

**Instructions & Information: Complete Package For The Adoption Of A Minor
Child**

PREVIEW

A SUMMARY OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS A GENERAL RESPONSE TO GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ADOPTION PROCESS AND YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY ABOUT THE SPECIFIC FACTS IN YOUR CASE WHICH MAY ALTER OR AFFECT THE LAW APPLICABLE TO YOUR CASE.

Information & Instructions. Adoption Defined and Purpose of an Adoption

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1. Adoption is a legal process which establishes the legal relationship and rights of a child with an adoptive adult, who is made a parent by judicial decree, and the duties, powers, responsibilities, and rights of an adoptive adult (as a parent) with and over the adopted child.

2. A prerequisite to the adoption of a minor child is the termination of the relationship between a natural child and one or both of the child's living natural parents. An adult person may also be adopted by another adult.

3. Termination of natural parent's rights is not required in an adult adoption. Obviously, adoption of an adult would create an inheritance right between the adopting adult and the adopted adult.

Purpose of an Adoption

1. The purpose of an adoption is to establish the parent-child relationship between a child and an adult, or between adults.

2. A person who has been adopted receives the legal benefits that a natural born child has through his birth to his parents. A child benefits from his parents, in that the

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child receives training, discipline, education, support, maintenance, care, and hopefully, love.

PREVIEW

3. Parents benefit from their children in that also hopefully receive affection, love, and satisfaction as they sacrifice, teach, discipline, encourage, and patiently endure the experiences of childhood with the child.

4. Adoption brings to many persons the opportunity of parenthood that they might not have otherwise have enjoyed, and to many children the opportunity of having parents they might never have otherwise had.

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5. The Texas Family Code Chapter which deals with termination is Chapter 161, and the Chapter setting forth the law on adoption is Chapter 162. Pertinent provisions regarding termination and adoption will also be found in Chapter 160, which chapter concerns paternity.

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What is an Adoption?

An adoption is the legal process by which children or adults are linked to parents who are not their birth parents, granting to said adopted children all the rights and benefits of being a child as though said child was born to an adopting adult, and the adopting adults acquiring children or adult children, with all pertaining rights, privileges, and duties, as though the children or adults were in fact children born to them. In other words, adoption gives persons who desire to be parents the legal opportunity to be in the parental position, even though they did not have the blessing, gift, opportunity, or experience of giving birth to that child or adult. It could be said that this is the creation of

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parenthood by legal process. Adoption is in almost every situation a positive uplifting

experience for all who are involved. Judges love to grant adoptions in most cases, and

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lawyers enjoy their work in presenting the case to the court. Adoption is one of most emotionally rewarding things that happens in family courts.

PREVIEW

The scene portrayed most often in adoption proceedings, is that a family or future family comes to court dressed in their Sunday best clothing, with smiles on their faces. Often the participants take pictures of the court, the judge, and the attorneys, together with the parties. Many courts take time out to accommodate the family. If you are planning to photograph the event, you might give your attorney or the guardian ad-litem for the child, advance notice of your plans, so they can counsel you about the judge and court where your proceeding is pending, and perhaps, pre-arrange the photograph session.

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Can I Pay Someone To Find Me a Child To Adopt?

(Criminal Penalties)

Most states have criminal laws which prohibit purchasing a child. An unwed mother cannot sell her child to the highest bidder. It is illegal to pay money for the placement of a child. You cannot hire an attorney, or for that matter, any other professional or individual, to place a child with you.

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Proposed adoptive parents often pay reasonable medical expenses related to the birth and care of the child. The payment of medical bills is not prohibited. The best practice is to pay medical bills directly to the medical health provider, such as the hospital and delivery physician.

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Explanation Of The Termination/Adoption Procedure

Usually, the adoption process involves a two step proceeding. Since most children who are available for adoption, have one or more living parents, it will be necessary to terminate the parental rights of the living parents, who are not the husband or

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wife of the person adopting the child. In step-parent adoptions, the step-parent must be joined by his or her spouse as a petitioner in the proceeding. Thus, living parents will either be involved in the termination/adoption proceeding either as a petitioner or a respondent.

Termination is a very serious legal proceeding, which according to the Supreme Court of the United States, has constitutional implications. The rights of parent with his child are considered constitutionally protected rights, and may not be severed between the parent and the child without following the strict requirements of due process set forth in the United States and Texas Constitutions.

Texas law requires a higher burden of proof in terminations cases. This burden of proof is not always easily understood by the lay person. In short, a parent's rights with his child are not be terminated except in specific statutorily defined fact situation, where the evidence established said statutory provision by "clear and convincing evidence", which is the highest level of evidence required in civil proceedings. "Clear and convincing evidence" is evidence which establishes a fact so clearly and so persuasively, that it is most obvious and clear that the event or fact did occur. This level of evidence is best explained by contrasting it with the standard of evidence required in most civil cases, which is called the "preponderance of evidence." This "preponderance of the evidence" is a lesser burden, which is that the greater weight of the credible evidence favors the issue or fact to be established.

In a termination proceeding, due process requirements established by the Constitutions of both the United States of America, and the State of Texas, must be strictly complied with, which means that not only living parents but constitutionally protected

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methods. This means that parents are entitled to notice of such proceedings and such notice should apprise them of the nature of the proceedings against them, and should give them a fair and equitable opportunity to be heard.

Courts carefully scrutinize termination cases. Therefore, the most common ground of termination in the overwhelming number of termination/adoption cases, is the ground whereby the living parents or parent voluntarily signs an affidavit of relinquishment. Most termination cases, which are contested, are brought by Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, or the Department of Human Services, and involve situations where parents are guilty of gross neglect, abandonment, or abuse of their children. Another ground of termination, which is used more frequently, involves the non-payment of child support for at least 12 months, which period of 12 months ends or occurs within 6 months of the filing of the petition for termination.

If you believe the living parent will not sign an affidavit of relinquishment as set forth in the Texas Family Code, then you should discuss the facts with your attorney to determine if other grounds of termination might be available in your case.

