agency will be handling your home study or investigation?

In most adoptions, a home study or an investigation will be necessary.

- For independent adoptions
 - A regional office of the Department of Social Services (DSS).
 - An adoption agency.
 - For an independent adoption of a newborn, you must also choose an adoption services provider (ASP).

The ASP is an individual or an adoption agency personnel licensed and certified by the State of California. The role of this person is to explain to the birth parent their rights in the adoption process (before "placing" the child with you), and will witness the signing of documents and consent.

There is a listing of all providers who have been licensed as an ASP on the California Department of Social Services website. You can see the list by agency or the list by individual. The ASP will charge a fee. You must pay the fee as the adoptive parent.

- For more information on a home study or ASP, see selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/independent-adoption/placed.
- For stepparent adoptions, the court investigator or a privately hired, licensed clinical social worker or other appropriate licensed individual will be handling your home study or investigation. See selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/stepparent-adoption.

If you need more information about what office or agency can conduct your home study, you can visit the California Department of Social Services website. Find out what paperwork they will need from you and when it must be sent to them once you file your *Adoption Request*.

Documents needed in addition to the *Adoption Request*

For most adoptions, the adopting parent, their legal representative, or the agency will be required to obtain additional signed forms or certified documents. These documents can include:

- Consent or relinquishment for adoption
- Death certificate (if applies)
- Other court orders
- Waiver of notice or denial of parentage



ADOPT-050-INFO How to Adopt a Child in California

In certain situations additional court proceedings may be necessary. These may include:

- Petition freeing the child from parental custody and control and an order. (Note: This is a separate court action.)
- Petition to terminate parental rights of an alleged parent and an order. (Note: In some courts, this can be filed within the adoption case but in other courts it is a separate court action.)

Each of the above are specific procedures which must be followed based on the determination of the status of the parent. If this is an agency adoption, the agency will obtain the above information for the court.

This paperwork is needed to complete your adoption home-study or investigation.

The status of a parent is based on the relationship of that parent to the child and other factors. For definitions and more information about status of parent and what additional involvement or paperwork is needed, go to selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/adoptions.

Stepparent/Domestic Partner Adoptions

If you wish to adopt the child of your spouse or domestic partner, you may be eligible for a stepparent adoption. There are two types of stepparent adoptions. Answer these questions to figure out which process is right for you:

- Were you in a union with the child's legal parent **at the time the child was born** and are you **still in a union** with the legal parent? (A "union" means a marriage, a California registered domestic partnership, or a registered domestic partnership or civil union from another state that is legally equivalent to a marriage.)
- Did your **spouse or domestic partner give birth to the child** or was the child born through a **gestational surrogacy process** brought about by one or both of you?

If you answered no to **either** question, complete the items below for a **stepparent/domestic partner adoption**.

If you answered yes to **both** questions, complete the items below for a **stepparent adoption to confirm parentage**.

1 Fill out court forms

- ADOPT-203 *Stepparent Adoption Request* This tells the judge about you and the child you are adopting.
- ADOPT-210 *Adoption Agreement* This tells the judge that you and the child, if over 12, agree to the adoption. Fill it out, but do not sign it until the judge asks you to sign it.
- ADOPT-215 *Adoption Order* The judge signs this form if your adoption is approved.
- ICWA-010(A) *Indian Child Inquiry Attachment* This lets the judge know that you have asked whether the child may be an Indian child.
- ICWA-020 *Parental Notification of Indian Status* One form is required for each birth parent. This shows that the child's parents have been asked about potential Indian status.

Additional Forms for Stepparent Adoption to Confirm Parentage

- ADOPT-205 (or an equivalent declaration) *Declaration Confirming Parentage in Stepparent Adoption* This tells the court how you conceived your child and whether there are any other parents. Only use this if you are seeking a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage. See above for more information on this type of adoption. Both the birth parent and the adopting parent must complete a separate declaration.

-OR-

- ADOPT-206 (or an equivalent declaration) *Declaration Confirming Parentage in Stepparent Adoption: Gestational Surrogacy* This tells the court how you conceived your child and whether there are any other parents. Only use this if you are seeking a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage because the child was conceived through a gestational surrogate and was born outside of California, and the state where the child was born only allowed one intended parent to be named as a legal parent on the child's birth certificate.



2 Take your forms to court

Take the completed forms to the court clerk in the county where you live. The court will charge a \$20 filing fee (set by Health and Safety Code section 103730). Or take the forms to your lawyer or adoption agency, if you are using one. If there is no hearing, form ADOPT-210 must be signed in front of the court clerk or a notary.

Note: In a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage, no investigation or hearing is required unless ordered by the court for good cause. Sign form ADOPT-210 in front of a notary or the court clerk when you file the forms and a judge will review your request. If the paperwork is complete and you meet the requirements, the judge will sign the *Adoption Order* (form ADOPT-215) and the adoption is complete. You and your attorney will receive copies. If the judge orders an investigation and hearing, go to the next steps.

3 An investigation is completed

In most stepparent adoptions an investigation or a report must be completed before the final hearing. This will be completed by either someone you identified in the request or who was ordered by the court. To begin the investigation you will be required to send the *Adoption Request* and supporting documentation to the investigator. A home visit may also be required.

4 Go to court on the date of your hearing

Bring:

- The child you are adopting;
- Form ADOPT-210;
- Form ADOPT-215;
- A camera, if you want a photo of you and your child with the judge (*optional*); and
- Friends/relatives (*optional*).

California Department of Social Services form VS-44 may be needed (see selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/stepparent-adoption/prepare-lodge-forms).

Independent or Agency Adoptions in the United States

If this is an independent or agency adoption in the United States, complete items 1 through 4 below.

Note: The rights of the existing parents usually terminate with adoptions. In an independent adoption, if the existing and adopting parents agree, the rights of the existing parents do not have to be terminated. See Family Code section 8617(b).

1 Fill out court forms

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| • ADOPT-200 | <i>Adoption Request</i> | This tells the judge about you and the child you are adopting. |
| • ADOPT-210 | <i>Adoption Agreement</i> | This tells the judge that you and the child, if over 12, agree to the adoption. Fill it out, but do not sign it until the judge asks you to sign it. |
| • ADOPT-215 | <i>Adoption Order</i> | The judge signs this form if your adoption is approved. |
| • ADOPT-230 | <i>Adoption Expenses</i> | This lets the judge know what payments were made that relate to the child you are adopting. |
| • ICWA-010(A)* | <i>Indian Child Inquiry Attachment</i> | This lets the judge know that the required questions have been asked to determine whether the child may be an Indian child. |
| • ICWA-020* | <i>Parental Notification of Indian Status</i> | One form is required for each birth parent. This shows that the child's parents have been asked about potential Indian status. |

*The agency or adoption service provider is responsible for getting these forms completed and making them part of the adoption file for adoptions under the Welfare and Institutions Code; other evidence, including court orders regarding ICWA may be necessary.



2 Take your forms to court

Take the completed forms to the court clerk in the county where you live. The court will charge a \$20.00 filing fee (set by Health and Safety Code section 103730). Or take the forms to your lawyer or adoption agency, if you are using one.

3 The social worker writes a report

In most adoptions, a social worker writes a report. This report gives important information to the judge about the adopting parents and the child. The social worker will ask you questions. You may have to fill out forms. You may be required to pay a fee for this report. The social worker will file the report with the court and send you and your attorney a copy. When you get the report, ask the clerk for a date for your adoption hearing.

4 Go to court on the date of your hearing

Bring:

- The child you are adopting;
- Form ADOPT-210;
- Form ADOPT-215;
- Form ADOPT-230;
- A camera, if you want a photo of you and your child with the judge (*optional*); and
- Friends/relatives (*optional*).

Intercountry Adoptions

If this is an intercountry (international) adoption, complete items 1 through 6 below.

Note: You must follow this process to adopt your child under California law, even if the adoption was previously finalized in a foreign country. If the child's adoption was finalized in a foreign country, you must file the *Adoption Request* within the earlier of 60 days of the child's entry to the United States, or the child's 16th birthday.

