



Judicial Council of California

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INVITATION TO COMMENT

SPR24-23

Title

Family Law: Adoption Forms

Action Requested

Review and submit comments by May 3, 2024

Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes

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

Proposed Effective Date

January 1, 2025

Contact

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Proposed by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee
Hon. Stephanie E. Hulse, Chair

Executive Summary and Origin

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends adopting one new form and revising six forms to simplify the process for all adopting parents, and their counsel if represented. The committee further recommends revising the adoption request form to conform to a portion of 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.

Background

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

This proposal has not been approved by the Judicial Council and is not intended to represent the views of the council, its Rules Committee, or its Legislation Committee. It is circulated for comment purposes only.

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

In addition to the above specific statutory requirements, there are general requirements that apply to all types of adoption action filed with the court (Fam. Code, § 8600 et seq.) as well as certain nonmandatory, voluntary processes (i.e., postadoption contact agreement). The Judicial Council has adopted a series of forms for use in various types of adoption actions. Although the Judicial Council has made minor changes and additions to the forms, there has not been a comprehensive review of these forms in over 20 years.

The Proposal

The Judicial Council adopted a series of forms for use in all the various types of adoption actions beginning in October 1998. This proposal would revise these forms to conform to recent statutory requirements relating to contact after adoption agreements¹ and, more extensively, to improve usability. The proposal will remove unnecessary language from the forms and provide directives and information about the requirements for all types of adoptions. The proposal seeks to adhere to specific statutory requirements to obtain correct and necessary documentation from those who may have parental rights and who may or may not be participating in the adoption process. The advisory committee developed this proposal with 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 type they assisted with and the ones having the most confusing processes for

¹AB 1650 outlined several changes to family law proceedings, including custody, parentage and adoption. One part of this bill pertains to the contact after adoption agreement, and requires that the petitioner inform the court, in writing, whether a contact after adoption agreement has or will be entered into. It further requires that prior to 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.

self-represented litigants. The current *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200) is an all-inclusive form used for all adoption types and includes language and requirements that are not needed for stepparent adoptions. This proposal includes a new standalone *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203) to be used only for stepparent adoptions.

The Self-Help Centers and court clerks also discussed 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. These changes are detailed below.

Judicial Council forms

The committee proposes the following revisions to existing forms, and a new form, to respond to concerns expressed by self-help attorneys, adoption attorneys, and other court partners, as well as to implement the recent statutory requirement that a petitioner inform the court, in writing, whether the petitioner has entered, or has agreed to enter, into a postadoption contact agreement.

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

The committee proposes adding to the information sheet the specific procedures necessary for obtaining an adoption beyond filling out Judicial Council forms and adding additional links to the California Courts Self-Help Guide for more assistance. The revisions would also add references to the CDSS website, which also has forms that must be filed with the court as required by statute. The new instructions, on the first page of the form, under General Information on Adoptions, include preparing for an adoption, determining who will provide the home-study or investigation, and locating an Adoption Service Provider for infant adoptions.

Also new in the General Information section will be information that documents in addition to the Judicial Council adoption forms may be required and further procedures followed if a person who may have parental rights has not participated in the adoption. References are made to different types of petitions or motions that might need to be filed and the parties are directed to the California Courts Self-Help Guide. This guide provides a detailed description of how to determine the status of a parent and how to proceed with an adoption.

In the section on Stepparent or Domestic Partner Adoptions, the forms list is being revised to include the new *Stepparent Adoption Request*. The committee proposes removing the check boxes from this form because it is not intended to be a checklist, but rather a list of required forms. In addition, a reference to a “social worker’s” report for a stepparent adoption has been removed (page 3). An investigation is the only report needed and is either conducted by a court-ordered investigator or other professional as identified in Family Code section 9001.

Some revisions are also being proposed in the section on Independent or Agency Adoptions to clarify existing law. In an agency adoption of a dependent child, the court hearing the adoption matter will accept a prior court's order indicating that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) does not apply. This can be sufficient and provided in lieu of Judicial Council ICWA forms.

