Adult Adoption

Adult adoption is a legal procedure in which an older adult adopts a younger adult. Once an adult adoption is complete, the parties assume toward each other a legal parent-child relationship, with all associated rights and responsibilities of such a relationship, including inheritance rights. Adult adoption cannot be used for immigration purposes. (https://www.uscis.gov/adoption/adult-adoptees-and-us-citizenship)

Templates and Forms

- Petition for Adult Adoption Template – DOCX (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PETITION-FOR-APPROVAL-OF-ADOPTION-AGREEMENT-TEMPLATE.docx)
- Agreement for Adult Adoption Template – DOCX (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/ADOPTION-AGREEMENT-TEMPLATE.docx)
- Consent of Spouse of Adoptee Template – DOCX (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CONSENT-OF-SPOUSE-OF-ADOPTED-PERSON-TEMPLATE.docx)
- Consent of Spouse of Adopting Person Template – DOCX (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CONSENT-OF-SPOUSE-OF-ADOPTING-PARENT-TEMPLATE.docx)
- Order Granting Adult Adoption Template – DOCX (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PROPOSED-ORDER-OF-ADOPTION-TEMPLATE.docx)

Step-parent adoption of a minor is a different process. Contact the Family and Probate Self Help Center for forms and assistance with step-parent adoption (https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/self-help/family-law-probate-self-help-center) .

An adult adoption severs all existing parent-child relationships, unless the adopting parent is the adoptee's stepparent. When a stepparent adopts an adult stepchild, the adopting parent's spouse retains his/her parent-child relationship with the adoptee. The procedures for adopting an adult in California are found in the California Family Code (Fam.) §§ 9300-9340 (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM&sectionNum=9300.) .

The required documents for an adult adoption are:

- **The *Adoption Agreement***. This document states that the parties agree to assume toward each other the legal relationship of parent and child, and to have all the rights and be subject to all the duties and responsibilities of that relationship.

- **The *Petition for Approval of Adoption Agreement***. This is the formal request that the court approve the Adoption Agreement. This document must provide specific details, including the ages of the parties, the nature and length of their relationship, and the reasons the parties are seeking this adoption. Be clear and specific about why the adoption would be in the best interest of the parties.
- **The *Order of Adoption***. This is the formal court order granting the adoption. Present this at the adoption hearing for the judge to sign.
- ***Spousal Consent(s)***. If either party is married, consent of the spouse(s) is required.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1 **Complete the required forms**

There is no Judicial Council form for this procedure. Instead, the relevant documents must be typed on 28-line pleading paper. Customizable templates may be downloaded from the above links.

Sample filled-in forms with instructions are available at the end of this Guide.

2 **Make copies and organize**

Make copies for all parties and for the Court. Your *Adoption Agreement* and *Spousal Consents* should be attached to your *Petition* as exhibits.

Exhibits should be separated by a blank piece of pleading paper with their exhibit letter or number typed or written at the bottom of the page.

3 **Obtain Form VS-44, Court Record of Adoption**

Form VS-44, *Court Report of Adoption*, is required for all types of adoptions. The court completes this form and forwards it to the Office of Vital Records. In many courts, the clerk will provide the form. Otherwise, you may request the form by mail from the California Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records.

A VS-44 web form is also available online.
(https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/PSB/Pages/BirthDeathMarriageCertificates.aspx)

California Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records
MS 5103 P.O. Box 997410, Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

4 File your documents

File your *Petition for Approval of Adoption Agreement*, including exhibits, along with the blank VS-44. You may file in the county where either party resides.

The clerk will stamp “endorsed filed” on your *Petition* including all copies, assign your case number, and set a hearing date.
The court does not impose a filing fee for adoption papers, but you will have to pay $20, which is forwarded to the Registrar of Vital Statistics for preparing and maintaining the official records California Health & Safety Code § 103730 (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=103730.) .

Where Do I File in Sacramento?
William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse
3341 Power Inn Road
Sacramento, CA 95826

NOTE: If the adoptee is a developmentally disabled adult, you must give a 30-day notice of the hearing to the director of the regional center for the developmentally disabled. The center will file a written report with the court regarding the suitability of the adoption. Fam. § 9327 (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM&sectionNum=9327.) .

5 Attend the adoption hearing

Bring your *Adoption Agreement* and *Order of Adoption* to your hearing. The Court will ask you the reasons for this adult adoption. Make sure that the statements in your *Petition* are clear and specific and refer to the *Petition* as you speak to the judge. Both parties must be present at the hearing.

6 File your signed order of adoption

After your hearing, file your signed *Order of Adoption*. The clerk can provide you with certified copies of the *Order of Adoption* upon your request.

7 Amend your birth certificate

After the adoption is final, the court will mail the VS-44 to the State Office of Vital Records. On this form, you may request an amended birth certificate that reflects this adoption. It may take several months for the Office of Vital Records to process your amendment.

For help

SH@LL (Self-Help at the Law Library) **(https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/)**
609 9th Street, Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 476-2731 (Appointment Request Line)

Services Provided: SH@LL provides general information and basic assistance to self-represented litigants on a variety of legal issues. All assistance is provided by telephone. Visit "What we can help with (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/#canhelp)" for a list of qualifying cases.

Eligibility: Must be a Sacramento County resident or have a qualifying case (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/#who) in the Sacramento County Superior Court.