1 Fill out court forms

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| • ADOPT-200 | <i>Adoption Request</i> | This tells the judge about you and the child you are adopting. |
| • ADOPT-210 | <i>Adoption Agreement</i> | This tells the judge that you and the child, if over 12, agree to the adoption. Fill it out, but do not sign it until the judge asks you to sign it. |
| • ADOPT-215 | <i>Adoption Order</i> | The judge signs this form if your adoption is approved. |
| • ADOPT-230 | <i>Adoption Expenses</i> | This lets the judge know what payments were made that relate to the child you are adopting. |
| • ICWA-010(A) | <i>Indian Child Inquiry Attachment</i> | This lets the judge know that you have asked whether the child may be an Indian child. |
| • ICWA-020 | <i>Parental Notification of Indian Status</i> | One form is required for each birth parent. This shows that the child's parents have been asked about potential Indian status. |

2 Postadoption or postplacement visits and reports

If the child's adoption was finalized in a foreign country, there will be at least one postadoption visit provided by the international adoption agency. The report of this visit must be submitted to the court as described below. If the child was born in a foreign country and placed with a California family for adoption in this state, the adoption agency must provide postplacement supervision with up to four visits. These reports are also provided to the court.

3 Attach documentation

If the child's adoption was finalized in a foreign country, you must attach the following documents to your *Adoption Request*:

- A certified or otherwise official copy of the foreign decree, order, or certification of adoption that reflects finalization of the adoption in the foreign country;
- A certified or otherwise official copy of the child's foreign birth certificate;
- A certified translation of all required documents that are not written in English;
- Proof that the child was granted lawful entry into the United States as an immediate relative of the adoptive parent or parents;
- A report from at least one postplacement home visit by an intercountry adoption agency or a contractor of that agency licensed to provide intercountry adoption services in the state of California; and
- A copy of the home study report previously completed for the international finalized adoption by an adoption agency authorized to provide intercountry adoption services, in accordance with Family Code section 8900.

4 Take your forms to court

Take the completed forms and any required documents to the court clerk in the county where you live. The court will charge a \$20.00 filing fee (set by Health and Safety Code section 103730). Or take the forms to your lawyer or adoption agency, if you are using one.

5 Provide a copy of the forms and documents

If the child's adoption was finalized in a foreign country, provide a copy of the forms and documentation you filed with the court to any adoption agency that provided services to you for your international adoption.

6 Go to court on the date of your hearing

Bring:

- The child you are adopting;
- Form ADOPT-210;
- Form ADOPT-215;
- Form ADOPT-230;
- A camera, if you want a photo of you and your child with the judge (*optional*); and
- Friends/relatives (*optional*).

Inquiry and Notice Under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

- The child and other people in the child's life (parents and extended family members, see definition below) must be asked specific questions in order to determine whether the child may be an Indian child. The *Indian Child Inquiry Attachment* (form [ICWA-010\(A\)](#)) should be attached to the *Adoption Request*. In agency adoptions, it is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that this inquiry is conducted and that the form is made part of the adoption file. In independent adoptions, the adoption service provider, CDSS Regional Office, or delegated county adoption agency is responsible. For more information about the duty of inquiry, see form [ICWA-005-INFO](#).
- Extended family member is defined by law or custom of the Indian child's tribe or, if no law or custom, must be a person who is 18 years or older and who is the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or stepparent. (25 U.S.C. § 1903(2)(2).)
- A completed version of *Parental Notification of Indian Status* (form [ICWA-020](#)) for each birth parent should be attached to the *Adoption Request*, OR it should be shown that a good faith attempt was made to provide the form to each birth parent, the Indian custodian, or guardian of the child and inform them that they are required to complete and submit the form to the court. In agency adoptions, it is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that this form is provided to the birth parents and made part of the adoption file. In independent adoptions, the adoption service provider, CDSS Regional Office, or delegated county adoption agency is responsible.



- If there is **reason to believe** that the child is or may be an Indian child, additional inquiry is required. For more information about the duty of inquiry, see form [ICWA-005-INFO](#).
- If, at any time during the proceeding, there is **reason to know** that the child is an Indian child, notice must be provided of the adoption request to the child's tribe or tribes, parents, Indian custodian, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, using *Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child* (form [ICWA-030](#)). This form must be served by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested.
- Reason to know a child is an Indian child means that (1) a person having an interest in the child, including the child, informs the court the child is an Indian child; or (2) the child, the child's parents, or Indian custodian lives on a reservation or in an Alaska Native village; or (3) any person, tribe, or organization informs the court that it has discovered information indicating that the child is an Indian child. The court must proceed per rule 5.481(b)(3) of the California Rules of Court.
- If it is determined that the child is an **Indian child** or this is a tribal customary adoption, see Adoption of an Indian Child, below.

Adoption of an Indian Child

If you are adopting an Indian child, fill out and bring to court the following additional forms:

- Adoption of Indian Child* (form ADOPT-220); and
- Parent of Indian Child Agrees to End Parental Rights* (form ADOPT-225).

If this is a tribal customary adoption, a copy of the tribal customary adoption order must be attached to the petition (form ADOPT-200) and the order (form ADOPT-215).

Note: An Indian child who has reached the age of 18 and who was placed for adoption, may apply to the court which entered the final order or decree. That court shall inform that child of their tribal affiliation, if any, of the child's biological parents and provide such other information as may be necessary to protect any rights flowing from the child's tribal relationship. [USC 25, Chpt.21,Section 1917]

“Open” Adoption and Use of *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (Family Code Section 8616.5)

If you want your child to have contact with their birth relatives after the adoption, you can use *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310). This form describes the kind of contact the birth relatives will have with your child after the adoption is finalized. If you use this form, fill it out and file this form with the court before the finalization hearing or order of the court. A file-marked copy of this agreement must be provided within 30 days of filing to all adult parties to this agreement and any licensed agency that placed the child or consented to the adoption, and the child, if over the age of 12.

Important: This is a voluntary agreement and is not required for the finalization of the adoption. If you chose to use this form, it will become part of the adoption file and will be enforceable by the court.

The adoptive parent or parents, the child, and the child's birth relatives can agree to continuing contact without using this form, but unless that agreement is in writing and attached to the *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT-310) it may not be enforced by the court if it is not followed.

Birth relatives are birth parents, siblings, and other birth relatives. For Indian children, this can also include the child's Indian tribe.

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

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the Judicial Council
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Instructions

This request must be completed for agency, independent, intercountry, and tribal customary adoptions. For a stepparent adoption or a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage, use [Stepparent Adoption Request \(form ADOPT-203\)](#). Fill out one adoption request for each child to be adopted.

You may also need to provide additional forms, certified documents, or other paperwork to inform the judge of the status of a parent or possible parent who may have parental rights in these proceedings and how that parent will or will not participate in these proceedings.

For more information on the different types of adoptions and how to determine the status of a parent and the documentation that may be required, see form [ADOPT-050- INFO](#), selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/adoptions, or visit your local county court self-help center before filling out this form.

Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of

Court fills in case number when form is filed.

Case Number:**1 Adopting parent or parents**

- a. Name: _____
- b. Name: _____
- c. Street address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone number: _____
- d. Relationship to child: _____
- e. Lawyer (if any) (name, address, telephone numbers, email address, and State Bar number): _____

Check this box if there are more adopting parents. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-200, Other Adoptive Parents" at the top and complete a–e. Turn it in with this form.

2 Hearing is set for:

(To be completed by the clerk of the superior court if a hearing date is available.)



Date: _____ Time: _____ a.m. p.m. Dept.: _____ Room: _____
 Name and address of court if different from above: _____

To the person served with this request: If you do not come to this hearing, the judge can order the adoption without your input.

3 Each adopting parent:

- a. Is at least 10 years older than the child or meets the criteria in Family Code section 8601(b);
- b. Will treat the child as their own;
- c. Will support and care for the child;
- d. Has a suitable home for the child; *and*
- e. Agrees to adopt the child.



Adopting parent or parents:

4 County of filingThis *Adoption Request* is filed in this court because (*check all that apply*):

- a. An adopting parent lives in this county;
- b. The child was born in or the child now lives in this county;
- c. An office of the agency that placed the child or is filing the request for adoption is located in this county;
- d. An office of the department or public adoption agency that is investigating the request is located in this county;
- e. A placing birth parent lived in this county when the adoptive placement agreement, consent, or relinquishment was signed;
- f. A placing birth parent lived in this county when the request was filed;
- g. The child was freed for adoption in this county.

