

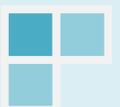


Adult Adoption: Creating a Lifelong Family Bond and Legal Connection

Brought to You By



Special thanks to The Florida Bar Foundation for its support of all the work we do! And to Stephen Breuer our 2010 Florida Bar Foundation Fellow who prepared this guide.



Basic Information on Adult Adoptions

I Thought Adoption Was Only For Children. . . .

Surprise! Florida and many other states allow adults to be adopted by other adults. Many young adults who spent time in state care as children really miss not having a permanent and legal connection to “parents.” If a loving relationship between a caring adult or couple willing to be forever parents has developed with a young person formerly in foster care, adult adoption is available.

Who Has To Agree To The Adoption?

Of course, the adoptive parent(s) and the adopted (adult) child must agree to the adoption. The birth parents of the young adult wanting to be adopted do not have to agree to the adoption. However, in addition to the adoptive parent and the adopted child, the husband or wife of the person who is being adopted must consent to the adoption. Fla. Stat. 63.064(5). Although, the court can grant the adoption without the spouse’s consent if the spouse is not available or unreasonably withholds consent.

Will We Have to Get A Homestudy?

In most cases, a home study is not required for an adult adoption. Fla. Stat. 63.092(3). That means that someone who wanted to adopt you as a child, but had issues that wouldn’t pass a homestudy may be able to adopt you as an adult.

But the court can order a home study for “good cause shown.” For instance, if there is some concern that the person who wants to adopt might take advantage of the young adult wanting to be adopted, the court can order a home study.

I Am Not Sure About Changing My Name. . . .

You don’t have to change your name in an adult adoption, but you may if you chose. The Petition for Adoption lets you designate the name you will be known by after the adoption.

If you only want to change your name, but not your legal relationship, you can do that with a Petition for Name Change. [A Name Change Packet is available on Florida’s Children First’s website: www.floridaschildrenfirst.org. (Resources)]

Will I Get A New Birth Certificate?

Yes. The State will issue a new birth certificate that names your adoptive parent(s) as your birth parent(s).

If you decide to change your name, you will need to update your Social Security card, driver’s license, passport and all other official documents.

When Paul H. found out he was going to be a dad, there was one thing he knew for sure. His child needed grandparents. Paul’s aunt and uncle had cared for him in junior high and were willing to adopt him. But because prior convictions they were not eligible to adopt a child. They adopted Paul as an adult - and now they are terrific grandparents!

Will The New Parents Be Required To Take Care of Me?

No. Parents are generally not obligated to financially support or otherwise care for adult children (except for some adult children with disabilities). If you are still young enough to qualify for car or health insurance under a parent’s policy you will be eligible after the adoption - the same as biological children. If your adoptive parent dies without a will, you are entitled to the same inheritance as the other children. But parents don’t have to leave any money or the same amount of money to their children.

Will I Lose My Independent Living Benefits If I Get Adopted Before Age 21 or 23?

No! Your eligibility for benefits is established by your legal status at the time you turn 18. Because parents are not legally obligated to support adult children, there is no presumption that they will support you. If your new parents chose to provide you financial support, you should expect that their support will be considered on any needs assessment you complete.

My Parents’ Rights Were Not Terminated, Can I Still Be Adopted?

Yes, the choice belongs to you. If you decide to be adopted as an adult, you will have to provide notice of the final hearing to your legal parent(s). Fla. Stat. 63.062(8)(b). But they do not have to consent to the adoption in order for it to happen.

The adoption will serve as a termination of the existing parental rights. That means you will not be entitled to any inheritance or other benefits that become payable to the legal children of that parent. (Although if you are already receiving a benefit from Social Security on a parent’s record, you might be able to continue receiving that benefit after your adoption. Check with Social Security or a lawyer to find out for sure.)

Sounds Great! What Do I Do Next?

Get Legal Help If You Can.