The adoption proceeding will follow the termination process. This is the simple process which follows the dramatic termination process. In the adoption proceeding, the evidence centers around the adoptive parent or parents, and their understanding of the responsibilities and duties they are taking upon themselves by adopting children. Simply put, the adopting parents will tell the court that they are willing to assume the duties and liabilities of a parent, and that they will love and cherish and sacrifice for the adoptive child or children as their own children as though they had been born to them as their

natural offspring.
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What is a Relinquishment Of Parental Rights?

PREVIEW

A Relinquishment of Parental Rights is an affidavit witnessed by two witnesses and a Notary Public, wherein a parent signs away his parental rights and voluntarily gives a statutory ground, that being the execution of the said affidavit, which will sustain a termination order terminating a parental relationship. The Relinquishment must be drafted pursuant to the requirements of the Texas Family Code.

What Happens If We Can't Find One or Both of The Natural Parents?

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This is a frequently occurring problem in termination/adoption proceedings. As previously noted, the constitutional dimensions of termination proceedings, require notice to living parents. In the situation where the parent is unknown, in times past the courts often required the person seeking the adoption to issue notice in a newspaper to the unknown parent. Usually, this requirement was met by the posting of notice in a legal notice type newspaper, and an attorney appointed to represent the unknown parent.

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However, the legislature has amended the law by establishing a Paternity Registry maintained by the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics, to relieve the petitioner from service on an alleged father under certain circumstances, which includes any unknown father, if the father has not registered with the Paternity Registry, maintained by the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics. However, the legislature has required that the Petitioner obtain from the registrar of the Paternity Registry (maintained by the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics)

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a certificate that the registrar has checked the records, and has found no one alleging to the father of the child to be adopted. Note that an alleged father is one who alleges he is the father of a child, or who is alleged to be the father of the child, but whose paternity has not been determined and who is not a parent under as set forth in the Texas Family

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Code. A presumed father is the man who is married to the mother on the date the child is conceived or born, or who is listed on the child's birth certificate, or who has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be the parent of the child. A mother is always a parent.

Of course, if you know the parents of the child, but their address is unknown, they must be served with citation. Before you can issue citation by publication, you must make a diligent effort to locate the missing parent. This effort should include searching records, such as telephone directories, available to you, and by contacting relatives and

friends of the missing parents, as well as past employers. Also, you should consider retaining an expert in the field of locating missing persons, which can be done rather inexpensively over the internet. If you cannot serve them with citation because you

cannot locate them, then you must serve the missing parent by publication. You will be required to sign an affidavit swearing that you have made a diligent effort to locate the parent, as well as offering testimony at the termination hearing, which should describe in

detail your efforts to locate this parent. In this situation, the court will appoint an attorney to represent the missing parent. One of the duties of this attorney will also be to try to find the missing parent, but the paramount duty will be yours. He will be calling you, and you are urged to cooperate with him, providing him with all of the information you know that he might find the missing parent. Your termination/adoption will be

strengthened and made less challengeable on appeal or by other litigation, if you are able to locate the missing parent and have them served with personal service by a process server.

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What are Court Appointed Social Studies?

As previously explained, social studies are required in all adoptions. However, the Texas Legislature has changed the term or name “social study” to what is now called a Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and a Post-Placement Adoptive Report. In fact, the law as now written actually requires three (3) reports to be filed in adoptions in some cases, and in all cases, at least two reports. These three (3) reports are called: (1) Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report; (2) Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report; and (3) Post-Placement Adoptive Report. The Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report is not required in adoptions where the adopting petitioner is a step-parent, a grandparent, an aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption. The statutes governing these reports provide that the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, or a licensed child placing agency, or the child’s parent or guardian shall compile a report on the available health, social, educational, and genetic history of the child to be adopted, if the adoption is not being pursued by a grandparent, aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption, or a stepparent. However, in all cases involving an adoption or a termination where a managing conservator of the child will be appointed, a social study (Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and Post-Placement Adoptive Report) is required, and the law authorizes the court to appoint a private agency or another person, to conduct the social study.

In Texas, the term managing conservator means the person having custody of a child. The court is required to appoint a managing conservator in all cases where the court terminates parental rights. The appointment of the agency or person to conduct the Pre-Adoptive Home Screening and Post-Placement Report, will be decided by the court.

Some judges will only appoint a private agency, and others will appoint only court

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social workers, who the court feels comfortable with. In fact, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services has the authority to prescribe the qualifications of the persons authorized to conduct such studies, and persons who want to qualify for such work, must file with the Court a form which sets forth their respective qualifications.

Your attorney may file a motion suggesting someone to conduct the social study, but the court will make the decision on who shall be appointed, and you will be bound by that decision. Failure to cooperate in the social study will most likely result in the adoption being denied, as such reports are required in every adoption.

The costs of the social study will be paid by the adoptive parents. In some counties, where social workers are appointed, these costs may be higher than those charged by agencies or domestic relations offices.

What Is a Guardian Ad Litem?

The law requires that a guardian ad-litem or an attorney ad-litem be appointed in termination cases to protect and ensure the adequate representation of the child. The courts usually appoint an attorney who has met the qualifications outlined in the Texas Family Code. Most courts maintain a list of attorneys who they have approved as qualifying for such service. If the child to be adopted is over the age of four (4) years old, the attorney appointed must interview the child. This may be accomplished by you scheduling an appointment for your child to meet with the said guardian in his or her office, or in the alternative, the guardian ad-litem visiting you in your home. Obviously, this person will play a big part in these proceedings, and your cooperation with this person will facilitate the smooth presentation of your termination-adoption proceeding.

You will be required to pay the fees charged by the guardian ad-litem. Check with your

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attorney for his estimate of the costs of those services, or call the guardian directly, and ask what his or her fees will most likely be.

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The Court Hearing

When the social study, meaning the reports discussed hereinbefore, has been completed, and after all other requirements have been complied with, which include proper citation of the respondents, then the court will schedule the case for a hearing.

