

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Is there a filing fee for adoption?

A. Yes, see current fee schedule on the court website. www.sb-court.org

Q. Are there additional fees in an adoption case?

A. Yes, there are additional fees for the investigation and report that is conducted by the Department of Children's Services or by a Private Adoption Agency. Fees are assessed for a background check and fingerprints.

Q. How long does an adoption take?

A. An adoption may take approximately anywhere from six (6) months to one (1) year.

Q. May I obtain a copy of my own adoption papers?

A. The adoptive parents or adopted child may request a copy of the adoption paperwork which states the date and place of adoption, the child's birth date, the names of the adoptive parents, and the name the child has taken. A release of any other information requires an order from the court. Forms are available at the Clerk's Office. Note: Birth parent information cannot be disclosed without written consent by the birth parent(s) (see Family Law Code Sections 9201-9206).

For more information regarding Adoptions, please refer to the Judicial Council website:

How to Adopt a Child:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/adopt050info.pdf>

Adoption Self Help Center

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-adoption.htm>

SAN BERNARDINO SUPERIOR COURT ADOPTIONS LOCATIONS

Joshua Tree Courthouse

6527 White Feather Road
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
760-974-3047

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

San Bernardino Historic Courthouse

351 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415
909-521-3136

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Victorville Courthouse

14455 Civic Drive
Victorville, CA 92392
760-245-6215

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit our website www.sb-court.org
Click Adoptions, under the Family Law/Child Support section on our home page

All forms are available on the court website

Scan the QR code with a smart-phone or internet-capable mobile device to access more information on the court website.



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Adoptions

Understanding Your Options



EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS

ACCOUNTABILITY

INNOVATION

EQUAL ACCESS

ADOPTIONS GENERAL INFORMATION

Adoption is a legal arrangement by which the adoptive parents become legally responsible for the child they adopt and obtain all legal parental rights with regard to the child. The minimum age to adopt is twenty-one (21). There must be at least a ten (10) year age difference between the prospective parents and the adoptee. There are several different types of adoptions such as Agency Adoption, Independent Adoption, International Adoption, Stepparent Adoption, Adoption of Adults and Married Minors.

Due to strict laws regarding the confidentiality of records, case-specific information will not be given over the telephone because proper identification cannot be established.

TYPES OF ADOPTIONS

Agency Adoption: The adoption of a child other than an international adoption, in which the California Department of Social Services or a licensed adoption agency is a party to, or joins in, the adoption petition.

Independent Adoption: The birth parents select the adoptive parents and place the child directly with them. Custody is transferred directly between the parents, rather than through an agency.

International Adoption: A child born outside of the United States is adopted by adults living in the United States. The adoption procedure is conducted by a private agency. A child adopted outside the United States must be “re-adopted” in the United States.

Stepparent Adoption: A stepparent petitions the court for adoption of the child of his or her spouse. A domestic partner desiring to adopt a child of his or her domestic partner may also file for adoption under this procedure. Stepparent adoption to confirm parentage is when the adopting parent is in a union with the birth parent at the time the child is born and is still in the union with the birth parent. The definition of a union is: marriage, California registered domestic partnership, registered domestic partnership or civil union from out of state that is equal to a marriage.

Adoption of Adults and Married Minors: An adult may be adopted by another adult, including a stepparent, and a married minor may be adopted in the same manner as an adult.

Court Dress Code

Acceptable court attire is that which is consistent with the traditional dignity of the court and includes business or casual dress (jeans are allowed). Shorts, tank tops, crop tops and bare feet are not permitted. If the judicial officer finds your clothing inappropriate you could be ordered to go home to change or to return to court on another day.

Weapons Screening

All persons entering the courthouse will go through a weapons screening process.



Joshua Tree Courthouse



San Bernardino Historic Courthouse



Victorville Courthouse

ADOPTIONS GENERAL INFORMATION

Adoption is a legal arrangement by which the adoptive parents become legally responsible for the child they adopt and obtain all legal parental rights with regard to the child. The minimum age to adopt is twenty-one (21). There must be at least a ten (10) year age difference between the prospective parents and the adoptee. There are several different types of adoptions such as Agency Adoption, Independent Adoption, International Adoption, Stepparent Adoption, Adoption of Adults and Married Minors.

Due to strict laws regarding the confidentiality of records, case-specific information will not be given over the telephone because proper identification cannot be established.

TYPES OF ADOPTIONS

Agency Adoption: The adoption of a child other than an international adoption, in which the California Department of Social Services or a licensed adoption agency is a party to, or joins in, the adoption petition.

Independent Adoption: The birth parents select the adoptive parents and place the child directly with them. Custody is transferred directly between the parents, rather than through an agency.

International Adoption: A child born outside of the United States is adopted by adults living in the United States. The adoption procedure is conducted by a private agency. A child adopted outside the United States must be “re-adopted” in the United States.

Stepparent Adoption: A stepparent petitions the court for adoption of the child of his or her spouse. A domestic partner desiring to adopt a child of his or her domestic partner may also file for adoption under this procedure. Stepparent adoption to confirm parentage is when the adopting parent is in a union with the birth parent at the time the child is born and is still in the union with the birth parent. The definition of a union is: marriage, California registered domestic partnership, registered domestic partnership or civil union from out of state that is equal to a marriage.

Adoption of Adults and Married Minors: An adult may be adopted by another adult, including a stepparent, and a married minor may be adopted in the same manner as an adult.



Joshua Tree Courthouse



San Bernardino Historic Courthouse



Victorville Courthouse

Court Dress Code

Acceptable court attire is that which is consistent with the traditional dignity of the court and includes business or casual dress (jeans are allowed). Shorts, tank tops, crop tops and bare feet are not permitted. If the judicial officer finds your clothing inappropriate you could be ordered to go home to change or to return to court on another day.

Weapons Screening

All persons entering the courthouse will go through a weapons screening process.