

Oakland County Circuit Court - Family Division, Adoption Services

Stepparent Adoption Requirements

1. A certified copy of the birth certificate for the adoptee(s). It must have a raised seal. Hospital verification or birth certificate verification without names of parent(s) is not acceptable. The adoptee's birth certificate will remain in the adoption file.
2. Copies (not originals) of the birth certificates for the stepparent and the custodial parent.
3. All adoption petitioners are required to be fingerprinted through the LIVE SCAN system. Your adoption caseworker will provide you with the correct form at the time of appointment.
4. A copy (not original) of the marriage certificate for petitioners.
5. Copies (not originals) of ALL pages of divorce judgment(s) of ALL previous marriages for both petitioners.
6. A copy of all post-judgment orders that address child support or parenting time.
7. If a non-custodial parent is deceased, a copy (not original) of the death certificate.
8. Copies (not originals) of any pertinent legal papers regarding the child(ren), i.e., Order of Filiation/Support, Acknowledgement of Paternity, Order to Change Name, previous Order of Adoption, Letters of Guardianship.
9. Physician's statement of health status of adopting stepparent. No form is provided. Statement must be on doctor's letterhead or prescription pad.
10. Letter of employment verifying place of employment, job classification, date of hire, current salary. (Applies to principal wage earner.) This includes petitioners who are self-employed.
11. The adoption questionnaire is to be completed by the custodial parent and stepparent under the heading "Proposed Adoptive Mother and Adoptive Father" and signed by both.
12. A written statement from the adopting stepparent which requests the adoption and indicates that he/ she understands adoption will make him/her legally responsible for the adoptee.

Since the child must be free for adoption, the non-custodial (birth) parent's parental rights must be addressed during the adoption process.

An interview with an adoptee who is six years of age or older will be conducted by the assigned caseworker and will include an age appropriate discussion about adoption.

A child who is 14 years of age or older must sign a Consent to Adoption in the presence of a court referee. The consent hearing will be scheduled after the child is free for adoption.