(Note: If the child is a dependent of the court (*in foster care*), this *Adoption Request* must be filed in the county where the child was freed for adoption or the county where the adopting parent or parents reside. See Family Code sections 8714 and 8714.5). For more information on dependent children, selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/juvenile-dependency.

5 Type of adoption

Check one of the following:

- a. Agency (*name*): _____ Relative Nonrelative
 Tribal customary adoption (*attach tribal customary adoption order*)
- b. Independent: Relative Nonrelative Additional Parent (*more than two*)
- c. Intercountry (*name of agency*): _____

6 Information about the child

- a. Child's name before adoption (only for independent, intercountry, tribal customary adoption, or dependent child's adoption by a relative (Family Code, § 8714.5):

- b. Gender: Female Male Nonbinary
- c. Date of birth: _____
- d. Child's address (*if different from address of adopting parent or parents*):
 Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- e. Place of birth (*if known*): City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____
- f. If the child is 12 or older, does the child agree to the adoption? Yes No
- g. Date child was placed in the physical care of the adopting parent or parents: _____
- h. The child was conceived by assisted reproduction in compliance with Family Code section 7613. Yes No
- i. The child is a dependent of the court. Yes No (If yes, add Juvenile Case No. and County)
 Juvenile Case No. _____ County: _____
- j. The child's new name will be: _____



Adopting parent or parents:

7 Legal guardian

Does the child have a legal guardian? Yes No (If yes, attach *Letters of Guardianship* or fill out below.)

- a. Date guardianship ordered: _____
- b. County: _____
- c. Case number: _____

8 Inquiry and notice under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

- a. The inquiry required under law to determine whether the child may be an Indian child has been made, and a completed *Indian Child Inquiry Attachment* (form ICWA-010(A)) is attached.
 Note: In agency adoptions, it is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that this inquiry is conducted and the form is made part of the file. In independent adoptions, the adoption service provider, CDSS Regional Office, or delegated county adoption agency is responsible. For adoptions of a dependent child under the Welfare and Institutions Code, other evidence, including court orders regarding ICWA, may be necessary.
- b. A completed version of *Parental Notification of Indian Status* (form ICWA-020) is attached OR a good faith attempt has been made to provide the form to the parents, Indian custodian, or guardian of the child and inform them that they are required to complete and submit the form to the court.
 Note: In agency adoptions, it is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that these forms are made part of the file. In independent adoptions, the adoption service provider, CDSS Regional Office, or delegated county adoption agency is responsible.
- c. There is **reason to know** that this child is an Indian child. Notice of the adoption request will be provided to the child's tribe or tribes, parents, Indian custodian, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, using *Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child* (form ICWA-030).

For more information on these requirements and for definitions, see form [ADOPT-050-INFO](#).

9 Adoption of an Indian child

- a. This is an adoption of an Indian child. The adopting parent or parents have filled out and attached *Adoption of Indian Child* (form ADOPT-220) and will bring *Parent of Indian Child Agrees to End Parental Rights* (form ADOPT-225) to the hearing.
- b. This is a tribal customary adoption under Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.24. Parental rights have been modified under and in accordance with the attached tribal customary adoption order, and the child has been ordered placed for adoption.

10 Agency adoption information

- a. The adopting parent or parents have received information about the Adoption Assistance Program, the Regional Center, mental health services available through Medi-Cal or other programs, and federal and state tax credits that may be available.
- b. Joinder is being filed at same time as this *Adoption Request*.
- c. Joinder will be filed.



Adopting parent or parents: _____

11 Independent adoption information

- a. The adopting parent or parents will file promptly with the department or delegated county adoption agency the information required by the department in the investigation of the proposed adoption.
- b. A copy of the *Independent Adoption Placement Agreement* from the California Department of Social Services is attached. (This is required in most independent adoptions; see Family Code section 8802.)
- c. All persons with parental rights agree to the adoption and have signed the *Independent Adoptive Placement Agreement* or consent on the appropriate California Department of Social Services form.

(List the name and relationship to child of each person who has not signed the agreement form):

- d. The child will have more than two parents. The following persons with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights:

(1) Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____
 Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____

- (2) An agreement waiving termination of parental rights, signed by both the existing parents and the adopting parent or parents, was filed with the court.

Note: If a person who may have parental rights has not signed a consent or relinquishment, the adopting parent or parents must obtain other signed documents or file for termination of parental rights or other action.

12 Intercountry and California re-adoption questions

- a. This adoption may be subject to the Hague Adoption Convention (form [ADOPT-216](#) may be required to be filed with this request. See Calif. Rules of Court 5.490-5.493).
- b. This is an adoption conducted under the requirements of the Hague Adoption Convention and the child has already moved with the adopting parent or parents to another Hague Convention member country or will be moving at the conclusion of this adoption.

Child will be moving or has moved to (name of country): _____
 Adopting parent or parents: seek(s) a California adoption will be petitioning for a Hague Adoption Certificate will be seeking a Hague Custody Declaration.

- c. This is an intercountry re-adoption. The adoption was finalized in another country before the child entered the United States with the adopting parent or parents.

Date the child entered the United States: _____
 See form [ADOPT-050-INFO](#) for a list of documents to attach to this *Adoption Request*.

13 Contact after adoption (optional)

Contact After Adoption Agreement (form [ADOPT-310](#)) (Family Code, § 8616.5)

- a. is attached.
- b. is attached as required in Family Code section 8714.50 (dependent child agency adoption).
- c. will be completed as required in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16002 between siblings and filed before the adoption hearing.
- d. will be filed before the adoption hearing.
- e. This is a tribal customary adoption. Postadoption contact is governed by the attached tribal customary adoption order.

For more information, see form [ADOPT-050-INFO](#).



Adopting parent or parents:

Additional Information Needed

If there are any other persons who are or may be the child's parent, you will be required to obtain additional forms, submit specified paperwork, and possibly participate in additional court proceedings. Other paperwork or additional court proceedings may be necessary. During the adoption process, you must provide additional documents to the court or the department or agency handling your home study. These documents can include:

- Consent or relinquishment for adoption—properly signed and accepted by court.
- Death certificates, prior court orders, or pending court orders.
- Waiver or denial of parentage—properly signed and accepted by court.

Additional court proceedings can include:

- Filing a petition and order freeing the child from parental custody and control. This is a separate action.
- Filing a petition and order terminating parental rights of an alleged father. This action can be filed within the adoption process.

Important: Seek the advice of an attorney. Refer to form [ADOPT-050-INFO](#), see also <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/adoptions>, or visit your local county court self-help center for more information.


14 Requests to court

- a. The adopting parent or parents ask the court to approve the adoption and to declare that the adopting parent or parents and the child have the legal relationship of parent and child, with all the rights and duties of this relationship, including the right of inheritance.
- b. The adopting parent or parents ask the court to date its order approving the adoption as of an earlier (date): _____ for the following reason (Family Code, § 8601.5):


 (Enter a date no earlier than the date parental rights were ended.)

- c. This is a tribal customary adoption. The adopting parent or parents ask the court to approve the adoption and to declare that the adopting parent or parents and the child have the legal relationship of parent and child, with all of the rights and duties stated in the attached tribal customary adoption order and in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.24.

15 If a lawyer is representing you in this case, the lawyer must sign here:

Date: _____ *Type or print lawyer's name*  _____ *Signature of lawyer for adopting parent or parents*

16 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in this form and all its attachments is true and correct to my knowledge. This means that if I lie on this form, I am guilty of a crime.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name*  _____ *Signature of adopting parent*

Date: _____ *Type or print your name*  _____ *Signature of adopting parent*

Date: _____ *Type or print your name*  _____ *Signature of adopting parent*

NOTICE—ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE: Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay toward high-quality affordable health care. For more information, visit www.coveredca.com, or call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506 (English) or 1-800-300-0213 (Spanish).

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

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Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of

Court fills in case number when form is filed.

Case Number:

Instructions

Use this form for a stepparent adoption or a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage. If you are adopting more than one child, fill out an adoption request for each child.

For more information on stepparent adoption and how to fill out this form, see form ADOPT-050-INFO and selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/stepparent-adoption.

If there are any other persons who are or may be the child's parent, you will be required to obtain additional forms, submit specified paperwork, and possibly participate in additional court proceedings. You will be required to provide all documentation to the court or the investigator during the adoption process.

