

STEP PARENT ADOPTIONS

PURSUANT TO LUCAS CO. LOCAL RULE 57.1 (F)

EVERY FILING SHALL BE TYPEWRITTEN OR COMPUTER GENERATED. THE COURT MAY REFUSE ALL FILINGS NOT SO PREPARED OR CERTIFIED. NO PLEADINGS SHALL BE FILED SIGNED IN PENCIL.

I. PETITION FOR ADOPTION

- A. Attorney provides:
- * Petition for Adoption (Form 18.0) signed by adopting parent only, using full legal names, **no initials** and pays court costs.
 - * Spouse signs consent. (Form 18.3)
 - * ODH Vital Statistics, Certificate of Adoption (Form HEA 2757) with original or certified copy of child's existing birth certificate.
 - * Request For Info RE: Paternity Establishment Form completed by Central Paternity Registry dated 15 or more days after the minor's birth. E-Mailed information must be legible or a certification from the attorney will be required. Corresponding document required.
 - * Need Consent (Form 18.3) by legal father or Putative Father Registry Certification OR notification of hearing (Form 18.2) will be done by court.
 - * If legal father, we need copy of paperwork.
 - * Record Check- Stepparent has fingerprints done for a criminal background check. A list of locations will be provided by your social worker.
- B. Home study is ordered by the Court and must be approved before any hearings.
- C. Final Hearing is set if we have consent by parents or consent by a parent and Putative Father Registry Certification
- D. Hearing on Petition will be set if non-consenting parent needs to be notified.
- * Notification is by personal service, arranged by the Court, or publication if address is unknown.
 - * If publication is necessary, Attorney to provide Affidavit and Request for Service by Publication
 - * Certified mail may be used if non-consenting parent is incarcerated.

II. HEARING ON PETITION (petitioners come without children)

- A. If non-consenting parent does not appear:
- * Evidence taken regarding history of payment and support.
 - * Judge signs JE/Consent Not Required (Form 18.4) and JE/Best Interest (Form 20.14-A). Final Hearing is scheduled.
- B. If non-consenting parent files a written objection within 14 days after service:
- * Contested Consent Hearing is scheduled for half or whole day testimony.
 - * If consent is found necessary, petition is dismissed.
 - * If consent is found unnecessary, Best Interest Hearing is scheduled.
 - * If Best Interest to be adopted is confirmed, Final Hearing is scheduled.
 - * If Best Interest to be adopted is denied, Petition is dismissed.

III. FINAL HEARING

- A. Petitioners and child must appear.
- B. Court provides:
 - * Notice of Final Hearing (Form 20.11A)
 - * Adoption Certificate for Parents (Form 18.8)
 - * Final Decree. (Form 18.7)
- C. Court forwards documents to State BVS for new birth certificate and notifies child support, if applicable
- D. Petitioner to wait at least 30 days after the final hearing to order the new birth certificate, following the instructions provided in the packet at the final hearing.