For more information

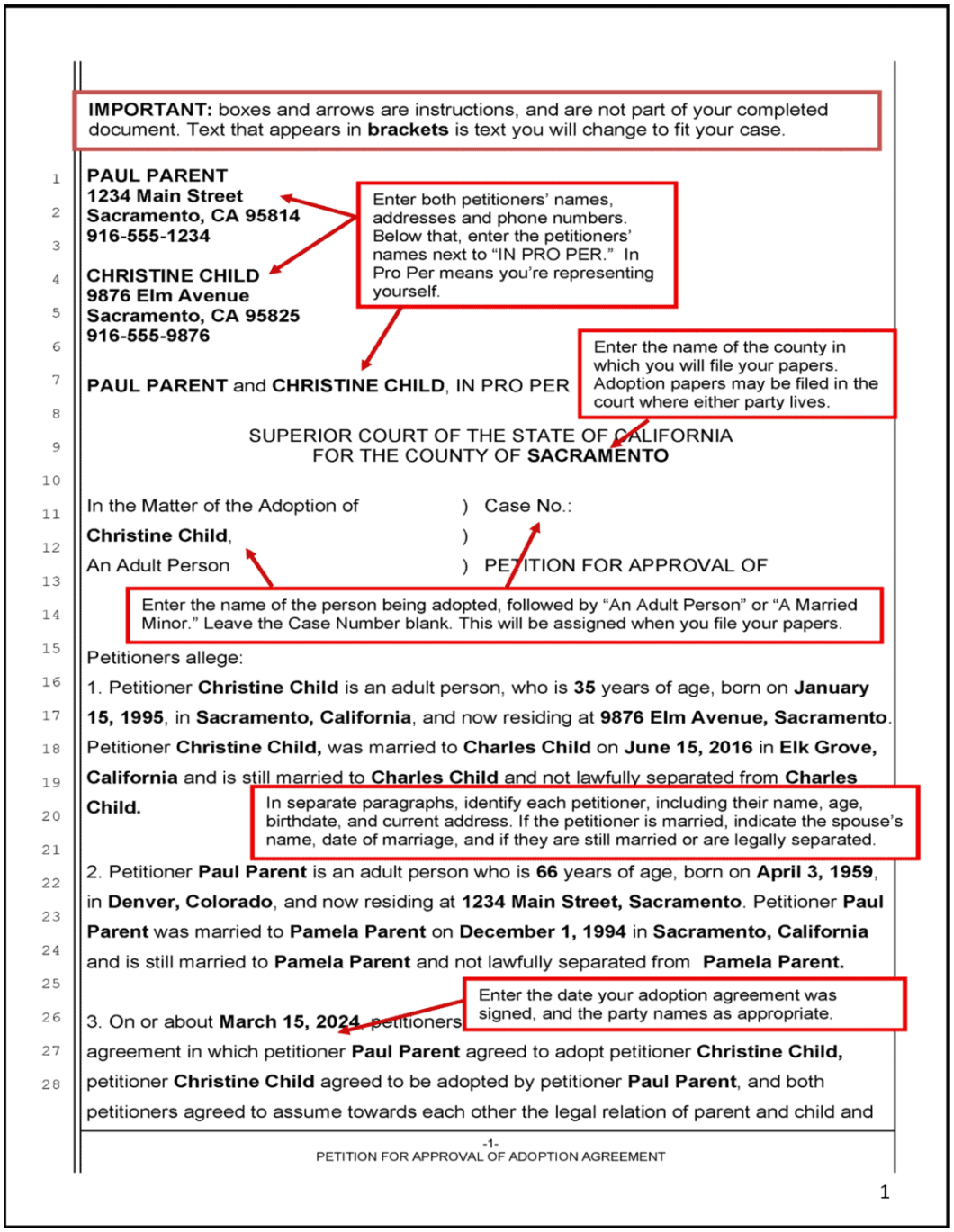
At the Law Library:
California Forms of Pleading and Practice KFC 1010 .A65 C3 (Ready Reference)
Vol. 2, Chap. 12C, *Adoption: Adults and Unmarried Minors*.
Electronic Access: On the Law Library's computers, using Lexis Advance.

California Transactions Forms: Family Law KFC 68 .F3
Chap. 6, § III: *Adoption of Adult or Unmarried Minor*.

Summary of California Law KFC 80 .W57 (Ready Reference) Vol. 10, *Parent and Child*, §§ 154 – 156.

Samples

Petition for Approval of Adoption Agreement



IMPORTANT: boxes and arrows are instructions, and are not part of your completed document. Text that appears in **brackets** is text you will change to fit your case.

PAUL PARENT
1234 Main Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-555-1234

CHRISTINE CHILD
9876 Elm Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-555-9876

Enter both petitioners' names, addresses and phone numbers. Below that, enter the petitioners' names next to "IN PRO PER." In Pro Per means you're representing yourself.

PAUL PARENT and **CHRISTINE CHILD**, IN PRO PER

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF **SACRAMENTO**

In the Matter of the Adoption of) Case No.:
Christine Child,)
An Adult Person) PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF

Enter the name of the person being adopted, followed by "An Adult Person" or "A Married Minor." Leave the Case Number blank. This will be assigned when you file your papers.

Petitioners allege:

1. Petitioner **Christine Child** is an adult person, who is **35** years of age, born on **January 15, 1995**, in **Sacramento, California**, and now residing at **9876 Elm Avenue, Sacramento**. Petitioner **Christine Child,** was married to **Charles Child** on **June 15, 2016** in **Elk Grove, California** and is still married to **Charles Child** and not lawfully separated from **Charles Child.**

In separate paragraphs, identify each petitioner, including their name, age, birthdate, and current address. If the petitioner is married, indicate the spouse's name, date of marriage, and if they are still married or are legally separated.