For more information, see stepparent adoption in California selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/stepparent-adoption.

1 Adopting parent

- a. Name: _____
- b. Street address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone number: _____
- c. Lawyer (if any) (Name, State Bar number, address, telephone numbers, email): _____

Check this box if there are more stepparents requesting adoption. They should file a separate *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203).

2 Hearing is set for:

(To be completed by the clerk of the superior court if a hearing date is available.)



Date: _____ Time: _____ a.m. p.m. Dept.: _____ Room: _____
 Name and address of court if different from above: _____

3 The adopting parent

- a. Will treat the child as their own;
 b. Will support and care for the child;
 c. Has a suitable home for the child; *and*
 d. Agrees to adopt the child.

4 County of filing

This *Stepparent Adoption Request* is filed in this court because (check all that apply):

- a. The adopting parent lives in this county;
 b. The child was born in or the child now lives in this county;
 c. An office of the department or public adoption agency that is investigating the request is located in this county;
 d. A placing birth parent lived in this county when the consent was signed;



Name of adopting parent: _____

Case Number: _____

- 4 e. A birth parent who will be retaining custody lived in this county when the request was filed;
- f. The child was freed for adoption in this county.

5 **Type of stepparent adoption (check all that apply):**

- a. The adopting parent is married to or in a registered domestic partnership with the legal parent of a child the adopting parent is seeking to adopt. (*Attach proof of the marriage or domestic partnership.*)
The adopting parent married or entered into a registered domestic partnership with the legal parent on (date): _____
(*For court use only. There is no waiting period.*)
- b. The adopting parent is seeking a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage. At the time the child was born, the adopting parent was married to or in a state-registered domestic partnership with the parent who gave birth or whose parentage was established through a gestational surrogacy process, and we remain in that union. See attached:
 - (1) Form ADOPT-205, *Declaration Confirming Parentage in Stepparent Adoption*
 - (2) Form ADOPT-206, *Declaration Confirming Parentage in Stepparent Adoption: Gestational Surrogacy*
 - (3) Declaration describing the circumstances of the child’s conception.
- c. The child will have more than two parents. The following persons with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights:
 - (1) Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____
Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____
 - (2) An agreement waiving termination of parental rights, signed by both the existing parents and the adopting parent or parents, was filed with the court.

Note: If a person who may have parental rights has not signed a consent or relinquishment, the adopting parent or parents must obtain other signed documents or file for termination of parental rights or other action.

6 **Information about the child**

- a. Name before adoption: _____
- b. Gender: Female Male Nonbinary
- c. Date of birth: _____
- d. Address (*if different from address of adopting parent*)
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- e. Place of birth (*if known*): City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____
- f. If the child is 12 or older, does the child agree to the adoption? Yes No
- g. The child was conceived by assisted reproduction in compliance with Family Code section 7613.

7 **Legal guardian**

- Does the child have a court-ordered guardian appointed? Yes No
(If yes, attach *Letters of Guardianship* or fill out below.)
- a. Date guardianship ordered: _____ b. County: _____ c. Case number: _____

8 **Inquiry and notice under the Indian Child Welfare Act**

- a. The inquiry required under law to determine whether the child may be an Indian child has been made, and a completed *Indian Child Inquiry Attachment* (form ICWA-010(A)) is attached.



Name of adopting parent: _____

Case Number:

- 8 b. A completed version of *Parental Notification of Indian Status* (form ICWA-020) is attached, OR a good faith attempt has been made to provide the form to the parents, Indian custodian, or guardian of the child and inform them that they are required to complete and submit the form to the court.
- c. There is **reason to know** that this child is an Indian child. Notice of the adoption request will be provided to the child's tribe or tribes, parents, Indian custodian, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, using *Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child* (form ICWA-030).

9 **Adoption of an Indian child**

- a. This is an adoption of an Indian child. The adopting parent has filled out and attached *Adoption of Indian Child* (form ADOPT-220) and will bring *Parent of Indian Child Agrees to End Parental Rights* (form ADOPT-225) to the hearing.
- b. This is a tribal customary adoption under Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.24. Parental rights have been modified under and in accordance with the attached tribal customary adoption order, and the child has been ordered placed for adoption.

10 **Contact after adoption (check any that apply):**

Contact After Adoption Agreement ([form ADOPT-310](#))

- a. is attached
- b. will be filed before the final adoption hearing.
(For more information, see form ADOPT-050-INFO; Family Code section 8616.5)

11 **Investigation or written report (check one):**

The investigation or written report will be completed as follows:

- a. I will choose someone to do an investigation or written report and will pay them directly. I understand that this person must be a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or work for a licensed private adoption agency.
- b. I would like the court to choose someone to do an investigation. I understand that the court can charge me money for this investigation.
- c. This is an adoption to confirm parentage. No investigation is required unless court-ordered for good cause.

Additional Information Needed

If there are any other persons who are or may be the child's parent, you will be required to obtain additional forms, submit specified paperwork, and possibly participate in additional court proceedings. You must provide additional documents to the court or the investigator during the adoption process. These documents can include:

- Consent or relinquishment for adoption—properly signed and accepted by court.
- Death certificates, prior court orders, or pending court orders.
- Waiver or denial of parentage—properly signed and accepted by court.

Additional court proceedings can include:

- Filing a petition and order freeing the child from parental custody and control. This is a separate action.
- Filing a petition and order terminating parental rights of an alleged father. This action can be filed within the adoption process.

For more information, see: selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/stepparent-adoption.



Name of adopting parent: _____


Case Number: _____

12 Requests to court


- a. I ask the court to approve the adoption and to declare that the adopting parent and the child have the legal relationship of parent and child, with all the rights and duties of this relationship, including the right of inheritance.
- b. I ask the court to date its order approving the adoption as of an earlier date (date): _____
for the following reason (Family Code, § 8601.5):

(Enter a date no earlier than the date parental rights were ended.)

13 If a lawyer is representing you in this case, the lawyer must sign here:

Date: _____ *Type or print lawyer's name*  _____ *Signature of lawyer for adopting parent*

14 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in this form and all its attachments is true and correct to my knowledge. This means that if I lie on this form, I am guilty of a crime.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name*  _____ *Signature of adopting parent*

NOTICE—ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE: Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay toward high-quality affordable health care. For more information, visit www.coveredca.com, or call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506 (English) or 1-800-300-0213 (Spanish).

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

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the Judicial Council
ADOPT-210.v19.091924.am

Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of

Court fills in case number when form is filed.

Case Number:

1 Adopting parent or parents

a. Name: _____

b. Name: _____

c. Address (skip this if you have a lawyer): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____

d. Lawyer (if any) (name, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, and State Bar number): _____

Check this box if there are more adopting parents. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-210, Other Adopting Parents" at the top and complete a-d. Turn it in with this form.

2 Information about the child

Child's name before adoption: _____

Child's name after adoption: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

Signing this form:

- Adoptions usually require a hearing where most signatures on this form must be completed in front of a judge.
- Item **(5)** may be signed before the hearing.
- If this is a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage involving a spouse or registered domestic partner who gave birth to the child or established parentage over a child born through gestational surrogacy during the union, usually no hearing is required and you may sign this form in front of a proper witness. See item 9a for instructions on having your signature properly witnessed. If the court orders a hearing in this case, you must sign this form at the hearing in front of the judge.
- All other signatures must be signed at a hearing, in front of a judge, unless waived by the judge for good cause.

3 I am the child listed in **(2)** and I agree to the adoption. (Not required in the case of a tribal customary adoption under Welf. & Inst. Code, § 366.24.)

Date: _____
Type or print your name

▶ _____
Signature of child (child must sign if 12 or older;
optional if child is under 12)

4 If there is **one** adopting parent (including stepparent), read and sign:

I am the adopting parent listed in **(1)**, and I agree that the child will:

- a. Be adopted and treated as my legal child (Family Code, § 8612(b)) and
- b. Have the same rights as a natural child born to me, including the right to inherit my estate.

Date: _____
Type or print your name

▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent



Adopting parent or parents:

- 5 If the adopting parent is married and not separated, the consent of their spouse is required (Family Code, § 8603). Spouse must sign here:

I am married to, or am the registered domestic partner of, the adopting parent listed in ①, and I am not a party to this adoption. I agree to the adoption of the child by the adopting parent listed in ①.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
*Signature of spouse or registered domestic partner
(may be signed before hearing)*

- 6 For stepparent adoptions only:
If you are the legal parent of the child listed in ②, read and sign below.