Usually, the evidence will be presented to the court in two stages. The first stage will be the termination proceeding, and the second, the adoption. The evidence will be presented

to the court in the termination proceeding to establish one of the statutory grounds of termination. In most adoption cases, this evidence is offered by you. If the respondent parent has executed an affidavit of relinquishment of parental rights, the same will be presented to the court for the court's examination. The actual manner of presentation will

normally commence by your attorney calling you as a witness to establish the basis of the termination, and after offering your testimony and all written documents supporting your testimony, then your attorney will ask the court to rule on the termination portion of your case, if the same has not yet been considered. Then your attorney will move to prove up

the facts supporting the adoption. He will again call the adopting parent as a witness, and establish the underlying facts supporting the adoption. The child should have lived in the adopting parent's home for at least six (6) months prior to the adoption. The court may waive this requirement if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child to do so.

Typically the attorneys will ask the adopting parent about his relationship with the adoptive child, and if he understands the legal meaning of an adoption decree, including

the responsibility to support the child if an adoption is granted. The court will also

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examine at the hearing the social study, a copy of which should have been provided to the attorney for petitioner and petitioner prior to the hearing.

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Actually, the best part of this proceeding will be the Court hearing. As previously stated the Court likes adoptions. The Court will treat you courteously and kindly. At the conclusion of the hearing, your attorney will present to the Court a proposed decree, which reduces to writing the orders of termination and/or adoption. This decree will change the name of the child to your name, and a birth certificate will be issued by the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics, upon the payment of the appropriate administrative fee.

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How to fill out this form:

PREVIEW

1. This form is a MS Word document.
2. To complete the form you must replace the variable information with you own specific data.
3. To insert your specific information into the form search for the name of the variable which is enclosed in [brackets].
4. Search by selecting the Ctr F keys or “Edit” from the MS Word top menu and then select “Find”.
5. A dialogue box will appear on your screen. Type the left bracket symbol [into the dialogue box and then select “Find Next”. Your cursor will be placed at the [symbol.
6. Now type in your specific data and replace the [and variable name with you own information.

For example:

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F2 then type in [, then select Find Next, and you will see [Petitioner’s Name], replace [Petitioner’s Name] with Jane Doe. Then repeat the process until there are no more bracketed fields.

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Form: Petition and Affidavits for an Adoption of a Minor

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORIGINAL PETITION FOR AN ADOPTION OF A MINOR CHILD

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1.1 Petitioner[s] would show the Court that Discovery Control Level [1,2, or 3] is the level pursuant to Rule 190 of The Texas Rules of Civil Procedure under which discovery should be conducted.

2. PETITIONER

2.1 This suit is brought by [Petitioner's Name], herein referred to as Petitioner.

2.2 Petitioner is [age] years of age.

2.3 Petitioner is the [relationship, if any] of the child who is the subject of this suit.

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3. JURISDICTION

3.1 This Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the child, who is the subject of this suit, because the child [Choose] [The child has been the subject of prior proceedings in this court] or [The child currently resides and has resided with the Petitioner since [Date], in this county.

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3.2 No other Court has continuing jurisdiction of this suit or of the child who is the subject of this suit.

3.3 There are no court-ordered relationships for support, custody or other matters affecting the child[ren] the subject of this adoption.

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[or]

PREVIEW

This Court has entered orders affecting the child the subject of the suit as a result of prior proceedings, and has named the following persons in prior proceedings as conservators of the child[ren] or as persons having access to the child[ren]:

[Managing conservator' name]

[Possessory conservator's name]

[Joint managing conservator's Name]

[Joint managing conservator's name]

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[Person granted access to the child by court order]

3.4 Pursuant to §152.209 of the Texas Family Code, attached to this Petition is an affidavit marked as an exhibit to this petition and made a part hereof for all purposes.

4. CHILD[REN]

4.1 Petitioner would show the Court that the child[ren] the subject of this proceeding [is/are]:

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Name: _____

Sex: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Current residence: _____

THANK YOU

Social Security Number: _____

Driver's License Number: _____

5.1 The following persons are entitled to citation or notice:
[Name and address of persons entitled to service, if any].

PREVIEW

Name:

Street address:

Relationship to child _____

Name: [mother of the children]

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Street address:

Relationship to child _____

Name: _____

Street address:

Relationship to child _____

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Process should be served on said persons at the respective address listed

above.

6. PROPERTY

6.1 No property is owned or possessed by the child who is the subject of this suit.

[or]

The following property is owned or possessed by the child the subject of this suit:

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6.1 [The child will have lived in the home of Petitioner[s] for at least [Number of months] months when this cause is heard.

[or]

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The child will not have lived in the home of Petitioner for [Number of months] when this cause is heard. Waiver of the requirement of six months' residence with Petitioner would be in the best interest of the child.]

PREVIEW

7. TERMINATION

7.1 Termination of the parent-child relationship between [child's name] and the [Parent's name] was granted on [date the decree was signed].

8. REQUIRED REPORTS

8.1 Petitioner further requests the Court to appoint an investigator to make and prepare a Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and a Post-Placement Adoptive Report, as required by Sections 107.051 through 107.056, Texas Family Code, and that the Court assess the fee or costs thereof to Petitioner.

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9. AD LITEM

9.1 Petitioner requests the Court to find that the interests of the [child[ren]] will be represented adequately by Petitioner and is not adverse to Petitioner. Petitioner requests that the appointment of a Guardian Ad-Litem be waived.

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[or] Petitioner requests the court appoint a guardian Ad Litem or an attorney Ad Litem to protect the interests of the minor child, should the Court determine that such would be in the best interest of the child. In the event any Respondent named hereinbefore should be served with citation by publication, Petitioner requests that an attorney ad-litem be appointed to represent any Respondent served with citation by publication.