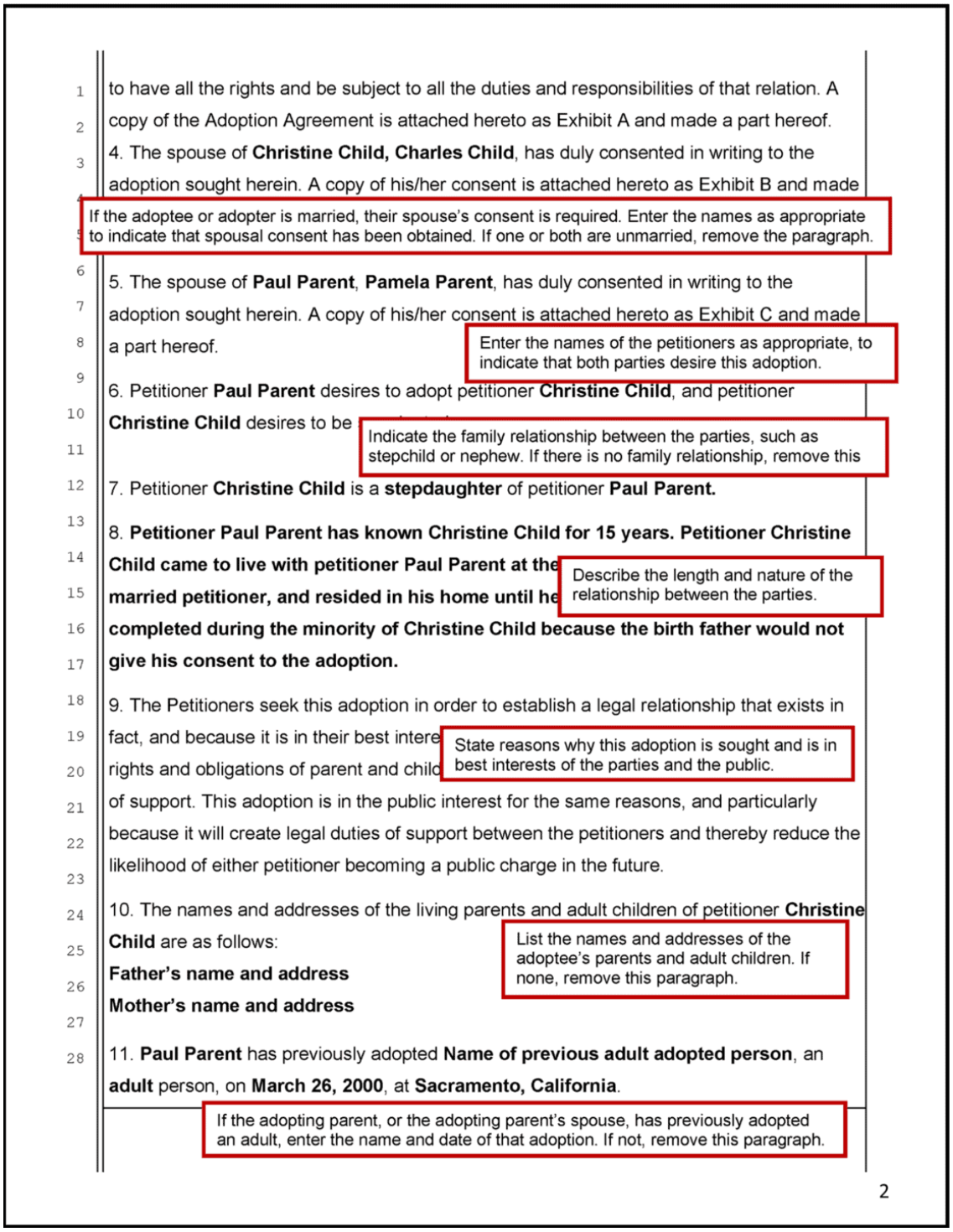
2. Petitioner **Paul Parent** is an adult person who is **66** years of age, born on **April 3, 1959**, in **Denver, Colorado**, and now residing at **1234 Main Street, Sacramento**. Petitioner **Paul Parent** was married to **Pamela Parent** on **December 1, 1994** in **Sacramento, California** and is still married to **Pamela Parent** and not lawfully separated from **Pamela Parent.**

Enter the date your adoption agreement was signed, and the party names as appropriate.

3. On or about **March 15, 2024**, petitioners agreement in which petitioner **Paul Parent** agreed to adopt petitioner **Christine Child,** petitioner **Christine Child** agreed to be adopted by petitioner **Paul Parent**, and both petitioners agreed to assume towards each other the legal relation of parent and child and

-1-
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF ADOPTION AGREEMENT

1



to have all the rights and be subject to all the duties and responsibilities of that relation. A copy of the Adoption Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

4. The spouse of **Christine Child, Charles Child**, has duly consented in writing to the adoption sought herein. A copy of his/her consent is attached hereto as Exhibit B and made

If the adoptee or adopter is married, their spouse's consent is required. Enter the names as appropriate to indicate that spousal consent has been obtained. If one or both are unmarried, remove the paragraph.

5. The spouse of **Paul Parent**, **Pamela Parent**, has duly consented in writing to the adoption sought herein. A copy of his/her consent is attached hereto as Exhibit C and made a part hereof.