The following text would to be added: "...for Welfare and Institutions Code adoptions, other evidence, including court orders regarding ICWA may be necessary." In addition, a new item is being added to the instruction in this section, to remind parties that documents in addition to the listed council forms may be needed relating to another parent.

To clarify terminology, the committee is proposing that information be added in the section on Inquiry and Notice Under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), to define the meaning of "extended family" and "reason to know" the child is an Indian child. Information as to the voluntary nature of a Post Adoption Contact Agreement would be added as well, as would a definition of "birth relatives" that includes the Indian child's tribal members.²

Adoption Request (form ADOPT-200)

The committee is proposing to delete questions about procedures for obtaining consent and termination of parental rights (item 15 on the current form), and to replace these questions with information in a box at the top of the form and at the end of the request that will assist many self-represented adoptive parents in preparing the correct and necessary paperwork and documentation for a parent who is not participating in the adoption process itself.

Due to the proposed new stepparent adoption form, the instructions at the top of the request form would be changed to include: "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)." Other information has also been added to the instructions to inform those filing for adoption that they will most likely need to provide additional paperwork to the court regarding others with parental rights. There is also a link provided to the information form and the Judicial Council website for more detailed instructions.

Additional proposed changes are as follows:

- Removing the hearing box on page one since clerks do not use this form to set a hearing for adoption, nor is it ever filled out at the time of filing the adoption request or anytime thereafter. It is not necessary in any adoption situation to send this notice if there is no hearing set until all necessary paperwork is actually filed with the court, including the homestudy or investigation.

² Judicial Council staff consulted with the chairs of the Tribal Court-State Court Forum regarding the proposed changes pertaining to ICWA on form ADOPT-50-INFO and the chairs agree with these proposed changes.

- Moving the assertions of the adopting parents from the back of the form to new item 2 underneath the identifying information of the adopting parents.
- Removing the names of the birth parents and the child’s new name as the statute does not require that the request include those names.³
- At item 5(a), add the following language: “... or dependent child’s adoption by a relative.” This will bring this item into compliance with the requirement in Family Code section 8714.5 that the child’s name before the adoption should be included in the body of the petition.
- At item 7(a), include the following language: “For adoptions under the Welfare and Institutions Code, other evidence, including court orders regarding ICWA may be necessary.”
- At item 10, Independent adoption information:
 - At subitem b, add yes or no boxes at the end of the statement (instead of having a checkbox at the front). This will help to streamline the form and its requirements and make it easier to fill out for self-represented litigants.
 - Add subitem d, add yes or no boxes (instead of a checkbox) and add another optional subitem that can be checked if the answer to the question of whether there is another parent is “yes” : “the following person(s) with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights: Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____.” This new subitem is necessary to address a situation where only one parent is maintaining their parental rights, and the other parent signs a consent and is not maintaining their parental rights.
- At item 12, Contact after adoption:

Rearrange the subitems as to whether and when a *Contact After Adoption Agreement* (form ADOPT 310) will be filed, and include the following new options:

 - Is attached pursuant to Family Code section 8714.50 dependent child agency adoption.
 - Will be completed as required in Welfare and Institutions Code, section 16002 between siblings and filed before adoption hearing/order.
 - Will be filed before the adoption hearing.

The item has also been revised to eliminate references that the form be filed 30 days prior to the hearing, which is no longer necessary. Under current law, the agreement only needs to be filed prior to the adoption hearing.

³ See Fam. Code §§ 8714, 8802, 8912

- Adding a box entitled “Additional Information Needed” to ensure the adoptive parents file all the necessary paperwork with the court before the final hearing. The box contains information about the need to ensure documentation or proceedings have been brought regarding the person who may or may not have parental rights. Reference is made to the Judicial Council website for further instructions and procedures, and a list of possible procedures and documents is listed.

Stepparent Adoption Request (form ADOPT-203)

The committee proposes adopting this new form. As discussed above, the Self-Help Centers identified stepparent adoptions as both the most common adoption type, they assisted with and the ones having the most confusing processes for self-represented litigants. The current *Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-200) is an all-inclusive form used for all adoption types and includes language and requirements that are not needed for stepparent adoptions. This proposal includes a new standalone *Stepparent Adoption Request* (form ADOPT-203) to be used only for stepparent adoptions.