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10. INHERITANCE RIGHTS

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10.1 It is in the best interest of the Child that the Court terminate the right of [name of the child], to inherit from and through [terminated parent or parents' name], and such termination is requested. [Such a provision as this denies the child the right to inherit from the terminated parents. Unless the Court specifically terminate the right of the child to inherit from his natural parents, the child retains that right even though the parental rights of the parent are terminated. This provision may well deprive the child of benefits that could accrue to the child from the wrongful death of the terminated parent, or social security benefits, and is difficult to justify in most cases.]

11. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

11.1 The child will have lived in the home of Petitioner for at least six (6) months when this cause is heard.

[or] The child will not have lived in the home of Petitioner for six months when this cause is heard. Waiver of the requirement of six months' residence with Petitioner would be in the best interest of the child.

12. CONSENTS

12.1 The written consent of the above-named Managing Conservator is attached hereto or will be filed herein.

[and/or]

The written consent of the child who is years of age or older is attached to and filed with this Petition.

[or] No consents are applicable or required in this case.

13. REQUIRED REPORTS

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13.1 Petitioner/s request the Court to order the preparation of a pre-adoptive home screening pursuant to §107.0511 of the Texas Family Code, and a post-placement adoptive report as provided by §107.052 of the Texas Family Code, in compliance and as required by the Board of Protective and Regulatory Services. Petitioner/s further request a copy of said reports before the final hearing hereof.

13.2 [If this adoption is not brought by a step-parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption, then this paragraph should be added] Additionally, Petitioner/s move the Court to order that the department, authorized agency, parent, guardian, or person who placed the child[ren] for adoption to prepare and file a copy of the Health, Social, Education, and Genetic History Report in the record, and to provide a copy thereof to Petitioner/s.

14. ADOPTION

14.1 Petitioner[s] request that this petition for adoption be granted, and that the parent-child relationship be established and created between the child[ren], [name or names of child or children], and [names or name of adoptive parents or parent], and that said child[ren] have all the legal rights and benefits as though they had been born to [adopting adults] as their natural born child[ren].

15. CHANGE OF CHILD'S NAME

15.1 The name of the child the subject of this suit, [Current name], should be changed to [Requested name].

16. ATTORNEY'S FEES

16.1 It was necessary for Petitioner to secure the services of [Attorney's name], a licensed attorney, to preserve and protect her/his rights. Reasonable fees should be ordered to

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pay a reasonable attorney's fee, and a judgment should be rendered in favor of this attorney and against Respondent; or, in the alternative, such reasonable attorney's fees should be taxed as costs and should be ordered paid directly to the undersigned attorney.

17. COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 162 OF THE TEXAS FAMILY CODE

17.1 Petitioner has complied with Chapter 162, Subchapter B, of the Texas Family Code by attaching a sworn affidavit or a verified allegation that states they have complied with Subchapter B of Chapter 162 of the Texas Family Code. The sworn statement is attached to this petition, marked "Exhibit B", and incorporated herein for all purposes as if it were duly recited at length herein.

[or]

18.1 Petitioner has not complied with Chapter 162 Subchapter B Of The Texas Family Code because the children the subject of this suit was/were not placed by another state or by an out-of-state person, agency, or entity, for adoption by Petitioner as verified by the affidavit of Petitioner attached hereto and made a part hereof.

[or]

18.1 Petitioner has not complied with Chapter 162, Subchapter B Of The Texas Family Code because the children the subject of this suit were placed by a [guardian, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, by birth, marriage, or prior adoption] in this state by delivering the child[ren] to [name of guardian, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, by birth, marriage, or prior adoption], which is verified in the attached affidavit which is marked "Exhibit B".

19 SEALING OF RECORDS

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19.1 Petitioner requests the Court to order the sealing of the file and the minutes of the Court.

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20. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

20.1 Petitioner has signed a statement on alternative dispute resolution. The statement is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

PRAYER

Petitioner/s pray that citation and notice issue pursuant to law. Petitioner/s pray the Court to issue its orders in accordance with allegations in this Petition, to terminate the parental rights of [name or names] as to [child[ren]'s name or names], to grant an Adoption on final hearing, and to grant any other relief sought. Petitioner prays to recover their reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and other costs. Petitioner prays for such other relief as may be in the best interests of the child[ren] who are the subjects of this petition.

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Respectfully Submitted,

[Law firm name]

By _____
[Attorney's name]
[Attorney's address]
[Telephone & facsimile number]
State Bar Number _____

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PREVIEW

EXHIBIT

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH SUB-CHAPTER B, CHAPTER 162

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF [NAME OF COUNTY]

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared [name of Petitioner/s], who upon his/her/their oath made the following statement:

“I, [name of Petitioner], verify under oath that there has been compliance with Sub-chapter B, of Chapter 162, Texas Family Code, which Sub-chapter is entitled Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.”

[or] “I, [name of Petitioner], verify that Sub-chapter B of Chapter 163, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Texas Family Code, is not applicable to the facts of this case in that this case does not involve the interstate placement of children. The child[ren] the subject of this case was/were not placed in my home from outside the State of Texas. The child[ren] was/were born in Texas.”

[or] “I, [name of Petitioner], verify that Sub-chapter B of Chapter 162, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Texas Family Code, is not applicable to the facts of this case before the bar of this Court, because the child[ren] was/were sent or brought into Texas by [name], who is the [choose: parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or aunt or guardian], who left the child[ren] with the Petitioner, who is the [choose: parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or aunt or guardian] of the child.”

[or] “I, [name of Petitioner], verify that Sub-chapter B of Chapter 162, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Texas Family Code, is not applicable to the facts of

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this case, because the child[ren] was/were placed in this state pursuant to an agreement between the sending state and the receiving state, which has the force of law.”

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Petitioner

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ by [Name of parent signing affidavit], and witnessed by [Printed name of witness] and [printed name of witness], known to me to be credible and reliable witnesses.

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I, the undersigned notary, swear that I am not an employee or relative of the Petitioner(s) or the attorney(s) for the petitioner(s).