Enter the names of the petitioners as appropriate, to indicate that both parties desire this adoption.

6. Petitioner **Paul Parent** desires to adopt petitioner **Christine Child**, and petitioner **Christine Child** desires to be

Indicate the family relationship between the parties, such as stepchild or nephew. If there is no family relationship, remove this

7. Petitioner **Christine Child** is a **stepdaughter** of petitioner **Paul Parent.**

8. **Petitioner Paul Parent has known Christine Child for 15 years. Petitioner Christine Child came to live with petitioner Paul Parent at the married petitioner, and resided in his home until he completed during the minority of Christine Child because the birth father would not give his consent to the adoption.**

Describe the length and nature of the relationship between the parties.

9. The Petitioners seek this adoption in order to establish a legal relationship that exists in fact, and because it is in their best intere rights and obligations of parent and child of support. This adoption is in the public interest for the same reasons, and particularly because it will create legal duties of support between the petitioners and thereby reduce the likelihood of either petitioner becoming a public charge in the future.

State reasons why this adoption is sought and is in best interests of the parties and the public.

10. The names and addresses of the living parents and adult children of petitioner **Christine Child** are as follows:

Father's name and address

Mother's name and address

List the names and addresses of the adoptee's parents and adult children. If none, remove this paragraph.

11. **Paul Parent** has previously adopted **Name of previous adult adopted person**, an **adult** person, on **March 26, 2000**, at **Sacramento, California**.

If the adopting parent, or the adopting parent's spouse, has previously adopted an adult, enter the name and date of that adoption. If not, remove this paragraph.

2

12. Petitioner **Christine Child** wishes to continue to be known by that name (***or*** be known by the name of **New Name).**

Indicate if the adoptee wishes to keep their current name, or take the family name of the adoptive parent.

WHEREFORE, petitioners pray that the court permit all persons concerned in this matter to attend and be heard, and that the court examine all persons appearing before it as required by law, and if satisfied that the best interests of the parties and the public interest will be promoted by the proposed adoption, grant the petition, approve the agreement of adoption, and make a decree that **Christine Child** has been duly and legally adopted by petitioner **Paul Parent**.

Enter the names of the parties as appropriate. Both parties must sign and date this petition.

Dated: _____.

_____

Paul Parent

_____

Christine Child

VERIFICATION

I, **Paul Parent**, am one of the petitioners in the above-entitled proceeding. I have read the foregoing petition and know the contents thereof. The same is true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and, as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