Adoption Agreement (form ADOPT-210)

There is confusion about where an adopting stepparent should sign the current form. To avoid confusion, the committee proposes adding a reference to a stepparent to the instructions in item 4, which is for when there is only one adopting parent, to clarify that this is the section where a stepparent should sign. The committee also proposes reorganizing the item for agreements by the adopting parent’s spouse—so there is now a discrete item for single parent adoptions (item 5) as well as the existing one for stepparent-only adoptions (to be renumbered as item 6).

In item 9, regarding the execution of the agreement, the committee proposes adding the following language to address situations where the adopting parents were allowed by the court to appear remotely, or appearance is waived:

- At the end of the parenthetical in subitem a, regarding signing outside of a hearing, add: “or if the court waived appearance under Family Code, § 8613 or 8613.5.)”
- Add subitem c: “This form was signed while the adopting parent or parents were attending a remote hearing and was acknowledged by the judicial officer.” This subitem implements the recent addition of subdivision (i) to the Code of Civil Procedure section 367.75, expressly authorizing remote appearances in adoption cases.

Adoption Order (form ADOPT-215)

Under item 6, the following was added:

- 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.”

This item was added as it was contained within the current version of the form.

Under item 12, revise the current language to:

“The following persons with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights: Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____.” This language is necessary to address a situation where only one parent is maintaining their parental rights, and the other parent signs a consent and is not maintaining their parental rights.

Adoption Expenses (form ADOPT-230)

This form is used to provide the accounting required by Family Code section 8610. To address the specific requirements of Family Code section 8610 that require the adopting parents, in an adoption proceeding other than a stepparent adoption, to itemize in detail the services they paid for or that were paid for on their behalf relating to the adoption or placement of the child, form ADOPT-230 would be changed to allow identification of more than one of the same type of professional and more than one date of payment for the same type of professional. The itemization required by the statute must include the services received along with (1) dates of each payment; (2) names and addresses of each attorney, physician and surgeon, hospital, licensed adoption agency, or any other person or organization that provided services and received payment. The current form provides, at item 3, a list of likely services, with blanks for the name of service provider, along with the dates and amount of payments, to be completed by the adopting parent. However, the form only allows for one line for each of type of service. In practice, there could be more than one professional or type of service in each of the categories on the current form. The proposed revision would eliminate the pre-defined service on each subitem, replacing it with a blank line. This change will more easily allow the itemization of each service or professional when the accounting includes multiple providers of the same type of service, such as two different hospitals or two different attorneys.

To ensure that the parties will understand what information is to be added to item 3, the instructions of the item have been expanded to include a list of the type of services to include on the form.

Contact After Adoption Agreement (form ADOPT-310)

California Rules of Court, rule 5.451(a)(1)(2) was previously amended to include “birth relatives” including siblings, as parties who may enter into a contact after adoption agreement. Such an agreement must be memorialized on form ADOPT-310. To continue to ensure siblings are able to stay connected in the event the parties do not adhere to the ADOPT-310 in the future, the siblings can complete a *Waiver of Confidentiality* form (a CDSS form).

To reflect this change in the rules, item 3 of the form would be revised to add: “birth relatives” and “Sibling information: Include minor siblings, siblings who are dependents, and nonminor and adult siblings. Consider completion of California Department of Social Service waiver forms AD 904A or AD 904B. See: <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/forms-brochures/forms-alphabetic-list/a-d>.”

In addition, to implement AB 1650, the following instructions would be added to the form: This form must be filed with the court before the finalization 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.

Alternatives Considered

The committee considered creating a new information sheet specific to stepparent adoptions, but instead added significant new material and clarifications to the current ADOPT-050-INFO so that all the information would be contained on one form. The committee also considered adding information to the ADOP-050-INFO form 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.