Adoption, like all other legal matters is best handled by a lawyer. If the young adult and the future adoptive parent(s) cannot afford an attorney, you can contact your local legal aid program for help. www.FloridaLawHelp.org has a directory of legal aid programs around the state.

Florida's Children First might be able to help you locate a lawyer who will handle your adoption without charging a legal fee. Email us at JFFY@floridaschildrenfirst.org for assistance.

If You Can't Find A Lawyer, You Can Prepare the Documents Yourself.

Copies of the critical forms you need to fill out are available on our website – Resources section (Adult Adoptions: Appendix of forms at www.floridaschildrenfirst.org). You may also download some of the forms on the Florida State Courts website at: http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/forms_rules/index.shtml#petsup

- The adopting adult (parent) needs to complete the Petition for Adult Adoption and sign the petition in the presence of a notary public. (Appendix A)
- The adult (child) being adopted must fill out the attached Consent of Adult Adoptee form and sign the form in the presence of a notary public and two witnesses. (Appendix B)
- If the adult (child) being adopted is married, then his/her spouse must fill out the attached Consent of Adult Adoptee's Spouse form and sign the form in the presence of a notary public and two witnesses. (Appendix C)

If the birth parent(s) are dead or had their rights terminated, you need proof of that fact:

- Death Certificate (or other proof)
- Certified copy of the Order Terminating Parental Rights. (They don't have to consent, but they do need to be notified)

Denise J. went to live with her foster parents at age 16. After that age, her parents' rights were terminated, and her foster parents wanted to adopt her. The caseworker mistakenly told them that Denise would lose out on Independent Living benefits if they adopted her. She learned about adult adoptions from Florida Youth SHINE and decided she wanted to legally be a part of this family. Her foster parents are excited to be able to formally adopt her.

When Your Documents Are Ready, You Must File Them With The Clerk of Courts.

Find the appropriate clerk of court - it should be the Clerk for the county where the adoptive parent lives. Contact your local clerk of court for more filing information. (Appendix D) You can obtain website information and phone numbers on each by going to:

<http://www.flcourts.org/courts/circuit/circuit.shtml>

The Clerk's website or staff can tell you about the amount of the filing fee and any other paperwork (such as a civil cover sheet) that you will need to bring in order to file your case.

There is a filing fee to file a Petition for Adult Adoption. If the person adopting (parent) cannot afford the fee, they can ask for a determination of indigency (poverty) and a "Waiver" of court filing fees.

During high school Nancy P. lived with her supervisor and mentor from work as a non-relative placement. Although her mom's parental rights had been terminated, Nancy loved her mother who struggled with mental illness. Nancy did not want to betray her mother by getting adopted. When Nancy was 22, her mother died and the next year she was ready to be adopted.

Set the Petition For Hearing And Notify Parents With Existing Rights.

Once the Clerk accepts the paperwork and filing fee, the case will be assigned to a judge. The clerk can provide you contact information to reach the judge's Judicial Assistant (JA). You must ask the JA to set your petition for adoption for a hearing. If you do not ask for a hearing, nothing will happen in your case.

If the biological parents still have parental rights (no TPR entered), they must be served with a copy of the notice of hearing so that they know of the adoption proceeding, and where and when the hearing is supposed to take place. The Clerk's Office can help you get the appropriate forms

If you do not provide the proof that they were served, the court will not approve the adoption petition.

Update Your Birth Certificate & Other Documents

See directions in Appendix F and in FCF's Name Change packet for obtaining a new birth certificate and updating other legal documents like a driver's license and Social Security card. Both the adoptive parent and adult adoptee should update their wills, insurance policies, advance health care directives and other such documents.

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You can download a Word version of this document on the Florida’s Children First Website if you want to fill out the forms. www.floridaschildrenfirst.org - look in the Resources Section

Appendix A

Petition for Adult Adoption Instruction Sheet

Use this instruction sheet as a guide to help in filling out the following Petition for Adult Adoption. The person to be adopted must fill out Appendix “B”- Adult Adoptee Consent form. If that adult is married, his/her spouse must fill out Appendix “C”- Consent of Adult Adoptee’s Spouse form. Everything has to be signed in the presence of a Notary Public.