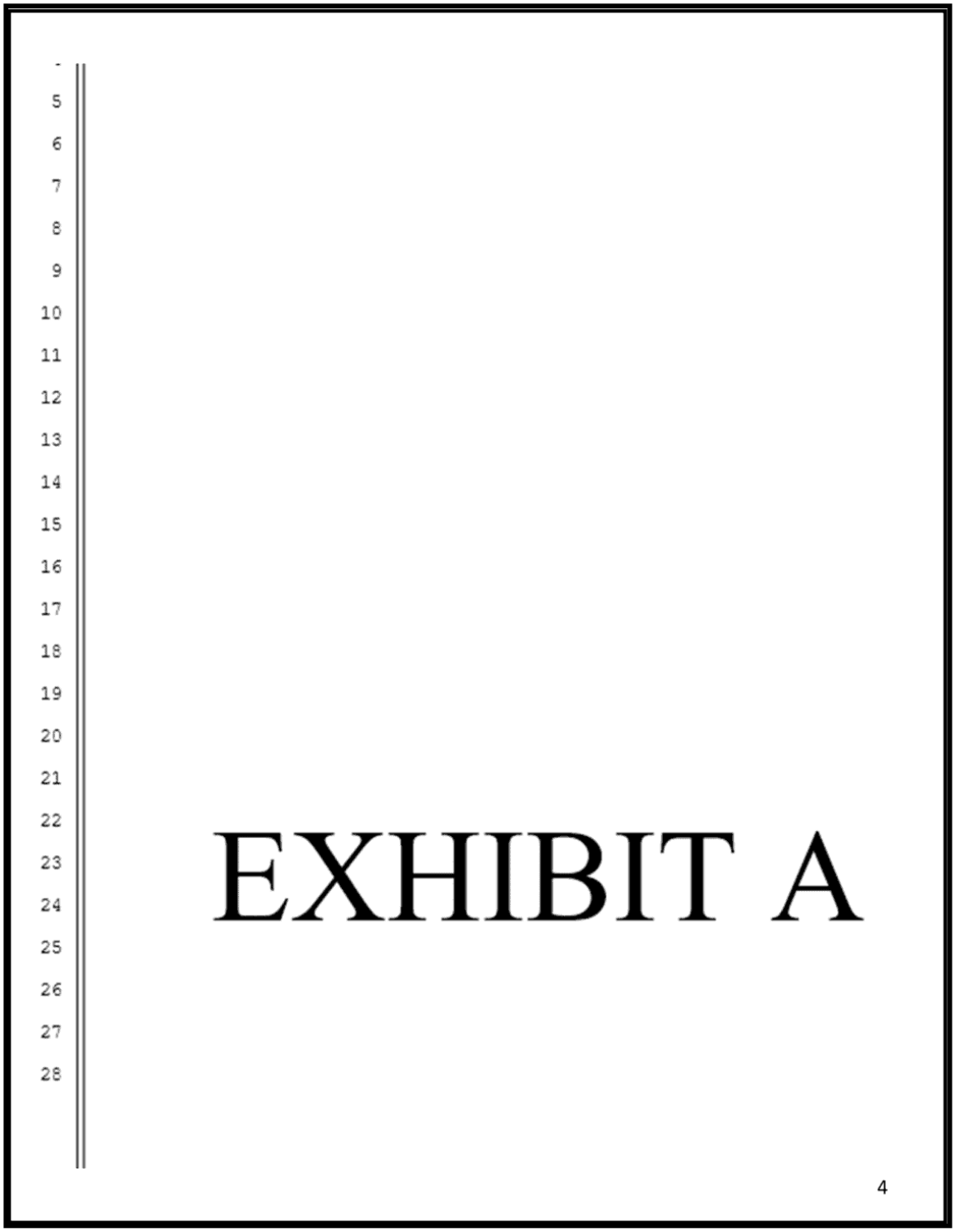
Dated: _____

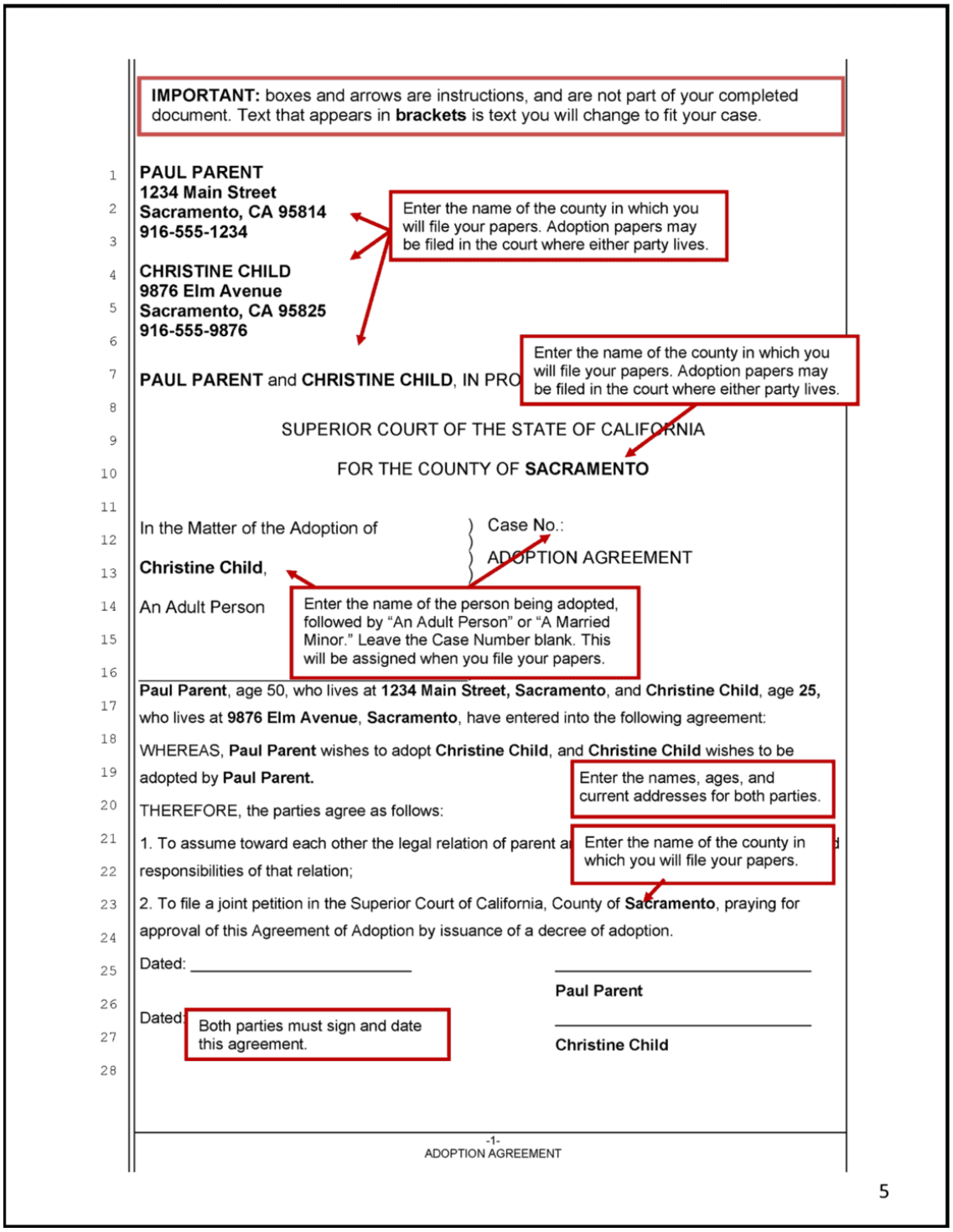
One party must sign the verification, indicating that the contents of the petition are true and correct.

_____

Paul Parent

3


EXHIBIT A
4



IMPORTANT: boxes and arrows are instructions, and are not part of your completed document. Text that appears in **brackets** is text you will change to fit your case.

PAUL PARENT
1234 Main Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-555-1234

CHRISTINE CHILD
9876 Elm Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-555-9876

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.

PAUL PARENT and **CHRISTINE CHILD**, IN PRO

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF **SACRAMENTO**

In the Matter of the Adoption of
Christine Child,
An Adult Person

Case No.:
ADOPTION AGREEMENT

Enter the name of the person being adopted, followed by "An Adult Person" or "A Married Minor." Leave the Case Number blank. This will be assigned when you file your papers.