Signature of officer

Notary's typed or printed name
My commission expires: _____
[or Notary's Stamp]

THIS DOCUMENT

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EXHIBIT
PREVIEW
Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF PETITIONER REQUIRED BY §152.209

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF [name of county]

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BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared [Petitioner's name], who is known to me personally, and who being by me first duly sworn and placed on his or her oath, stated and deposed that the following statements are true and correct:

1. I am the Petitioner in this case; my name is [Petitioner's name].
2. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and the facts are true and correct, accordingly I am competent to make this affidavit.

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3. The child's current address that is the subject of this matter is [Address], [City], TX [Zip Code].

4. The child's addresses and the person that the child lived with for the last five years prior to making this affidavit are:

Name of Person With Whom Child Resided	Address Where Child Resided	Dates When Child Resided With Said Person
THANK YOU		

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5. I have not been involved or participated in any other litigation applicable to the custody of the child that is the subject of this matter in Texas or any other state.

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6. I do not know of any other information concerning any pending proceeding in Texas or another state involving the child that is the subject of this matter.

7. I am not aware of any other persons who are not a named party to this case that have either physical custody of the child that is the subject of this matter or who may claim to have custody or visitation rights with the child that is the subject of this matter.

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[Petitioner]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ by [Name of parent signing affidavit], and witnessed by [Printed name of witness] and [printed name of witness], known to me to be credible and reliable witnesses.

I, the undersigned notary swear that I am not an employee or relative of the Petitioner(s) or the attorney(s) for the petitioner(s).

THIS DOCUMENT

Signature of officer

Notary's typed or printed name

My commission expires: _____

[or Notary's Stamp]

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Information or instructions. Affidavit Required by §152.209 of the Texas Family Code for Custody Proceedings

PREVIEW

1. If the proceeding is considered a custody proceeding, the following affidavit is required by §152.209, Texas Family Code, to be either attached to the first pleading or contained within the first pleading..

2. A termination/adoption proceeding would affect the custody of the child, in that in almost all termination proceedings, the Court is required to name a managing conservator of the child, as well as removing a parent's rights to custody of his child.

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3. The following affidavit is required to be attached to all termination proceedings, since they affect or involve the custody of children. Said affidavit could normally be attached as "Exhibit B" as referenced in the foregoing petition for termination.

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Form: Affidavit Required by §152.209 of the Texas Family Code for Custody Proceedings

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[CHILD'S NAME],

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

[A CHILD]

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLEASE DO NOT COPY
AFFIDAVIT REQUIRED BY §152.209 OF THE
TEXAS FAMILY CODE FOR CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS

[State]

County of [Name of county]

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared [Petitioner's name], who is known to me personally, and who being by me first duly sworn and placed on his or her oath, stated and deposed that the following statements are true and correct:

THIS DOCUMENT

1. "I am the Petitioner in this case; my name is [Petitioner's name]."
2. "I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and the facts are true and correct, accordingly I am competent to make this affidavit."
3. "The child's current address that is the subject of this matter is [Address], [City], [STATE][Zip code]."
4. "The child's addresses and the person that the child lived with for the last five years prior to making this affidavit are:"

THANK YOU

Name of Person With Whom Child Resided	Address Where Child Resided	Dates When Child Resided With Said Person
--	-----------------------------	---

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Name of Person With Whom Child Resided	Address Where Child Resided	Dates When Child Resided With Said Person
PLEASE DO NOT COPY		

5. “I have not been involved or participated in any other litigation applicable to the custody of the child that is the subject of this matter in [State] or any other state.

6. “I do not know of any other information concerning any pending proceeding in [State] or another state involving the child that is the subject of this matter.”

7. “I am not aware of any other persons who are not a named party to this case that have either physical custody of the child that is the subject of this matter or who may claim to have custody or visitation rights with the child that is the subject of this matter.”

[Petitioner]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ by [Name of parent signing affidavit], and witnessed by [Printed name of witness] and [printed name of witness], known to me to be credible and reliable witnesses.

I, the undersigned notary swear that I am not an employee or relative of the Petitioner(s) or the attorney(s) for the petitioner(s).

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PREVIEW _____
Signature of officer
Notary's typed or printed name
My commission expires: _____
[or Notary's Stamp]

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Information & Instructions: Affidavit Regarding Law of Interstate Placement of Children (Texas Family Code, Chapter 162, Sub-chapter B)

PREVIEW

1. Chapter 162 of the Texas Family Code sets forth the law regarding the interstate placement of children. This law comes into effect when children are placed in this state from out of state persons, or from an out of state agency. Obviously, the attorney should carefully review the provisions of said Chapter, as the client will be required to sign an affidavit regarding compliance therewith.

2. A petition for an adoption must contain a sworn statement or an attached affidavit concerning the application of the interstate compact placement of children which is set forth in Chapter 162, Subchapter B of the Texas Family Code.

3. The following affidavit should be attached to all petitions for adoption.

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into Texas by [name], who is the [choose: parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or aunt or guardian], who left the child[ren] with the Petitioner, who is the [choose: parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or aunt or guardian] of the child.”

PREVIEW

[or] “I, [name of Petitioner], verify that Sub-chapter B of Chapter 162, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Texas Family Code, is not applicable to the facts of this case, because the child[ren] was/were placed in this state pursuant to an agreement between the sending state and the receiving state, which has the force of law.”

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Signed on _____.

Petitioner's Signature

THIS DOCUMENT

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ by [Name of

parent signing affidavit], and witnessed by [Printed name of witness] and [printed name of witness], known to me to be credible and reliable witnesses.

I, the undersigned notary swear that I am not an employee or relative of the Petitioner(s) or the attorney(s) for the petitioner(s).

THANK YOU

Signature of officer

Notary's typed or printed name

My commission expires: _____

[or Notary's Stamp]

LegalFormsForTexas.Com

Form: Consent To An Adoption by A Minor Child

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CONSENT BY CHILD TO ADOPTION

STATE OF [State]

COUNTY OF [Name of county]

PLEASE DO NOT COPY

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared [Child's name], known to me and who, being by me first duly sworn, on oath stated:

I am 12 years of age or older.