Blank	What to write in the blank
1	The judicial circuit for the county where you live. See Appendix D for a list of circuits.
2	The county where you live and plan to file the petition.
3	Leave blank- to be filled in by the court.
4	Leave blank- to be filled in by the court.
5	The name of the adult to be adopted. If you want to change this adult’s last name to your last name, put the new legal name you want the adopted adult to have.
6	The full legal name of the adult seeking to adopt another adult. (Adoptive parent)
7	The name of the county where the petitioner resides – in both places
8	Select this option if you want to protect the privacy of the parties.
9	The name of the adult who is being adopted.
10	Date of birth of the person to be adopted.
11	Place of birth of person to be adopted. Write the city, county and state.
12	You may use letters or numbers to describe each exhibit.
13 -15	If the adoptee was cared for by the adoptive parent as a child explain how old the child was when placed, and name the placing agency. Otherwise, in (15) provide a short statement giving the reason or reasons why you want to adopt the person you are seeking to adopt. You do not need to list every reason you can think of here.
16	Your age.
17	Your current address.
18	Length of time you have lived at your current address.
19	The current marriage license and <u>all</u> divorce decrees must be attached.
20	The full legal name you wish to give to your adopted adult. If you want to give this adult your last name, put your last name after the adult’s first name.
21	Adopted adult’s biological (or legal) father’s name and date of birth.
22	Adopted adult’s biological (or legal) father’s address.
23	Adopted adult’s biological (or legal) mother’s name and date of birth.
24	Adopted adult’s biological (or legal) mother’s address.
25	Name of person to be adopted.
26	This can be approximate. This is to alert the court to inquire further if the person to be adopted has substantial assets that might be at risk if adopted.
27	Date that Termination of Parental Rights was ordered
28	Number of the Judicial Circuit Court where the Termination of Parental Rights was ordered
29	County where the court was located when Termination of Parental rights was ordered
30-31	CONSENT Mark an “X” next to line “a”, and then go on to have the adult to be adopted fill out Appendix B- Consent of Adult Adoptee form. This form must be completed in order for the Petition for Adult Adoption to be processed. IF THE ADULT BEING ADOPTED IS MARRIED, list the full legal name of the adult’s spouse. Mark an “X” next to line “b”, and then go on to fill out Appendix C- Consent of Adult Adoptee’s Spouse form. IF THE ADULT BEING ADOPTED IS NOT MARRIED, mark an “X” next to line “c”.
32	If the birth or legal parents are alive and have not had their parental rights terminated, you must attach proof that you served them with notice of the Petition. (See Appendix F)
33+	<u>YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS PORTION IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY</u> Printed name, address, telephone number, fax number (if applicable), date, and signature of the petitioner (the adult filling out this Petition and who is seeking to adopt the other adult named in the Petition).

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ (1) _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ (2) _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____ (3)

Division: _____ (4)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

_____ (5) _____,
{name to be given to person being adopted} Adoptee.

PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF ADULT BY ANOTHER ADULT

Petitioner, {full legal name} _____ (6) _____, files this petition for adoption of the above-named adult, pursuant to Chapter 63, Florida Statutes, and states:

1. This is an action for adoption of an adult by another adult, Petitioner.
2. The court has jurisdiction over this matter in that the parties reside in Florida.
3. Venue is proper in _____ (7) _____ County because the Petitioner(s) resides in _____ (7) _____ County, Florida.

OR

The petition is being filed in _____ (8) _____ County to protect the privacy rights of the parties.