Paul Parent, age 50, who lives at **1234 Main Street, Sacramento**, and **Christine Child**, age **25,** who lives at **9876 Elm Avenue**, **Sacramento**, have entered into the following agreement:

WHEREAS, **Paul Parent** wishes to adopt **Christine Child**, and **Christine Child** wishes to be adopted by **Paul Parent.**

Enter the names, ages, and current addresses for both parties.

THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. To assume toward each other the legal relation of parent a
responsibilities of that relation;

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers.

2. To file a joint petition in the Superior Court of California, County of **Sacramento**, praying for approval of this Agreement of Adoption by issuance of a decree of adoption.

Dated: _____

_____
Paul Parent

Dated:

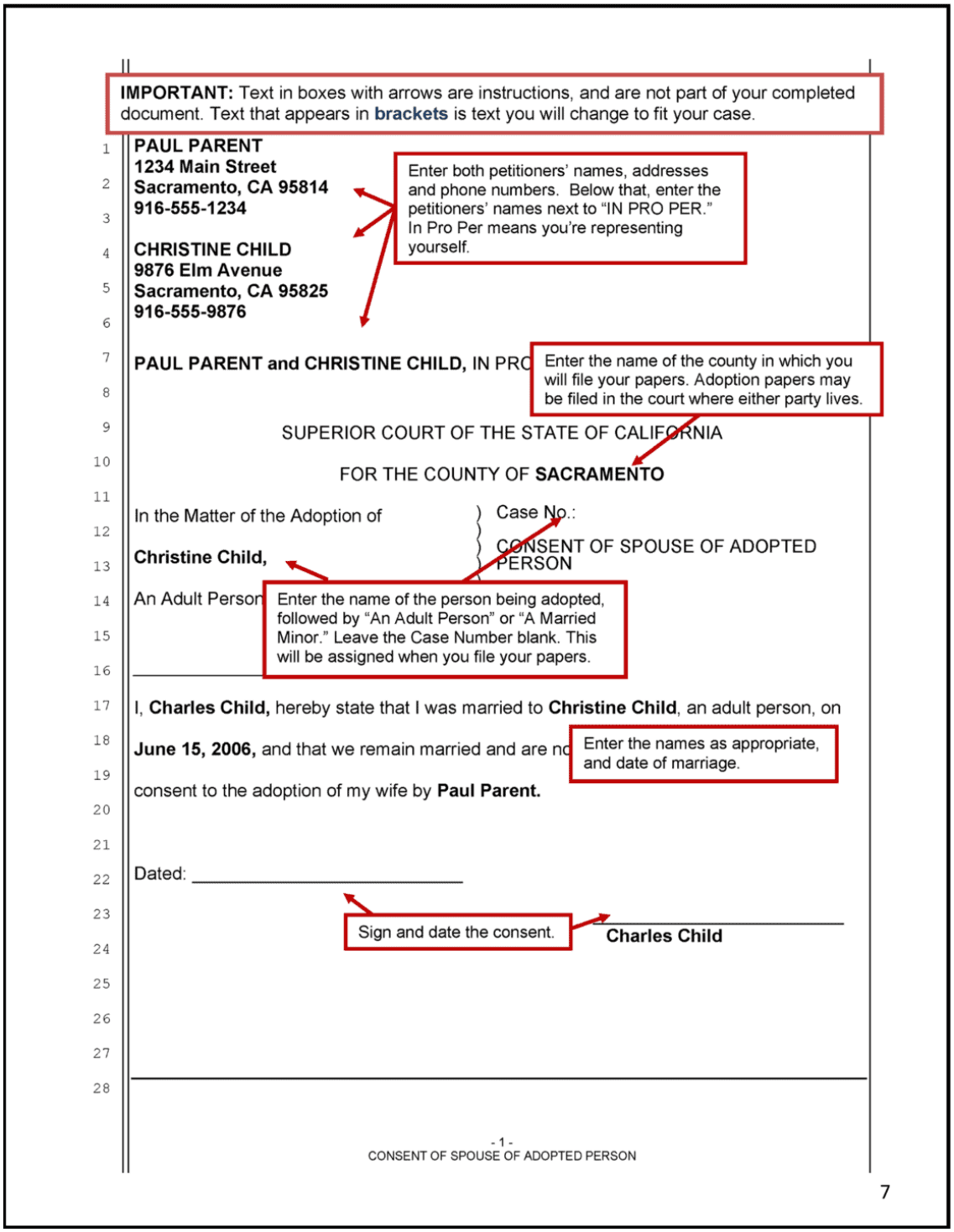
Both parties must sign and date this agreement.

_____
Christine Child

-1-
ADOPTION AGREEMENT

5

EXHIBIT B



IMPORTANT: Text in boxes with arrows are instructions, and are not part of your completed document. Text that appears in **brackets** is text you will change to fit your case.

PAUL PARENT
1234 Main Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-555-1234

CHRISTINE CHILD
9876 Elm Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-555-9876

Enter both petitioners' names, addresses and phone numbers. Below that, enter the petitioners' names next to "IN PRO PER." In Pro Per means you're representing yourself.

PAUL PARENT and CHRISTINE CHILD, IN PRO

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF **SACRAMENTO**

In the Matter of the Adoption of

Christine Child,

An Adult Person

Case No.:

CONSENT OF SPOUSE OF ADOPTED PERSON

Enter the name of the person being adopted, followed by "An Adult Person" or "A Married Minor." Leave the Case Number blank. This will be assigned when you file your papers.