I am the child whose adoption is sought in the above-entitled and numbered cause.

I consent to my adoption by [Petitioner's Name], Petitioner.

I desire and request that the above-named Petitioner be my legal parents.

THIS DOCUMENT

Signed on _____.

[Name of child], Affiant

State of Texas

County of [Name of County]

THANK YOU

This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ by [Name].

Signature of officer

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My commission expires. _____

[or Notary's Stamp]
PREVIEW

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THANK YOU

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Information & Instruction: Obtaining Criminal History

PREVIEW

1. The Texas Family Code, §162.0085 mandates that in a suit affecting the parent child relationship in which an adoption is sought, the court shall order each person seeking to adopt the child to obtain that person's own criminal history record information. The language of the code requires the Court to order that a criminal history be obtained by petitioner seeking adoption.

2. §11.23 of the Texas Government Code sets forth the manner in which a person may obtain his criminal history.

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Form: Motion and Order on Criminal History

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MOTION FOR ORDER TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL HISTORY

[Name of Petitioner], Petitioner, moves the Court to sign the order submitted herewith requiring the Petitioner seeking adoption of a child to obtain a criminal history

pursuant to §162.0085, Texas Family Code.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Law firm name]

By _____
[Attorney's name]
[Attorney's address]
[Telephone & facsimile number]
State Bar Number _____

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THANK YOU

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Cause Number _____
PREVIEW

IN THE INTEREST OF: _____ IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
[CHILD'S NAME], _____ [COUNTY NAME], TEXAS
[A CHILD] _____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORDER TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL HISTORY

On _____, came on to be considered the motion requesting the
Court to require criminal history.

PLEASE DO NOT COPY

1. [Names of clients] are seeking to adopt [Name of child[ren]].
2. Pursuant to §162.0085 of the Texas Family Code, this Court issues the following
Order:
3. The Court ORDERS [Client's Names] to obtain criminal history record information
by requesting the same from the Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime Records
Service.
4. The request is in compliance with Texas Government Code §411.128.
5. A hearing on the petition will be held on [Date of adoption hearing].

Signed on _____.

Judge Presiding
THANK YOU

APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

[Name of attorney]
Attorney for petitioner
[Street address]
[City, [State], Zip code]

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[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

PREVIEW

[Name of attorney]
Attorney for Respondent
[Street address]
[City, [State] Zip code]
[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

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THANK YOU

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Form: Letter Requesting Criminal Record Information

PREVIEW

[Date]

Texas Department of Public Safety
Crime Records Service
Attention: Correspondence Supervisor
PO Box 15999
Austin TX 78761-5999

Regarding: Request for Criminal History Report
Texas Family Code § 162.0085
Texas Government Code § 411.128

PLEASE DO NOT COPY

Dear Supervisor:

The undersigned desires to adopt a child[ren] and pursuant to the requirements of the law, hereby requests my criminal history record.

Enclosed is a Texas Department of Public Safety fingerprint card and a check for \$15.00 to cover the costs of processing.

A copy of the order of the Court requiring me to obtain my criminal history is also enclosed.

The following information is required and it needs:

THIS DOCUMENT

Name: _____ Sex: _____ Race:
Birth Date: _____ Social Security Number:
Street Address:
City, State, Zip:
Telephone:

Please sent a copy of the information to the Court: [Court Number, Address, City, State, Zip]
Cause Number of my case is: _____.

Please include my case number with the documents you send to the Court.
THANK YOU

Please forward said information pursuant to the provisions of §411.128 of the Texas Government Code.

Please contact me immediately if you need any additional information.

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Sincerely,

PREVIEW

[Typed name of client]

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THIS DOCUMENT

THANK YOU

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Information & Instructions: Motion and Order for Appointment of Ad Litem

PREVIEW

1. The following motion and order may be used to have an Guardian Ad-Litem or Attorney Ad-Litem for the child appointed, when such appointment is required by the Court, or when the practitioner feels that the appointment of a Guardian Ad-Litem or Attorney Ad-Litem would strengthen the termination-adoption process.

2. An attorney acting as a Guardian Ad Litem may place the termination-adoption on a more solid foundation, as the Guardian acts as a second set of eyes for the Court looking after the best interests of the child.

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3. An attorney who is appointed to represent the children may prefer to be named a Guardian Ad-Litem for liability reasons, as the code specifically provides for immunity to the Guardian Ad-Litem when he or she makes a recommendation to the Court. See §107.003, Texas Family Code.

4. A Guardian Ad-Litem differs from an Attorney Ad-Litem in that a Guardian acts in the best interests of the child, and his recommendations to the Court may not always be consistent with the wishes of the child. An Attorney Ad-Litem listens to the child's wishes and acts as the child's advocate.

THIS DOCUMENT

THANK YOU

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Form: Motion for Appointment of Guardian Ad-Litem

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN GUARDIAN AD LITEM

[this motion may be used also to appoint Amicus Attorney or Attorney Ad-Litem, if desired]

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On _____, the Petitioner's, [Names of Petitioner's], by and

through their attorney make this Motion for Appointment of an Guardian Ad Litem [or Amicus Attorney or Attorney Ad-Litem], who shall perform the duties and have the powers as set forth in [State statute or code] and shall assist the Court to determine the best interest of the [child[ren]] in the above entitled and numbered cause.

Respectfully Submitted,

THIS DOCUMENT

[Law firm name]

By _____

[Attorney's name]

[Attorney's address]

[Telephone & facsimile number]

State Bar Number _____

THANK YOU

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Form: For Appointment of Guardian Ad-Litem, Amicus Attorney, or Attorney Ad-Litem for Child

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[CHILD'S NAME],

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

[A CHILD]

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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ORDER FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN [GUARDIAN AD-LITEM
OR AMICUS ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY AD LITEM]

On _____, the foregoing Motion for Appointment of a

[Guardian Ad-Litem, Amicus Attorney or Attorney] Ad Litem to represent the interest of

[the child[ren], natural parent or other party] in this cause was presented to the Court.