4. I desire to adopt {adult's full legal name} _____ (9) _____, who was born on {date} _____ (10) _____, at {city, county and state} _____ (11) _____. A copy of the adoptee's birth certificate is attached as Exhibit _(12)_ to this petition
5. The Adoptee came into the care and custody of the Petitioner(s) at the age of _(13)_ when s/he was placed into their care by the Court or (explain) _____ (14) _____. Petitioner(s) and adoptee desire this adoption to establish legally the parent-child relationship already existing between them. Since the above date Petitioner has been able to provide adequately for the material needs of the adoptee and is able to continue doing so in the future, as well as to provide for the adoptee's mental and emotional well being and have the facilities and resources to provide for the care of the adoptee.

OR

I desire to adopt the adult because: _____ (15) _____

_____.

I am able to provide adequately for the material needs of the adoptee, as well as to provide for the adoptee's mental and emotional well being and have the facilities and resources to provide for the care of the adoptee.

6. I am ___(16)___ years old, and I have resided at {address} _____ (17) _____, Florida for ___(18)___ years.

7. My marital status is ___ not married ___ married ___ divorced ___ legally separated. A copy of petitioner(s) current marriage license and all divorce decree(s) are attached as Exhibit ___ (19)___.

8. The adoptee’s name shall be: _____(20)_____.

9. The adoptee’s birth or legal parents are:

_____(21)_____
Father’s Name Birth date

_____(22)_____
Address

_____(23)_____
Mother’s Name Birth date

_____(24)_____
Address

10. The Petitioner(s) affirms that s/he is a fit and proper person who desires to adopt ___(25)___, and that such adoption will promote the best interests of the adoptee.

11. The adoptee does not have property of any value. **OR**

The adoptee has property valued at approximately ___(26)___ .

12. **Parental rights have been terminated.** The minor child was permanently committed to the Department and community based care provider on ___(27)___, through the ___(28)___ Judicial Circuit, ___(29)___ County, Florida through a Final Judgment of Termination of Parental Rights under F.S. 39. A Certified copy of the Final Judgment of Termination of Parental Rights is attached as Exhibit ___(3)___ . *{You MUST attach a certified copy of the order terminating parental rights to this Petition in addition to the required supplemental forms}*

13. **Consent.** [check **all** that apply]

- ___ a. The consent of the adoptee is attached as Exhibit ___.
- ___ b. The adoptee is married to *{full legal name of adoptee’s spouse}* ___(30)___, and the consent of the spouse is attached as Exhibit ___(31)___.
- ___ c. The adoptee is not married.

14. Written notice of this final hearing was provided to the parents or proof of service of process showing notice has been served on the parents is attached as Exhibit ___(32)___.

15. This Petition is filed in the Circuit Court of the ___(33)___ Judicial Circuit in and for ___(34)___ County Florida. The Court having jurisdiction over this matter is located at ___(35)_____. The Clerk of Court’s phone number is ___(36)_____.

16. This petition is filed in good faith and the foregoing facts are true and correct to the best of Petitioner's knowledge and belief.
WHEREFORE, I request that this Court enter a Final Judgment of Adoption of the adult by Petitioner and change the name of the adoptee.

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing Petition for Adoption was sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 20__, by _____ [Petitioner(s)], who is personally known to me or who has produced _____ as identification, and who upon being duly sworn and taking an oath, verifies that the information contained in this Petition is true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in all blanks]

I, {full legal name and trade name of nonlawyer} _____,
a nonlawyer, located at {street} _____, {city} _____,
{state} _____, {phone} _____, helped {name} _____,
who is the petitioner, fill out this form.

Appendix B

Consent of Adult Adoptee* form

*The adult adoptee is the person who is being adopted.

**DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM OUTSIDE THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC!
THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY THE ADOPTEE AND THE NAMED WITNESSES
IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

_____,
{name of person to be adopted} Adoptee.

CONSENT OF ADOPTEE

1. I, {full legal name} _____, being over the age of 12, consent to my adoption by {name} _____, to be his/her legal child and heir at law.
2. I have been told of my right to choose a person who does not have an employment, professional, or personal relationship with the adoption entity or prospective adoptive parents to be present when this affidavit is executed and to sign it as a witness. The witness I selected is: {full legal name}_____.
3. [only one]
() I consent to my name being legally changed to {specify new name that you wish to have upon completion of the adoption process} _____.
() I do not consent to a name change.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this consent and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Adoptee
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____

Signature of Witness
Printed Name: _____
Business Address: _____
Home Address: _____

Signature of Witness
Printed Name: _____
Business Address: _____
Home Address: _____

Driver's License or
State ID Card No.: _____

Driver's License or
State ID Card No.: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.]

___ Personally known ___ Produced identification Type of identification produced _____

Appendix C

Consent of Adult Adoptee's Spouse* form

*The adult adoptee's spouse is the husband/wife of the adult who is being adopted. If the person being adopted is married, this form must be completed by his/her spouse.

**DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM OUTSIDE THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC!
THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY THE ADOPTEE'S SPOUSE AND THE NAMED WITNESSES
IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF

_____,
{use name to be given to adult being adopted} Adoptee.

ADULT ADOPTION: CONSENT OF ADULT ADOPTEE'S SPOUSE

1. I, {full legal name} _____, am the () wife () husband of {full legal name} _____, who Petitioner, {full legal name} _____ wishes to adopt.
2. I consent to the adoption of my spouse by Petitioner.
3. I understand my right to choose a person who does not have an employment, professional, or personal relationship with the adoption entity or the prospective adoptive parents to be present when this affidavit is executed and to sign it as a witness. The witness I selected is: {full legal name}_____.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this consent and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Spouse
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____

Signature of Witness
Printed Name: _____
Business Address: _____
Home Address: _____

Signature of Witness
Printed Name: _____
Business Address: _____
Home Address: _____

Driver's License or
State ID Card No.: _____

Driver's License or
State ID Card No.: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or deputy clerk.]

___ Personally known
___ Produced identification
Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW: [fill in all blanks]

I, *{full legal name and trade name of nonlawyer}* _____,
a nonlawyer, located at *{street}* _____, *{city}* _____,
{state} _____, *{phone}* _____, helped *{name}* _____,
who is the _____, fill out this form.

Appendix D

Final Judgment of Adoption

Bring this document to the final hearing on your Petition for Adoption. When the Court has signed it ask the clerk for at least 3 certified copies of this document. (You might want to call in advance to find out how much the certified copies will cost.)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

_____,
{name to be given to person being adopted} Adoptee.

FINAL JUDGMENT OF ADULT ADOPTION

Upon consideration of the Petition for Adult Adoption By Another Adult and the evidence presented, the Court finds that:

1. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the Petition for Adult Adoption.
2. The Court has jurisdiction over the adults subject to Petition for Adult Adoption.
3. Petitioner desires the permanent responsibility of a parent in this adoption.
4. ___ The birth or legal parents with intact parental rights have been properly noticed of this action.

OR

___ The adult adoptee's birth or legal mother
___ is deceased. A certified copy of the death certificate is attached.
___ previously had her parental rights terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction.

___ The adult adoptee's birth or legal father
___ is deceased. A certified copy of the death certificate is attached
___ previously had his parental rights terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction.

5. ___ The Adult adoptee is unmarried.

OR

___ The consent of the Adult Adoptee's Spouse is attached.
___ The Adult Adoptee's Spouse refuses to consent. The court has considered the reasons therefore and has found the withholding of consent to be unreasonable

6. The best interests of the adult to be adopted will be promoted by this adoption.

7. The adult to be adopted is suitable for adoption by Petitioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The adult subject to the Petition is declared to be the legal child of Petitioner, _____ {name}

2. The adult subject to this Petition) shall be the child and legal heir at law of Petitioner, _____, {name}

and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges, and subject to all obligations, of a child born of Petitioner.