I, **Charles Child,** hereby state that I was married to **Christine Child**, an adult person, on **June 15, 2006,** and that we remain married and are no

Enter the names as appropriate, and date of marriage.

consent to the adoption of my wife by **Paul Parent.**

Dated: _____

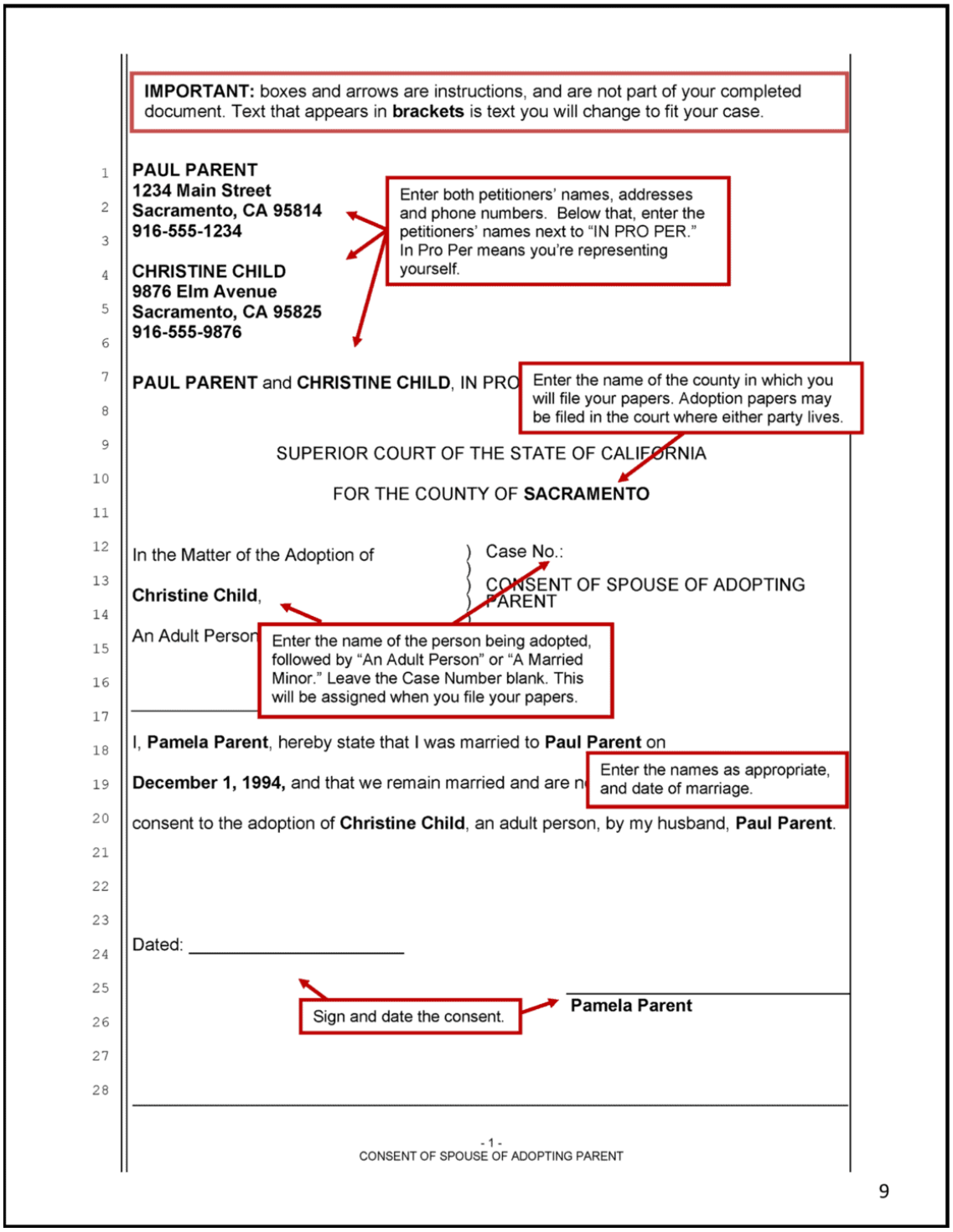
Sign and date the consent.

_____
Charles Child

- 1 -
CONSENT OF SPOUSE OF ADOPTED PERSON

7

EXHIBIT C



IMPORTANT: boxes and arrows are instructions, and are not part of your completed document. Text that appears in **brackets** is text you will change to fit your case.

PAUL PARENT
1234 Main Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-555-1234

CHRISTINE CHILD
9876 Elm Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-555-9876

Enter both petitioners' names, addresses and phone numbers. Below that, enter the petitioners' names next to "IN PRO PER." In Pro Per means you're representing yourself.

PAUL PARENT and **CHRISTINE CHILD**, IN PRO

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF **SACRAMENTO**

In the Matter of the Adoption of
Christine Child,
An Adult Person

Case No.:

CONSENT OF SPOUSE OF ADOPTING PARENT

Enter the name of the person being adopted, followed by "An Adult Person" or "A Married Minor." Leave the Case Number blank. This will be assigned when you file your papers.

I, **Pamela Parent**, hereby state that I was married to **Paul Parent** on
December 1, 1994, and that we remain married and are n

Enter the names as appropriate, and date of marriage.

consent to the adoption of **Christine Child**, an adult person, by my husband, **Paul Parent**.