The committee considered not creating a new separate stepparent adoption form. However, the committee concluded that the new form would be of assistance to parties, the courts, and Self-Help Centers by simplifying the process of a frequent adoption request. For the reasons discussed above in this invitation to comment, the committee decided it was best to create a new stepparent adoption form.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

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

Request for Specific Comments

In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the following:

- Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?
- Should there be space on the request forms for more than two adoptive parents names?

The advisory committee also seeks comments from *courts* on the following cost and implementation matters:

- Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.
- 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?
- Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?
- How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?

Attachments and Links

1. Forms ADOPT-050-INFO, ADOPT-200, ADOPT-203, ADOPT-210, ADOPT-215, ADOPT-230, and ADOPT-310, at pages 10–34
2. 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 you will 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 and/or agency joinder
- Intercountry

For more information and definitions on these types of adoptions: 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 who is 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
(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: This can be filed within the adoption process.)

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 | <i>Stepparent 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. |
| • 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. |

Additional Forms for Stepparent Adoption to Confirm Parentage

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| • ADOPT-205 (or an equivalent declaration) | <i>Declaration Confirming Parentage in Stepparent Adoption</i> | 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) | <i>Declaration Confirming Parentage in Stepparent Adoption: Gestational Surrogacy</i> | 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. |
|--|---|--|

ADOPT-050-INFO, Page 2 of 6



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 **small** filing fee. 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 home 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** and the adoption is complete. 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*).

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

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|----------------|---|--|
| • 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 filing fee. 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 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 filing fee. 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 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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ADOPT-200.v17.032024.jh

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 filing 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

- 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): _____

2 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.

3 County of filing

This *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;



Name of adopting parent: _____

- 3 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 parents reside. See Family Code, §§ 8714 and 8714.5). For more information on dependent children, selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/juvenile-dependency.

4 **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
 c. Intercountry (name of agency): _____

5 **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: _____
 h. The child was conceived by assisted reproduction in compliance with Family Code § 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: _____

6 **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: _____

7 **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 Welfare and Institutions Code adoptions, other evidence, including court orders regarding ICWA, may be necessary.



Name of adopting parent: _____

- 7 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.

8 **Adoption of an Indian child**

- a. This is an adoption of an Indian child. The adopting 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.

9 **Agency adoption information**

- a. The adopting parent has 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.

10 **Independent adoption information**

- a. The adopting parent 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.) Yes No
- 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. Yes No
(If no, list the name and relationship to child of each person who has not signed the agreement form):

- d. This is an independent adoption involving additional parent: Yes No If yes,

The following person with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights: Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____

An agreement waiving termination of parental rights, signed by both the existing parents and the adopting parent is attached.

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.



Name of adopting parent: _____

11 Intercountry and California re-adoption adoption questions

- a. This adoption may be subject to the Hague Adoption Convention (*form [ADOPT-216](#) must be filed with this request*).
- b. This is an adoption conducted under the requirements of the Hague Adoption Convention and the child has already moved with the adopting 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: 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 adoption that was finalized in another country before the child entered the United States with the adopting parents.

Date the child entered the United States: _____

See form [ADOPT-050-INFO](#) for a list of documents to attach to this *Adoption Request*.**12 Contact after adoption (optional)***Contact After Adoption Agreement* ([form ADOPT-310](#)) (Family Code § 8616.5)

- a. is attached.
- b. is attached Family Code section 8714.50 dependent child agency adoption.
- c. will be completed as required in Welfare and Institutions Code, § 16002 between siblings and filed before to adoption hearing/order.
- 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: Form [ADOPT-050-INFO](#)**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](#), <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/adoptions>, or visit your local county court self-help for more information.

Case Number: _____

Name of adopting parent: _____


13 Requests to court

- a. The adopting parent asks the court to approve the adoption and to declare that the adopting 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 asks 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 parents ask the court to approve the adoption and to declare that the adopting 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.

14 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 parents*

15 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*

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).

ADOPT-203 Stepparent Adoption Request

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

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ADOPT-203.v10.032024.jh

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.

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

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

2 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.

3 County of filing

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

- a. The adopting parent live 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, or relinquishment was signed;
- 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.