The Court finds there is need to appoint a [Guardian Ad-Litem or Amicus Attorney or

Attorney Ad Litem] , and the Court appoints [Guardian Ad-Litem's, Amicus Attorney's,

or Attorney Ad Litem's name] to represent the interests of the [the child[ren], natural

parent or other party in this cause.

THIS DOCUMENT

This appointment shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect during

the pendency of this matter or until further action of the Court.

Signed on _____.

THANK YOU
Judge Presiding

APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

[Name of attorney]
[Street address] **LegalFormsForTexas.Com**

[City, [State] Zip code]
[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

PREVIEW

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Information & Instructions: Appointment of an Investigator to Prepare Required Reports

PREVIEW

1. There are three (3) reports required by the Texas Family Code in certain adoption proceedings. §162.005,

2. Texas Family Code, concerns the Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report. This report is not required in adoptions where a stepparent, grandparent, aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption, is pursuing the adoption. This report is the duty of the person or entity who places the child for adoption. A parent can prepare this report. A copy of this report should be provided to the adoptive parents as soon as practicable before the first meeting of the adoptive parents with the child.

3. §162.003 of the Texas Family Code sets forth the requirement that in a suit for adoption, a Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and Post-Placement Adoptive Report must be conducted as provided in Chapter 107 of the Texas Family Code.

4. §107.0511, Texas Family Code, addresses the Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report, and §107.052, deals with the Post-Placement Adoptive Report.

5. If the adoption is sought by a step-parent, these two reports (Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and Post-Placement Adoptive Report) may be combined. Both reports are to prepared pursuant to rules adopted by the Board of Protective and Regulatory Services.

THANK YOU

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Form: Motion and Order Appointing an Investigator to Make Required Reports

PREVIEW
Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MOTION FOR PREPARATION OF REPORTS

1. [Client's Name], Movant, pursuant to §162.003 and §162.005, Texas Family Code, moves the Court appoint an agency or other qualified person to prepare a Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report, and also, the Post-Placement Adoptive Report. [If this is a stepparent adoption, add : Movant further moves the Court to combine the Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and the Post-Placement Adoptive Report into one combined Report.] [Add if this is not a stepparent, grandparent, aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption: Movant also moves the Court to order [name of the person or agency placing the child(ren) for adoption or a parent] to prepare the Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report, provide a copy to Petitioner, and file a copy of the same with the Court.]

2. Termination [and adoption] of the subject child[ren] is/are requested by petitioner[s] herein.

3. Movant requests that the Court order the preparation of such reports as are required by law to assist the Court in naming a managing conservator in the event termination is granted, and to assist the Court in the adoption proceeding pending before this Court.

4. The preparation of all reports is in the child's best interest.

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THANK YOU

5. Movant prays that the Court enter an order granting this motion.

PREVIEW

Respectfully Submitted,

[Law firm name]

By _____

[Attorney's name]

[Attorney's address]

[Telephone & facsimile number]

State Bar Number _____

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THANK YOU

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Case Number _____
PREVIEW

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[CHILD'S NAME],

[A CHILD]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF HEARING

The foregoing Motion for the preparation of reports as required by §162.003,

Texas Family Code, is hereby set for a hearing before the Court of
PLEASE DO NOT COPY

Judge Presiding

THIS DOCUMENT

THANK YOU

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~~CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE~~
PREVIEW

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading or document has been served upon all attorneys of record and any parties who are not represented by an attorney on _____, as follows:

Attorney for [Name party]:

Attorney's street address:

City, state and zip code:

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This document and notice was served in the following manner.

_____ U.S. Mail, Certified Return Receipt Request No. _____.

U.S. Mail, First Class.

_____ Hand delivery by [Name of delivery service]: _____.

_____ Facsimile transmission to _____ [fax number].

THIS DOCUMENT

[Signature of attorney]

THANK YOU

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[In an adoption where grandparent, aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption, or stepparent is seeking the adoption, the Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report is not required pursuant to §162.005, but in all other adoptions it is required] IT IS ORDERED that [name of agency or person who placed the child, or name of parent to be appointed] prepare and file the Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that [name of agency, or person, or parent appointed] shall provide a copy of said Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report to Petitioner as soon as practicable.

The Court FURTHER ORDERS that Petitioner will pay the costs of the foregoing reports.

[or] The Court FURTHER ORDERS that the cost of preparation of the foregoing reports shall be paid by the parties in the following proportions. Petitioner will pay [Movant percentage of cost] and Respondent [Name] will pay [Respondent percentage of cost].

[or (the following paragraph could be added, which allows the ad litem or attorneys access to all of the records. The caveat is that some Courts made find this burdensome on the investigator)]

The Court FURTHER ORDERS that [investigator's name], if requested by any court-ordered Ad Litem or attorney of record, to produce all relevant documents or records in this case, including, but not being limited to notes, written communications, writings, records, memoranda, summaries, data, correspondence, test results, videos, photographs, tape recordings, or other materials. [investigator's name] is also ordered to produce the most recent copy of a most recent curriculum vitae or resume.

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IT IS ORDERED that no information contained with said reports within is
PREVIEW
confidential or protected by any privilege as between [Investigator's name] and any Ad
Litem, attorney of record or party to this case.

IT IS ORDERED that [investigator's name] shall give testimony in this cause
without need of a subpoena.

IT IS ORDERED that this case is set for a hearing on [Date].

Signed on _____

PLEASE DO NOT COPY

Judge Presiding

APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

[Name of attorney]

Attorney for petitioner

[Street address]

[City, [State] Zip code]

[Phone] [Facsimile]

State Bar Number _____

THIS DOCUMENT

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Information & Instructions: Decree Granting Adoption

PREVIEW

1. If the proceeding is considered a custody proceeding, the following affidavit is required by §152.209, Texas Family Code, to be either attached to the first pleading or contained within the first pleading..
2. In all adoption proceeding, the attorney should file with the clerk of the Court a Bureau of Vital Statistics form. Certificate of Adoption (VS-160 REV 9/96). This form should be filed with the adoption decree.