I am the legal parent of the child and am the spouse or registered domestic partner of the adopting parent listed in ①. I agree to the adoption of my child by the adopting parent listed in ①.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
Signature of legal parent

- 7 If there is more than one adopting parent, read and sign below.

We are the adopting parents listed in ①, and we agree that the child will:

- a. Be adopted and treated as our legal child (Family Code, § 8612(b)); and
- b. Have the same rights as a natural child born to us, including the right to inherit our estate.

I agree to the other parent's or parents' adoption of the child.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

I agree to the other parent's or parents' adoption of the child.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

I agree to the other parent's or parents' adoption of the child.

Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

- Check this box if there are more adopting parents. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-210, Item 7" at the top and include name, signature, and date signed. Turn it in with this form.

- 8 If this is a tribal customary adoption, read and sign below.

I or we are the adopting parents listed in ①, and I or we agree that the child will:

- a. Be adopted and treated as my/our legal child (Family Code, § 8612(b)) and
- b. Have the same rights and duties stated in the tribal customary adoption order dated _____ (copy attached).

Adopting parent or parents: _____

8 Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

Date: _____ *Type or print your name* ▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

Check this box if there are more adopting parents. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-210, Item 8" at the top and include name, signature, and date signed. Turn it in with this form.

9 Executed (check one):

a. This form was signed outside of a hearing. (Select this option for *either* a stepparent adoption to confirm parentage under Family Code section 9000.5, where the court did not order a hearing for good cause, or if the court waived appearance under Family Code, section 8613 or 8613.5.)

(1) This form was signed **in** California.
This form was signed in front of the following type of witness (check one):

- Notary public (the notary acknowledgment is attached)
- Court clerk
- Probation officer
- Qualified court investigator
- Authorized representative of a licensed adoption agency
- County welfare department staff member

(2) This form was signed **outside** of California.
This form was signed in front of the following type of witness (check one):

- Notary public (the notary acknowledgment is attached)
- Other person authorized to perform notarial acts (proof of notarization is attached)
- Authorized representative of an adoption agency that is licensed in the state or country where this form was signed

(3) Witness information

This form was signed in: (county) _____ (state) _____ (country) _____

Name of witness: _____

Agency witness works for (if applicable): _____

Date: _____

Witness signature: ▶ _____

b. This form was signed at a hearing in front of a judicial officer. (The judge will date and sign the form below.)

c. This form was signed by the adopting parent or parents either before or while the adopting parent or parents were attending a remote hearing and was acknowledged by the judicial officer. (The judge will date and sign the form below.)

Date: _____

Judge or Judicial Officer

ADOPT-215 Adoption Order

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

DRAFT
Not approved by
the Judicial Council
ADOPT-215.v19.092024.jh

Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of

Court fills in case number when form is filed.

Case Number:

1 Adopting parent or parents

- a. Name: _____
b. Name: _____
c. Name: _____
d. Street address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime telephone number: _____
e. Additional street address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime telephone number: _____
f. Lawyer (if any) (name, address, telephone number, email address, and State Bar number): _____

2 Information about the child

- Child's name after adoption:
- a. First name: _____
b. Middle name: _____
c. Last name: _____
d. Date of birth: _____ Age: _____
e. Place of birth (if known): _____
City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____

3 Name of adoption agency (if any): _____

4 Hearing details

- a. Hearing date: _____ Dept.: _____ Div.: _____ Rm.: _____
b. Judicial officer: _____ Clerk's office telephone number: _____
c. People present at the hearing:
 Adopting parent or parents Lawyer for adopting parent or parents
 Child Child's lawyer
 Parent or parents keeping parental rights: _____
 Other people present (list each name and relationship to child):
(1) _____
(2) _____
 Check here if there are more names. Attach a sheet of paper, write "ADOPT-215, Item 4" at the top, and list the additional names and each person's relationship to child. You may use form MC-025, Attachment.



Adopting parent or parents: _____

Case Number: _____

- 4 d. The hearing is waived pursuant to Family Code section 9000.5 (Check this box only if this is an adoption confirming parentage of a parent who was married to or in a state-registered domestic partnership, including a registered domestic partnership or civil union from another jurisdiction, with the legal parent at the time the child was born.)

Judge will fill out section below.

- 5 The judge finds that the child (check all that apply):

- a. Is 12 or older and agrees to the adoption
b. Is under 12
c. Is not required to consent because this is a tribal customary adoption.

- 6 The judge has reviewed the report and other documents and evidence and finds that:

a. Proper notice to all persons with actual or possible parental rights has been provided and their voluntary or nonvoluntary participation is documented in the court file.

b. Each adopting parent:

- (1) Is at least 10 years older than the child or meets the criteria in Family Code section 8601(b);
(2) Will treat the child as their own;
(3) Will support and care for the child;
(4) Has a suitable home for the child; and
(5) Agrees to adopt the child.

- 7 Child's name before adoption

Complete for nonrelative agency, independent, intercountry, or stepparent adoption.

If this is an adoption of a dependent child by a relative filed under Family Code section 8714.5, complete only if requested by the adopting relative or by the child being adopted, if 12 years of age or older.

First name: _____ Middle name: _____ Last name: _____

- 8 The child is an Indian child. The judge finds that this adoption meets the placement requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act or that there is good cause to give preference to these adopting parent or parents. The clerk will fill out 14 below.

- 9 The judge approves the Contact After Adoption Agreement (form [ADOPT-310](#))

- As submitted As amended on form ADOPT-310

- 10 This is a tribal customary adoption. The tribal customary adoption order of the _____ tribe dated _____ containing _____ pages and attached hereto is fully incorporated into this order of adoption.

- 11 This is an adoption under the Hague Adoption Convention. Verification of Compliance with Hague Adoption Convention Attachment (form ADOPT-216) is attached and fully incorporated into this order.



Adopting parent or parents: _____

Case Number: _____

12 (Do not complete for intercountry adoptions.) The child will have more than two parents. The following persons with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights:

a. Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____
Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____

b. An agreement waiving termination of parental rights, signed by both the existing parents and the adopting parent or parents, was filed with the court.

13 The judge believes the adoption is in the child’s best interest and orders this adoption. The child’s name after adoption will be:

First name: _____ Middle name: _____ Last name: _____

The adopting parent or parents and the child are now parent and child under the law, with all the rights and duties of the parent-child relationship or, in the case of a tribal customary adoption, all the rights and duties set out in the tribal customary adoption order and Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.24.

The judge believes it will serve public policy and the best interest of the child to grant the request of the adopting parent or parents for the court to make this order effective as of (date): _____.

Date: _____
(Date of Signature)

Judge or Judicial Officer

Clerk will fill out section below.

14 Clerk’s Certificate of Mailing

For the adoption of an Indian child, the clerk certifies:

I am not a party to this adoption. I placed a filed copy of:

- Adoption Request (form ADOPT-200) Adoption of Indian Child (form ADOPT-220)
- Adoption Order (form ADOPT-215) Contact After Adoption Agreement (form ADOPT-310)

in a sealed envelope, marked “Confidential” and addressed to:

Chief, Division of Social Services
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 310-SIB
Washington, DC 20240

The envelope was mailed by U.S. mail, with full postage, from:

Place: _____ on (date): _____

Date: _____ Clerk, by: _____, Deputy

ADOPT-230 Adoption Expenses

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

DRAFT
Not approved by
the Judicial Council
ADOPT-230.v12.092024.jh

If you are adopting your stepchild, do not fill out this form.

- ① a. Your name (adopting parent or parents):
 (1) _____
 (2) _____
- b. Address (skip this if you have a lawyer):
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- c. Telephone number: _____
- d. Lawyer (if any): (Name, address, telephone number, and State Bar number): _____

- Check this box if there are more adopting parents. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-230, Other Adopting Parents" at the top and complete a–d. Turn it in with this form.

Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of _____

Fill in case number if known:

Case Number: _____

② Name of child after adoption:

③ List services you received that were related to the adoption of the child listed in ②. Include all medical, hospital, attorney, legal fees and costs, doctors and physicians, surgeons, licensed adoption agency, or any other person or organization that received payment in connection with the birth of the child, expenses, and services received by either birth parent or by the child. (Examples of other services provided: prenatal care, transportation, counseling, adoption service provider, pregnancy expenses, court filing fees, fingerprinting fees.)