3. All legal relations between the adoptee(s) and the parent whose rights are being terminated and between the adoptee(s) and the relatives of that parent are terminated by this adoption, as are all parental rights and responsibilities of that birth parent.

4. This Final Judgment of Adoption creates a relationship between the adoptee(s) and Petitioner and all relatives of Petitioner that would have existed if the adoptee(s) was (were) a blood descendant of the Petitioner, born within wedlock, entitled to all rights and privileges thereof, and subject to all obligations of a child being born to Petitioner.

5. The adult subject to this petition) shall hereafter be known as {full legal name(s)}:

DONE AND ORDERED at _____, Florida on _____.

CIRCUIT JUDGE

COPIES TO: Petitioners (or their attorney)

Appendix E

Judicial Circuits and their Associated Counties

Instructions:

Using this Appendix, find the county in which you live and the corresponding judicial circuit. Once you locate the number of the judicial circuit, write that number in the **FIRST BLANK** of the Petition for Adult Adoption.

- First Circuit - Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton
- Second Circuit - Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla
- Third Circuit - Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor
- Fourth Circuit - Clay, Duval and Nassau
- Fifth Circuit - Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter
- Sixth Circuit - Pasco and Pinellas
- Seventh Circuit - Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia,
- Eighth Circuit - Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union
- Ninth Circuit - Orange and Osceola
- Tenth Circuit - Hardee, Highlands, and Polk
- Eleventh Circuit - Dade
- Twelfth Circuit - DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota
- Thirteenth Circuit - Hillsborough
- Fourteenth Circuit - Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington
- Fifteenth Circuit - Palm Beach
- Sixteenth Circuit - Monroe
- Seventeenth Circuit - Broward
- Eighteenth Circuit - Brevard and Seminole
- Nineteenth Circuit - Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie
- Twentieth Circuit - Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee

Appendix F

Other Forms and Information That You will Need.

I. Family Law Forms: The Florida State Courts Website has family law forms available for your download and use. The web address is

http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/forms_rules/index.shtml#petsup

1. Service of Process (Needed if one or both birth/legal parents are living and have not had parental rights terminated)
 - a. Family law Form 12.910(a) Summons: Personal Service on an Individual.
 - b. Family law Form 12.910(b) Process Service Memorandum
2. Notice of Hearing 12.923 (Must contact the judicial assistant to obtain a hearing time for the judge to consider the Petition for Adult Adoption.)
3. The Consent of Adult Adoptee and Consent of Adult Adoptee Spouse are at 12.981 (a)(2) and (c)(2). There is also a form petition for adoption, but the one in this packet has been tailored for your use.

II. Final Disposition Form – obtain from the court clerk.

III. Amended Birth Certificate:

After the court signs the order granting the adoption, you will have to submit the appropriate form to obtain an amended birth certificate. If the adult adoptee was born in another state, you will have to check with that state for the procedure. If the adult adoptee was born in Florida, you may be able to submit the form at the courthouse. If your Clerk of Court accepts the form, you will need to bring a check for \$20 payable to Vital Records along with Florida Vital Records Form DH-527. (They will not accept cash). The form is available at

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/DH_527_08-08A.pdf.

FCF's Name Change Packet has more details on obtaining an amended birth certificate

IV. Name Change Documents:

Adoptees who change their name in the adoption must also change their name on all other legal documents and government forms, including Driver's License, Social Security, Immigration Documents, Medicaid and other government benefits. **Detailed information on updating these documents is contained in FCF's Name Change Packet.** Available at floridaschildrenfirst.org – under Resources.

Florida's Children First has used its best efforts in collecting and preparing material included in this publication, but does not warrant that the information herein is complete or accurate, and does not assume, and hereby disclaims, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions herein, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause. This publication is intended for use as a general reference source for young people who have recently exited state care along with their advocates and case workers. It is not meant to provide legal opinions or advice, and is not a substitute for the advice of counsel.



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