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Form: Decree Granting an Adoption of a Minor

PREVIEW

Cause Number _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

[CHILD'S NAME],

[COUNTY NAME], TEXAS

[A CHILD]

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORDER GRANTING AN ADOPTION

PLEASE DO NOT COPY

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, came on to be considered the Petition for Adoption filed by Petitioner/s herein, and this cause was heard by the Court.

Appearances of Parties and Ad Litem's Appointed by the Court

Petitioner/s, [names of Petitioner/s] appeared in person and through attorney of record, [name of Petitioner/s' attorney], and announced ready for trial.

Respondent, [name of Respondent], although duly served with citation herein, did not appear and wholly made default. Respondent, [name of Respondent] [or]

THIS DOCUMENT

Respondent, [name of Respondent], appeared in person and through attorney of record, [name of Respondent's attorney], and announced ready for trial.

Also appearing was [Guardian Ad Litem's name], appointed by the Court as guardian Ad Litem of the child the subject of this suit. Also appearing was [name of attorney ad litem for parent served by publication], appointed by the Court as Attorney Ad Litem for [Respondent's full Name] who was served citation by publication.

THANK YOU

The Court, after examining the record and hearing the evidence and argument of counsel, finds that it has jurisdiction of this case and of all the parties and that no other court has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of this case. All persons entitled to citation were properly cited.

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A jury was waived, and all questions of fact and of law were submitted to the Court.
A record of testimony was duly recorded by the court reporter assigned to this Court.

PREVIEW

The Court finds that the following child[ren] is/are the subject of this suit:

NAME OF CHILD:

AGE OF CHILD: SEX OF CHILD:

BIRTH DATE: BIRTHPLACE:

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

PLEASE DO NOT COPY

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER: ISSUING STATE:

NAME OF CHILD:

AGE OF CHILD: SEX OF CHILD:

BIRTH DATE: BIRTHPLACE:

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER: ISSUING STATE:

THIS DOCUMENT

The Court finds by clear and convincing evidence that Petitioner has filed a verified allegation or statement regarding compliance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children as required by §162.002 of the Texas Family Code.

The Court finds that the criminal history record information required for [Petitioner's name] is on file in the record of this case.

The Court finds that the child has lived in the home of Petitioner for at least six months. [or] The Court finds that it is in the best interest of the child[ren] to waive the six (6) month residency requirement, and IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that the six (6) month residency requirement is hereby waived.

THANK YOU

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The Court finds that the following required reports and studies have been made and are on file: the Pre-Adoptive Home Screening Report and the Post-Placement Adoptive report. The Court finds that a copy of the reports and studies have been made available to Petitioner/s before this final order of adoption.

The Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report [§162.005, Texas Family Code]

[If the adoption is not by the child[ren]'s grandparent, aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption; or by a stepparent, then the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, a licensed child placing agency, or the child[ren]'s parent or guardian shall compile a report on the available health, social, educational, and genetic history of the child[ren]. It is the finding of the Court that [name of agency placing child for adoption or name of person placing child for adoption or name of parent or guardian who prepared the report] has prepared a Health, Social Educational, and Genetic History Report, which has been filed herein, and a copy has been provided to the Petitioner/s.

The Court finds by clear and convincing evidence that all prerequisites and requirements for adoption have been met and that the adoption is in the best interests of the child.

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that the adoption of the child[ren] the subject of this suit by Petitioner/s is GRANTED and IT IS ORDERED and DECREED that the parent-child relationship is created between the child[ren] and Petitioner/s for all purposes.

IT IS ORDERED that the name of the child the subject of this suit, a [Male or female] w/o w/a l or n for [D] r e] is changed from [Child's old name] to [Child's new name].

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IT IS ORDERED that good cause exists to award [Client's Attorney] a judgment of \$[Amount of attorney fees] for legal services rendered in relation to the child and as Guardian Ad-Litem [Attorney Ad-Litem] for the child[ren] and in the nature of child support, with interest at [interest rate] percent per year compounded annually from the date the judgment is signed until paid. The judgment, for which let execution issue, is awarded against [Respondent's Full Name], Respondent.

These fees are taxed as costs and [Respondent's Full Name], Respondent is ORDERED to pay the fees to [Guardian Ad Litem's name] by cash, cashier's check, or money order on or before [Date fees are due]. [Guardian Ad Litem's name] may enforce this order for fees in his own name.

IT IS ORDERED that costs of court are to be borne by the party who incurred them.

IT IS ORDERED that all papers and records in this case, including the minutes of the Court, be sealed.

All relief requested in this case and not expressly granted is denied.

IT IS ORDERED that the clerk of this Court, after entry of final orders in this case, shall transmit to the Bureau of Vital Statistics at Austin, Texas, a certified Report of Adoption pursuant to §108.003 of the Texas Family Code. All papers and records in this case, including the minutes of the Court, are ordered sealed.

All relief requested in this case and not expressly granted is denied.

Signed on _____.

THANK YOU

Judge Presiding

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APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

PREVIEW

[Name of attorney]
Attorney for petitioner
[Street address]
[City, [State] Zip code]
[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

[Name of Guardian Ad-Litem]
[Street address]
[City, [State] Zip code]
[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

[Name of Attorney Ad-Litem]
[Street address]
[City, [State] Zip code]
[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

Attorney for Respondent
[Street address]
[City, [State] Zip code]
[Phone] [Facsimile]
State Bar Number _____

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Information: VS 160 Certificate of Adoption

PREVIEW

1. This form is filed with the court after the decree of adoption has been presented to the court.
2. The form is an information form that is sent to the Texas Vital Statistics.
3. The form is used to make a record of the pre adoption birth information and the post adoption birth information.
4. The form contains simple instructions for the completion of the form and filing instructions.
5. **PLEASE DO NOT COPY** The adoption is not finished until this form has been completed.

THIS DOCUMENT

THANK YOU

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