Service	Name and address of service provider	How much paid, or value of service	Payment date
a. _____	_____ _____	\$ _____	_____
b. _____	_____ _____	\$ _____	_____
c. _____	_____ _____	\$ _____	_____
d. _____	_____ _____	\$ _____	_____



Adopting parent or parents: _____

Service	Name and address of service provider	How much paid, or value of service	Payment date
e. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
f. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
g. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
h. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
i. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
j. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
k. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____
l. _____	_____	\$ _____	_____

Check this box if you need more space to list the services related to this adoption. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-230, Item 3—Payment for Services" at the top and include the service, name and address of provider, amount paid, and payment date. Turn it in with this form.

Number of pages attached: _____

4 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that I have listed all payments (or anything of value) that I have paid or agreed to pay, or that were paid on my behalf, related to the child I want to adopt. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in this form is true and correct, which means that if I lie on this form, I am guilty of a crime.

Date: _____

Type or print your name

▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

Date: _____

Type or print your name

▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

Date: _____

Type or print your name

▶ _____
Signature of adopting parent

ADOPT-310

Contact After Adoption Agreement

Original Change

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

DRAFT
Not approved by
the Judicial Council
ADOPT-310.v17.092024.jh

Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of

Court fills in case number when form is filed.

Case Number:

1 Adopting parent or parents:

a. Name: _____

b. Name: _____

c. Address (skip this if you have a lawyer): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____

d. Lawyer (if you have one) (name, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, and State Bar number): _____

Check this box if there are more adopting parents. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-310, Other Adopting Parents" at the top and complete a–d. Turn it in with this form.

2 Information about the child

a. Child's name (after adoption): _____

b. Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

c. Is the child a dependent of Juvenile Court? No Yes

If yes, list juvenile court and juvenile case number and attach this form to your *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200) (Family Code, §§ 8714.5(d) and 8715):

County: _____ Case number: _____

d. Child's Lawyer (If the child has a lawyer, fill out below. If item 2c is yes, child must have a lawyer. See Family Code section 8616.5(d).)

Name of child's lawyer: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ State Bar number: _____

3 The birth relatives below agree with the requesting parties in 1 about contact with the child after adoption. If the agreement is confidential, write "Confidential" instead of the person's name. Sibling information may include minor siblings, siblings who are dependents or nonminor dependents, and adult siblings. Consider completion of waiver forms (California Department of Social Services forms AD 904A or AD 904B). See <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/forms-brochures/forms-alphabetic-list/a-d>.

Check this box if there are more relatives that need to sign. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-310, Item 3—Other Relatives" at the top and include name, relationship to child, and type of contact. Turn it in with this form.



Adopting parent or parents: _____

Case Number: _____

3

Type of Contact (check all that apply):



Name	Relationship to Child	Visits	Phone	Email	Letter	Share Info	Other*
a.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check this box if “Other” is selected. Use a separate piece of paper and write “ADOPT-310, Item 3 —Other Types of Contact” at the top and include name, relationship to child, and type of contact. Turn it in with this form.

4

Check this box if you have a signed, written agreement about Contact After Adoption, and attach a copy.
Number of pages attached: _____

5

The parties have discussed the reasons for continued contact between the child and the specified relatives or other parties, considering the best interests of the child.

Notice


1. The adopting parent or parents must file this form with the court before the finalization hearing or order of the court. Within 30 days of the adopting parent or parents receiving a file-marked copy of this agreement, the adopting parent or parents must provide a file marked copy to each person who signed the agreement as well as any licensed adopting agency that placed the child for adoption or consented to the adoption.
2. After the judge signs the Adoption Order for this child, the adoption is final. It can never be canceled or changed, even if anyone who signed this agreement:
 - Does not follow the agreement, and/or
 - Files form ADOPT-315 (to change, end, or enforce this agreement).
3. Before this agreement can be changed by the court, all of the people who signed it have to try to fix any problems with it through a dispute resolution program, like mediation.





Adopting parent or parents: _____


Case Number: _____


6 Everyone involved in this agreement must sign below (including the child, if 12 or older, and the child's attorney).

Date: _____ *Type or print your name and relationship to child*  _____
Sign your name

Date: _____ *Type or print your name and relationship to child*  _____
Sign your name

Date: _____ *Type or print your name and relationship to child*  _____
Sign your name

Date: _____ *Type or print your name and relationship to child*  _____
Sign your name

Date: _____ *Type or print your name and relationship to child*  _____
Sign your name

Date: _____ *Type or print your name and relationship to child*  _____
Sign your name

Check this box if you need more space to list relatives. Use a separate piece of paper and write "ADOPT-310, Item 6 —Signatures of Other Relatives" at the top and include name and relationship to child, signature, and date signed. Turn it in with this form.

Date: _____

Judge or Judicial Officer

Family Law: Adoption Forms

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
1.	California Lawyers Association The Executive Committee of the Family Law Section	A	FLEXCOM agrees with this proposal. As to the question posed regarding including room for the name of a third parent, FLEXCOM suggests it is not needed. It could create confusion in two-parent cases, and in cases where there are more than two parents an addendum is used in practice to note an additional parent.	The committee appreciates this feedback and has added language to include an attachment for additional adoptive parents on forms ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, and ADOPT-230.
2.	Orange County Bar Association by Christina Zabat-Fran, President	A	YES, THERE SHOULD BE A SPACE OR REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHMENT TO INCLUDE ALL NAMES OF ALL ADOPTING PARENTS	The committee appreciates this feedback and has added language to include an attachment for additional adoptive parents on forms ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, and ADOPT-230.
3.	Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles by Bryan Borys, Director of Research and Data Management	A	The following comments are representative of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (Court), and do not represent or promote the viewpoint of any particular judicial officer or employee.	No response required.
			In response to the Judicial Council of California’s “ITC SPR24-23 Family Law: Adoption Forms,” the Court agrees with the proposal and its ability to appropriately address its stated purpose.	The committee appreciates this comment.
			The Court agrees that there should be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parents’ names.	The committee appreciates this feedback and has added language to include an attachment for additional adoptive parents on forms ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, and ADOPT-230.
			Furthermore, the Court would like to provide a suggestion for the new ADOPT-203, item 1, to reflect Adopting Parents and have additional lines for up to two additional parents, as there are three-parent adoptions.	The committee agrees and has added language to include an attachment for additional adoptive parents on forms ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, and ADOPT-230.

Family Law: Adoption Forms

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			<p>Although the Court does not see any cost savings from the proposal, it anticipates minimal implementation requirements, which include but are not limited to 1) Training for staff; 2) Updating policies and procedures; 3) Updating forms and event codes in the case management system.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this comment.</p>
			<p>Lastly, the Court agrees that three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date will provide sufficient time for implementation and that this proposal would work well in courts of different sizes.</p>	<p>Since these recommendations are being presented to the council at its November meeting, the committee is recommending a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2025. This will give courts 7½ months to implement the new and revised forms.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Superior Court of California, County of Orange by Katie Tobias, Operations Analyst, Family Law, and Juvenile Divisions</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>Orange County utilizes the hearing box in the ADOPT-200 and completes the box at the time the adoption request is filed. Removing this box will impact the adoption case initiation process in juvenile.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback. While it had initially determined that the box may not be necessary as adoption hearings are typically not set at the time of filing the adoption request, the committee understands that keeping the hearing box within the document may be helpful to some courts and is recommending retaining the box.</p>
			<p>The removal of the current #4 on the ADOPT-200, Information about the child, specifically "section a. The child's new name will be:" is used for case initiation. First name and last initial of new name is used in creating the party in the case management system.</p>	<p>Although the committee initially determined that the box may not be necessary, after careful consideration of the comments, including this one, about how some courts use the child's adoptive name for case management purposes, the committee determined that leaving the option of including the child's name after the adoption could be helpful, and therefore this information is recommended to remain in the form ADOPT-200.</p>
			<p>In addition, Orange County uses birth parent names to verify court-received consents for family</p>	<p>The committee appreciates and considered this input but feels that removing the names of the</p>

