

Whatcom County Superior Court

Instructions and Documents for International Adoptions

1. **Petition for Adoption** (**\$250.00** filing fee, cash only) At the time of the filing of the Petition, the Clerk will assign a case number and a judge. You should write the case number on the remaining documents. **Petitioner's Sworn Statement**
2. **Foreign Documents**: As your adoption is an international adoption of a child previously adopted in a foreign county, you are required to present at the hearing the **ORIGINALS** of all foreign documents for the court's review. These will be then returned to you for an additional \$10.00 fee, cash only.
3. **Background Clearances** (all forms/documents from international agency)
4. **Motion & Order Directing Filing of Post-Placement Report** (Take to counter at County Clerk suite to be presented to judicial officer, along with an additional **\$30.00** fee, cash only.) (Now two separate documents.)
5. **Post-Placement Report**
6. **Note for Motion Docket** (Schedules the hearing to complete the adoption: take it to counter at the County Clerk suite and you will be referred to the assigned judge's judicial assistant to schedule the hearing.)



All of the above must be filed before the matter may be set for hearing, step 6.



At the hearing scheduled, above, present the following documents:

7. **Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**
8. **Decree of Adoption** You will probably need FIVE certified copies, at the cost of \$6.00 each, cash only (**\$30.00**, total)
9. Once the Court has signed your decree, at the Clerk's office you must ask for and complete:
 - o The multi-copy Department of Health "**Application for Adoption Registration**" and give it to the Clerk along with your check or money order payable to the Department of Health, in the amount of **\$35.00**. A blank form is included in the package, to use to write the information on the original form at the Clerk's office.
 - o You may pre-fill the DSHS Adoption Data Card and give it to the Clerk to complete the court portion. The form is included in the package and may be downloaded on the Court's web site.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you file any of the above documents within the five days immediately preceding the hearing to finalize your adoption you must deliver courtesy Judge working copies to the County Clerk. Before you file any document be sure to make copies for this purpose. Please indicate the Judge's name, the date and time of the hearing in the upper right hand corner of the top page.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

No.

PETITION FOR ADOPTION

A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18

Petitioners _____ and _____

Husband and wife, hereby state as follows:

I. CHILD

That _____ is a male/female child

born on _____, in _____

The child was born to _____

II. NATURAL PARENTS

A. An order terminating the parent-child relationship between the child And the natural mother will be entered, or has been entered in _____ (See Exhibit ____).

B. An order terminating the parent-child relationship between the child And the natural father will be entered, or has been entered in _____ (See Exhibit ____).

C. A Decree of Adoption in favor of Petitioners will be entered, or has been entered in _____ (See Exhibit ____).

III. INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901, et sec., does/does not apply to this proceeding.

IV. SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, 50 U.S.C. Sec. 501, et sec, does/does not apply to this proceeding.

V. PETITIONERS

Petitioners have been married since _____

Petitioners desire to adopt the child as their own child and are able and willing to Care for the child. The child is now in the custody of Petitioners by virtue of the _____

Decree of Adoption and a valid United States Visa.

The Petitioners reside in _____, Whatcom County, Washington.

VI. NAME CHANGE

Petitioners pray that the Court in the proceeding change the name of the child to

VII. POST-PLACEMENT REPORT

_____ should be directed to provide and file a Post-Placement report, and accept the Preplacement Report of _____.

WHEREFORE, your Petitioners pray as follows:

That the Court enters an order approving the consent by the natural mother and natural father, and approving the relinquishment and Decree of Adoption; appoint

_____ to provide a post-placement report, authorize the child to the custody of Petitioners; and that the Decree of Adoption change the name of the child to and for such other relief as may be proper.

Dated this _____ day of _____

Presented by:

Petitioners, _____ and _____ certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that they are the Petitioners name in the Petition for Adoption, that the foregoing is true and correct and they affirm their desire to adopt the minor child named herein.

DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

Petitioner

Co-Petitioner

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

No.

**PETITIONERS SWORN
STATEMENT**

A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18

Petitioners _____ and _____
husband and wife, being first duly sworn, on oath, depose and say:

We hereby certify that we have caused to be filed with the above-entitled court Copies of all the adoption pre-placement reports authorized by us. We further certify that we have give notice of these proceedings to all agencies or social workers which have been requested by us to commence a pre-placement study, even if that study was not completed at our request.

The names and addresses of the agencies and social workers either authorized by Us to prepare a pre-placement study or consulted by us with regard to a prospective Adoption are as follows:

Name of Agency: _____

Name of Caseworker: _____

Address: _____

Name of Agency or Social Worker: _____

Address: _____

The undersigned swear to the truth and correctness of the foregoing information and sign this under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__.

_____ and _____

City: _____ State: _____

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

_____ ,
A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18

No.

**MOTION AND DECLARATION
FOR ORDER DIRECTING FILING
OF POST-PLACEMENT REPORT**

MOTION AND DECLARATION

1. The above named child is the subject of this proceeding.
2. Parental rights have/have not been terminated and the child is placed with petitioners.
_____ and _____, who have legal custody of the child.
3. _____ is a suitable person or agency, meeting statutory requirements to complete a Post-Placement Report. A statement of qualifications (Curriculum Vitae or copy of agency license) is attached hereto.

