

## **Information & Instructions. Adoption Defined and Purpose of an Adoption**

### **Adoption Defined**

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

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.