Family Law: Adoption Forms

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			<p>law adoptions. Removing this will affect courtroom procedures for consent identification and verification.</p>	<p>birth parents on the form ADOPT-200 will reduce the possibility for confusion as to who needs to sign consents. Additionally, because there is follow-up information provided to the court, such as reports and investigations, those will identify the persons who have or may have parental rights and what types of documentation or consents are necessary. Also, inclusion of the birth parents' name is not required by the Family Code.</p>
			<p>Recommend modifying the language on Section 3 of the ADOPT-050-INFO form to state "The social worker will file the report with the court and send you or your attorney a copy." Also, within the Note on page 3 of the ADOPT-050-INFO form, the italicized form name "Adoption Order" does not include the form number. Recommend including the form number after the form name or replacing the form name with the form number for consistency.</p>	<p>The committee agrees with both comments and has revised the language to include "and your attorney" to Section 3 of the form ADOPT-050-INFO and has added "(form ADOPT-215)" after the form name on form ADOPT-050-INFO on page 3 within the Note.</p>
			<p>Recommend modifying the language on Section 9 of the ADOPT-210 form, checkbox c be revised to state "This form was signed by the judicial officer while the adopting parents or parent were attending a remote hearing."</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback and has modified the proposed language to make it clearer that the purpose of checkbox c is to indicate that the adoptive parents signed a copy of the form while appearing remotely. The proposed revision reads: "This form was signed by the adopting parent or parents either before or while the adopting parent or parents were attending a remote hearing and was acknowledged by the judicial officer. <i>(The judicial officer will date and sign the form below).</i>".</p>

Family Law: Adoption Forms

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			On the ADOPT-215 form, Section 12 contains a possible error. Should this state "an additional parent", not "and addition parent"?	The committee appreciates this feedback and will make the correction to form ADOPT-215, item 12 to state: “additional.”
			<u>Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?</u> Yes, the proposal appropriately addresses the stated purpose.	The committee appreciates this feedback.
			<u>Should there be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parents’ names?</u> Yes, there should be for more than two adoptive parents' names.	As indicated above, the committee agrees and has added language to include an attachment for additional adoptive parents.
			<u>Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.</u> No, the proposal does not appear to provide any cost savings.	The committee appreciates this comment.
			<u>What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?</u> Implementation would require revising procedures, providing communication to judicial officers and staff, conducting staff training (approximately 1-2 hours), and updating the case management system.	The committee appreciates this information.
			<u>Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?</u>	Since these recommendations are being presented to the council at its November meeting, the committee is recommending a delayed

Family Law: Adoption Forms

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			<p>Orange County would need six months to implement based off the requirements and potential changes to current juvenile procedures with the revision of the ADOPT-200 (see additional comments above).</p> <p><u>How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?</u> Our court is a large court, and this could work for Orange County.</p>	<p>implementation date of July 1, 2025. This will give courts 7½ months to implement the new and revised forms.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this comment.</p>
5.	Superior Court of California, County of Riverside	AM	<p>Introducing a specific form for Stepparent Adoption Requests, such as the ADOPT-203, would greatly benefit litigants by providing them with a clear and distinct petition tailored to their circumstances. This specialization would enhance clarity and efficiency in the adoption process, ultimately benefiting both litigants and court personnel. Clear and understandable forms are crucial for ensuring accessibility and ease of use for all parties involved in the adoption process. The information contained in the information sheet provides the litigants with lots of information regarding the adoption process. This addition would further aid litigants in understanding the adoption process and their rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>ADOPT-050-INFO, Page 2 of 6, “Stepparent/Domestic Partner Adoptions” suggestion to number this as Section 1 with “Fill out court forms” as Subsection a. Add information that forms must be completed in black or blue ink</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback and comment.</p> <p>The committee appreciates and considered this feedback, but decided not to include the proposed language. Although California Rules of Court, rule 2.106 requires the font on papers presented for filing be black or blue-black, rule 2.118 states that a clerk may not reject a filing that is in</p>

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				<p>handwriting in a color other than black or blue-black.</p> <p>The committee recommends maintaining the current large font and bold text as identifying the sections with numbers for the subsections, rather than the suggested numbering of the sections and subsections. This is consistent with other Judicial Council plain language forms and improves readability.</p>
			<p>ADOPT-050-INFO, Page 3 of 6, Section 2, remove the word “small” from the phrase “small filing fee.” The size of the fee is subjective to the individual(s) financial situation.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback and has removed the word “small” and included the following: The court will charge a \$20.00 filing fee (set by Health and Safety Code section 103730).</p>
			<p>ADOPT-050-INFO, Page 3 of 6, Section 2, Note: does not indicate whether or not the party will receive copies from the court</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback and has modified the form to include language that once the forms are filed with the Clerk, the adoptive parents and their attorney will receive filed copies.</p>
			<p>ADOPT-050-INFO, Page 3 of 6, “Independent or Agency Adoptions in the United States” suggestion to number this as Section 2, with “Fill out court forms” as subsection a. Add information that forms must be completed in black or blue ink</p>	<p>The committee appreciates and considered this feedback, but decided not to include the proposed language. Although California Rules of Court, rule 2.106 requires the font on papers presented for filing be black or blue-black, rule 2.118 states that a clerk may not reject a filing that is in handwriting in a color other than black or blue-black.</p> <p>The committee recommends maintaining the current large font and bold text as headings identifying the sections with numbers for the individual items, rather than the suggested</p>

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				numbering of the sections and lettering of the items. This is consistent with other Judicial Council plain language forms and improves readability.
			ADOPT-050-INFO, where filing fees are mentioned, also mention Fee Waivers	The committee appreciates this feedback and has incorporated language to include the actual filing fee for the adoption request of \$20 and additional language that the fee is set by Health and Safety Code section 103730.
			ADOPT-050-INFO, Page 4 of 6, item 6- “Go to court on the date of your hearing”, this is a good place to let petitioner know to bring a VS-44 Court Report of Adoption with Items 1 and 2 completed.	<p>The committee appreciates this suggestion. The following language will be added on page 3, item 4, under Stepparent/Domestic partner adoption: (last bullet) Completed and signed, California Department of Social Services form VS-44</p> <p>The language is only added to the Stepparent Adoption section because it is the adoption type most often filed by self-represented persons who may not know that the form VS-44 is completed by the court clerk after the adoption finalization hearing and is needed to generate the child’s new birth certificate.</p>
			ADOPT-050-INFO, pages 5 and 6, the ICWA forms are in blue, suggesting a hyperlink, but there is no option to navigate to a hyperlink.	The committee appreciates this comment about hyperlinks. Once all updates are made to the text of the forms, the hyperlinks will be tested to ensure they are working properly.
			ADOPT-200-Adoption Request, Page 1 of 5, Instructions, the ADOPT forms are blue in the information section, suggesting a hyperlink, but there is no option to navigate to a hyperlink.	The committee appreciates this comment. Once all updates are made to the text of the forms, the hyperlinks will be tested to ensure they are working properly.