Name of adopting parent: _____

Case Number: _____

4 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 I am 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 my 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. This is a stepparent adoption involving an additional parent.
 - (1) All persons with existing parental rights agree to this adoption and will maintain their existing parental rights.
 - (2) An agreement waiving termination of parental rights, signed by both the existing parents and the adopting parent, is attached.

5 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.

6 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: _____

7 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.
- 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.



Name of adopting parent: _____

Case Number:

- 7 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).

8 **Adoption of an Indian child**

- a. This is an adoption of an Indian child. The adopting 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.

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

Contact After Adoption Agreement ([form ADOPT-310](#)) is attached will be filed before the final adoption hearing.

For more information: See form ADOPT-050-INFO; Family Code, § 8616.5

10 **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 Stepparent Adoption Guide: selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/stepparent-adoption.



Name of adopting parent: _____


Case Number: _____

11 Requests to court

- a. I ask the court to approve the adoption and to declare that the adopting 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. 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.)

12 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*

13 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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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 parents

a. Name: _____

b. Name: _____

Relationship to child: _____

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

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____

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

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 8a 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



Name of adopting 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 are two adopting parents, 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 adoption of the child.

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

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

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

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

I/we are the adopting parents listed in (1), and I/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).

If two adopting parents, we agree to the other parent's adoption of the child.

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

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



Name of adopting parents: _____

Case Number: _____

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 § 9000.5, where the court did not order a hearing for good cause, or if the court waived appearance under Family Code, § 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 while the adopting parent or parents were attending a remote hearing and was acknowledged by the judicial officer.

Date: _____

Judge (or Judicial Officer)

ADOPT-215 Adoption Order

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

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ADOPT-215.v9.031524.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 parents

a. Name: _____

b. Name: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime telephone number: _____

Lawyer (if any) (name, address, telephone number, email address, and State Bar number): _____

2 Information about the child

Child's name after adoption: _____

First name: _____

Middle name: _____

Last name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

Place of birth (if known): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____

3 Name of adoption agency (if any): _____

4 Hearing details

Hearing date: _____ Dept.: _____ Div.: _____ Rm.: _____

Judicial officer: _____ Clerk's office telephone number: _____

People present at the hearing:

Adopting parent Lawyer for adopting parent

Child Child's lawyer

Parent keeping parental rights: _____

Other people present (list each name and relationship to child): _____

a. _____

b. _____

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.

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.)



Name of adopting parents: _____

Case Number: _____

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 parents. The clerk will fill out 13 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.
- 12 This is an adoption involving and addition parent. 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 adoptive parent, was filed with the court.



Name of adopting parents: _____

Case Number: _____

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.v3.030824.jh

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

① Your name (adopting parent):

a. _____

b. _____

Relationship to child: _____

Address (skip this if you have a lawyer):

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____

Lawyer (if any): (Name, address, telephone number, and State Bar number): _____

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, 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.	_____	\$ _____	_____
e.	_____	\$ _____	_____



Your name: _____

Case Number: _____

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

If you need more space, attach a sheet of paper and write "ADOPT-230, Item 3—Payment for Services" at the top.
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

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.v7.032024.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 parents:

a. _____

b. _____

Relationship to child: _____

Your address (skip this if you have a lawyer)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your phone number: _____

Your lawyer (if you have one) (name, address, phone number, and State Bar number):

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, § 8714.30):

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>.

If you need more space, attach a sheet of paper. Write "ADOPT-310, Item 3—Other Relatives" at the top.

Type of Contact (check all that apply):

 Visits
  Phone
  Email
  Letter
  Share Info
 Other*

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"/>

*Explain type of contact on a sheet of paper. Write "ADOPT-310, Item 3—Other Types of Contact" at the top.

Number of pages attached: _____



Name of adopting parents: _____

Case Number: _____


4 If you have a signed, written agreement about Contact After Adoption, 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 parents must 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.
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.


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*

If more relatives need to sign, attach a sheet of paper. Write "ADOPT-310, Item 6—Signatures of Other Relatives," at the top.

Number of pages attached: _____

Date: _____

Judge (or Judicial Officer)