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct upon penalty of perjury according to the Laws of Washington State.

Date: _____

Petitioner Attorney or Petitioners
WSBA Number of Atty: _____

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18

No.

**ORDER DIRECTING FILING OF
POST-PLACEMENT REPORT**

ORDER

This matter having come on regularly for hearing on this date, it is hereby ordered that _____ is directed to prepare and file a Post Placement Report in this matter, pursuant to RCW 26.33.200.

Dated and signed in open Court this _____ day of _____, 20____.

JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

Presented by:

Petitioner/Petitioner's Attorney

WSBA Number of Atty: _____

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

<p>_____ Plaintiff/Petitioner, vs. _____ _____ Defendant/Respondent.</p>	<p>NO. _____</p> <p>NOTE FOR:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Motion Docket (NTMTDK)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trial Docket (NTTRDK)</p> <p><i>(Use separate sheet for each noting)</i></p>
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NOTE FOR MOTION DOCKET

Please take note that the issue in this case will be heard on the date set out in the margin and the clerk is requested to note the same on the motion docket for that day, subject to the confirmation rule.

Date and Time of Hearing _____

Nature of Hearing _____

NOTE FOR TRIAL DOCKET

The undersigned certifies that this case is ready for trial setting. All issues have been joined. All responsive pleadings as to all named parties have been filed or proper defaults have been taken. This case is not subject to mandatory arbitration under WCMAR. Either (1) the parties agree that all discovery in the case has been completed, or (2) the parties have filed an Agreed Order on Discovery, which specifies the order and timing of discovery and terminates discovery 30 days before trial, or (3) this case has been noted for a scheduling conference before the trial judge. The clerk is requested to note this on the trial setting calendar to be brought on for trial at the time set by the court – subject to the confirmation rule.

Date and Time of Trial Setting Calendar _____

Nature of Cause _____

Jury requested: Yes No

Estimate of Time Required for Trial _____

Reason Exempt from Mandatory Arbitration _____

Dated: _____ Names/addresses of other attorneys or parties Pro Se: _____

Signature of Lawyer or Party

Print or Type Name; WSBA # if Attorney

Address:

Telephone _____

If Attorney, Party Represented

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18

No.

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

THIS MATTER came on regularly for hearing in this Court upon the petition for the adoption of the above-named child. The Court has reviewed the favorable Post-Placement Report on file and has considered the testimony presented and the files and records herein, and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Petitioner(s)** desire(s) to adopt (original name of child) _____
as his/her/their own child and is/are able and willing to care for the child, and the adoption is in the best interests of the child. The child is now in the custody of the Petitioner(s) in the
City of _____, County of _____, State of _____.
2. **Child:** (Original name of child) _____ is a (male/female) born
on (DOB) _____, in the City of _____,
State of _____, Country of _____.
He/She was born to (name of birth mother) _____.

3. Termination of Parent-Child Relationship. The termination of the parent-child relationship between the child and the child's birth mother and the father, is based upon:

Mother:

- International adoption documents, herein
- Consent to adoption, herein
- Termination of parental rights, herein

Father:

- International adoption documents, herein
- Consent to adoption, herein
- Termination of parental rights, herein

4. Name Change: The Petitioner(s) request(s) that the change or establish the child's name to be (new name) _____.

5. Indian Child Welfare Act. The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1901, et seq., does/does not apply.

6. Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act. The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. § 501 et. seq., does/does not apply.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

From the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Court makes the following Conclusion of Law:

1. That the Petitioner(s) is/are suitable and reliable to be charged with the custody of the child, are financially able and willing to support the child and to furnish the child with a suitable home, care and education, and that the proposed adoption is in the best interest of the child.
2. That the Petitioner(s) is/are entitled to a Decree of Adoption
3. That the Decree of Adoption should change and establish the name of the child to be _____.
4. That the Washington State Department of Health shall issue a birth certificate showing the Petitioner(s) as the child's mother/father/mother and father.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Presented by:

Judge/Court Commissioner

Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner(s)

WSBA Number of Attorney: _____

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18

No.

DECREE OF ADOPTION

THIS MATTER came on regularly for hearing in this Court upon the Petition for the adoption of the above-named child. The Court has reviewed the favorable Post-Placement report on file, and heard the testimony of Petitioner(s), and has examined the files and records herein. Having entered its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; now therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the petition to adopt the above-named child is hereby granted; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the name of the above-named child is changed and established to be _____, that the Washington State Health Department is ordered and directed to issue a birth certificate for the child showing the child to be the child of Petitioner(s) _____

[] husband and wife [] single person (check one).

IT IS ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court shall create one certified copy of this decree for the use of the Washington State Health Department, and shall issue additional certified copies, as requested, to the Petitioner or the Petitioner's undersigned attorney.

ADOPTION SUMMARY

1. Full original name of child: _____
2. Full new name of child: _____
3. Date of Birth of child _____
4. Place of birth: City of _____, State of _____

Country of _____.

5. Name of Petitioner(s): _____

6. The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1901, et seq., does/does not apply.

7. The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. § 501 et. seq., does/does not apply.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the _____ day of _____, 20__.

Presented by:

Judge/Court Commissioner

Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner(s)

WSBA Number of Attorney: _____