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			ADOPT-200-Adoption Request, Page 1 of 5, Section 1, subsection d, part of the underline is missing in the Relationship to Child.	The committee appreciates this comment and has made the correction.
			ADOPT-200-Adoption Request, Page 4 of 5, the ADOPT forms are blue in the information section, suggesting a hyperlink, but there is no option to navigate to a hyperlink.	The committee appreciates this comment. Once all updates are made to the text of the forms, the hyperlinks will be tested to ensure they are working properly.
			ADOPT-203 -Stepparent Adoption Request, page 1 of 4, Box, and text indicating the box is informational	The committee appreciates this suggestion and has added the word “Instructions” at the top of the text within the box on form ADOPT-203.
			ADOPT-203 -Stepparent Adoption Request, page 1 of 4, Box, convert the ADOPT forms to hyperlinks.	The committee appreciates this comment. Once all updates are made to the text of the forms, the hyperlinks will be tested to ensure they are working properly.
			ADOPT-203 -Stepparent Adoption Request, page 3 of 4, section 9 second box, move second box to a separate line so that all the text pertaining to that box appears under it.	The committee appreciates this comment and modified form ADOPT-203 to incorporate this suggestion. Note: This item number is now item 10 as the hearing box was reincorporated into the form ADOPT-203.
			ADOPT-215-Adoption Order, section 1, Does the address of the parents need to be filled out if they have a lawyer?	The committee appreciates this suggestion. Because this would be a substantive change to the proposal, the committee believes public comment should be sought before they are considered for adoption. The committee may seek to address this comment in a future proposal.
			ADOPT-215-Adoption Order, section 2 Information about the child. Having a line for “Child’s name after adoption” and then separate lines for first, middle and last is often confusing to	The committee appreciates this suggestion and will remove the line after “Child’s name after adoption” on form ADOPT-215, item 2 and will keep the remainder of that section.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			staff. Can the first line “Child’s name after adoption” be removed.	
			ADOPT-215-Adoption Order, section 12, there is a typo. It should read this is an adoption involving an additional parent.	The committee appreciates this feedback and will make the correction to form ADOPT-215, item 12 to state: “additional.”
			ADOPT-310- Contact After Adoption Agreement, page 1 of 2, section 1, sub sections a and b, add an indication that this section should contain the “name”	The committee appreciates this suggestion and has updated form ADOPT-310 Contact After Adoption Agreement, page 1, item 1, caption to read: “Adopting parents’ names”
			<p><u>Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?</u> Yes, the creating of a separate Stepparent Adoption Request (ADOPT-203) will make the filing of stepparent adoptions simpler, the updates to the ADOPT-050-INFO, ADOPT-200, ADOPT-210, ADOPT-215, ADOPT-230, and the ADOPT-310 make these forms easier to follow and address a lot of common issues and questions.</p>	The committee appreciates these comments regarding operational impacts of form changes on the courts.
			<p><u>Should there be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parent’s names?</u> Yes, this adjustment would accommodate various family structures and ensure inclusivity in the adoption process.</p>	As indicated above, the committee agrees and has added language to include an attachment for additional adoptive parents.
			<p><u>Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify?</u> There would be no cost savings.</p>	The committee appreciates this comment.
			<p><u>What would the implementation requirements be for courts-for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please</u></p>	The committee appreciates this comment.

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			<p><u>describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?</u> Additional training would be necessary for judges, court clerk’s office, and courtroom staff (2-4 hours), new codes would need to be created in the case management system, desk procedures and training guides for adoptions would need to be modified.</p>	
			<p><u>Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?</u> Yes.</p>	<p>Since these recommendations are being presented to the council at its November meeting, the committee is recommending a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2025. This will give courts 7½ months to implement the new and revised forms.</p>
			<p><u>How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?</u> The proposal should work for courts of all sizes.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this comment.</p>
6.	Superior Court of California, County of San Diego by Mike Roddy, Executive Officer	AM	<p>Q: Does the proposal appropriately address the state purpose? A: Yes.</p> <p>Q: Should there be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parents’ names? A: No, we have not had a need for this. In a rare case where we did, the petitioners could put more than one name on a line.</p> <p>Q: Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify. A: No.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this comment.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this feedback.</p>

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			<p>Q: What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?</p> <p>A: Implementation will require training of staff, updates to the case management system and local packets, and revising internal procedures.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback regarding implementation requirements for the courts.</p>
			<p>Q: Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?</p> <p>A: Yes.</p>	<p>Since these recommendations are being presented to the council at its November meeting, the committee is recommending a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2025. This will give courts 7½ months to implement the new and revised forms.</p>
			<p>Q: How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?</p> <p>A: This proposal should work well, regardless of the size of the court.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this feedback.</p>
			<p>ADOPT-050-INFO: Recommend verifying the link to the Self-Help Guide is accurate.</p> <p>Suggest capitalizing “Department of Social Services.”</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this comment. Once all updates are made to the text of the forms, the hyperlinks will be tested to ensure they are working properly.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this recommendation and will make the corrections to capitalize Department of Social Services wherever it appears on form ADOPT-050-INFO</p>

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			<p>Suggest changing “will witness” to “to witness” in role of ASP.</p> <p>Propose modifying the Note following petitions to terminate parental rights to state: “(Note: In some courts, this can be filed within the adoption case but in other courts it is a separate court action.)”</p> <p>ADOPT-200: In Instructions box, suggest changing “filing” to “filling” in the last sentence.</p> <p>Item 5: propose adding a place for child’s name after adoption. Although not specified by statute, this is important information for the court, as it is the name by which the child is likely to be referred during the life of the case.</p> <p>Item 7: suggest changing “Welfare and Institutions Code adoptions” to “the adoption of a dependent child.”</p> <p>Item 11: Suggest removing readoption from title and 11c, as it is not necessary and leads to awkward “readoption adoption.”</p>	<p>The committee appreciates this suggestion but prefers to retain the proposed language.</p> <p>The committee considered this suggestion and will make the change as suggested.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this comment and has made the suggested correction.</p> <p>Although the committee initially determined that the box may not be necessary, after careful consideration of the comments, including this one, about how some courts use the child’s adoptive name for case management purposes, the committee determined that leaving the option of including the child’s name after the adoption could be helpful, and therefore this information is recommended to remain in the form ADOPT-200.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this suggestion and modified Item 7 to include: “For adoptions of a dependent child under the Welfare and Institutions Code...”</p> <p>Item 11: The committee appreciates this suggestion and modified the wording to: This is an intercountry re-adoption. The adoption was finalized in another country before the child</p>

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			<p>11a: ADOPT-126 is not required in every intercountry case (see CRC 5.490 – 5.493).</p> <p>Item 12: 12b: suggest rewording.</p> <p>12c: suggest rewording to: “filed before the adoption hearing.”</p> <p>Additional Information Needed box: The format of item 15 on the existing form is more helpful to the court, in that it gives information about the birth parents and what will be done about their rights. Perhaps a simplified version of what is on the existing form would be more appropriate.</p> <p>Item 13: suggest referring to either “adopting parent” or “adopting parents” consistently.</p>	<p>entered the United States with the adopting parent.”</p> <p>Item 11(a): The committee appreciates this comment and will change the wording to include: (ADOPT-126 may be required to be filed with this request. See Cal. Rules of Court 5.490-5.493)</p> <p>Item 12(b): The committee appreciates this suggestion and changed the wording to include: is attached as required in Family Code section 8714.50 (dependent child agency adoption)</p> <p>12(c): The committee appreciates and incorporated this suggestion.</p> <p>Additional information needed box: The committee appreciates and considered this input but prefers to remove the names of the birth parents.</p> <p>Item 13: The committee appreciates this suggestion and will revise the form to consistently use adopting parents.</p>
			<p>ADOPT-203: Item 3: 3a: suggest revising to: “lives” in this county.</p>	<p>Item 3(a): the committee has made the suggested revision.</p>

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			<p>3c: Propose removing. Relinquishment generally only applies to agency adoptions and would not apply in a stepparent adoption.</p> <p>Item 4a: suggest changing “a child I am seeking to adopt” to “the child to be adopted.”</p> <p>Item 5: suggest adding a place for child’s name after adoption.</p> <p>Additional Information Needed box: Please see comment to form ADOPT-200.</p> <p>ADOPT-210: In the signing instructions on page 1, suggest changing 8a to 9a.</p>	<p>Item 3(c): the committee has removed the word relinquishment.</p> <p>Item 4a: The committee is retaining the circulated language as the active voice is preferred for plain language forms.</p> <p>Item 5: Although the committee initially determined that the box may not be necessary, after careful consideration of the comments, including this one, about how some courts use the child’s adoptive name for case management purposes, the committee determined that leaving the option of including the child’s name after the adoption could be helpful, and therefore this information is recommended to remain in the form ADOPT-200.</p> <p>Additional information needed box: The committee appreciates and considered this input but prefers to remove the names of the birth parents to reduce the chance of confusion as to who needs to sign consents.</p> <p>The committee agrees with this suggestion and has incorporated it into the revised proposed forms.</p>

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			<p>ADOPT-215: Item 8: suggest changing reference to item 13 to item 14.</p> <p>Item 12: The revision to item 12 might introduce some ambiguity for stepparent adoptions. The existing version of item 12 was used only to add a new parent without affecting the rights of the existing parents. This new version makes it seem like it could or should be used in a stepparent adoption.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates and has incorporated the suggestion.</p> <p>The committee appreciates this recommendation and will add the following after the first sentence in item 12: (not used for stepparent adoptions).</p>
			<p>ADOPT-310: Suggest revising reference to Family Code §8714.30 as this section does not exist.</p>	<p>The committee appreciates the comment and has revised the form to read: Family Code section 8714.5(d) and 8715</p>