Dated: _____

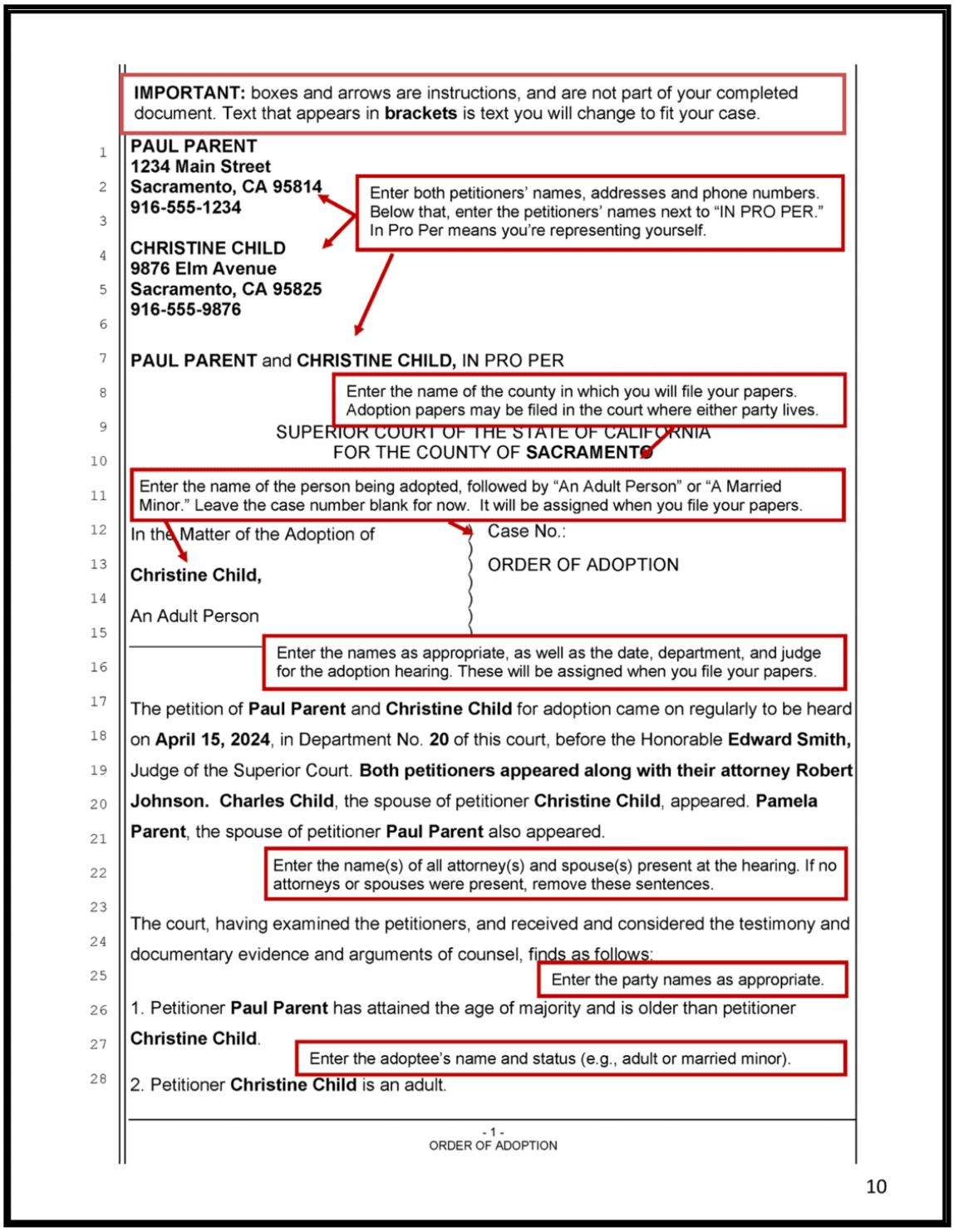
Sign and date the consent.

_____
Pamela Parent

- 1 -
CONSENT OF SPOUSE OF ADOPTING PARENT

9

Order of Adoption



IMPORTANT: boxes and arrows are instructions, and are not part of your completed document. Text that appears in **brackets** is text you will change to fit your case.

PAUL PARENT
1234 Main Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-555-1234

CHRISTINE CHILD
9876 Elm Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-555-9876

Enter both petitioners' names, addresses and phone numbers. Below that, enter the petitioners' names next to "IN PRO PER." In Pro Per means you're representing yourself.

PAUL PARENT and **CHRISTINE CHILD,** IN PRO PER

Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF **SACRAMENTO**

Enter the name of the person being adopted, followed by "An Adult Person" or "A Married Minor." Leave the case number blank for now. It will be assigned when you file your papers.

In the Matter of the Adoption of

Christine Child,

An Adult Person

Case No.:

ORDER OF ADOPTION

Enter the names as appropriate, as well as the date, department, and judge for the adoption hearing. These will be assigned when you file your papers.

The petition of **Paul Parent** and **Christine Child** for adoption came on regularly to be heard on **April 15, 2024**, in Department No. **20** of this court, before the Honorable **Edward Smith,** Judge of the Superior Court. **Both petitioners appeared along with their attorney Robert Johnson. Charles Child**, the spouse of petitioner **Christine Child**, appeared. **Pamela Parent**, the spouse of petitioner **Paul Parent** also appeared.

Enter the name(s) of all attorney(s) and spouse(s) present at the hearing. If no attorneys or spouses were present, remove these sentences.

The court, having examined the petitioners, and received and considered the testimony and documentary evidence and arguments of counsel, finds as follows:

Enter the party names as appropriate.

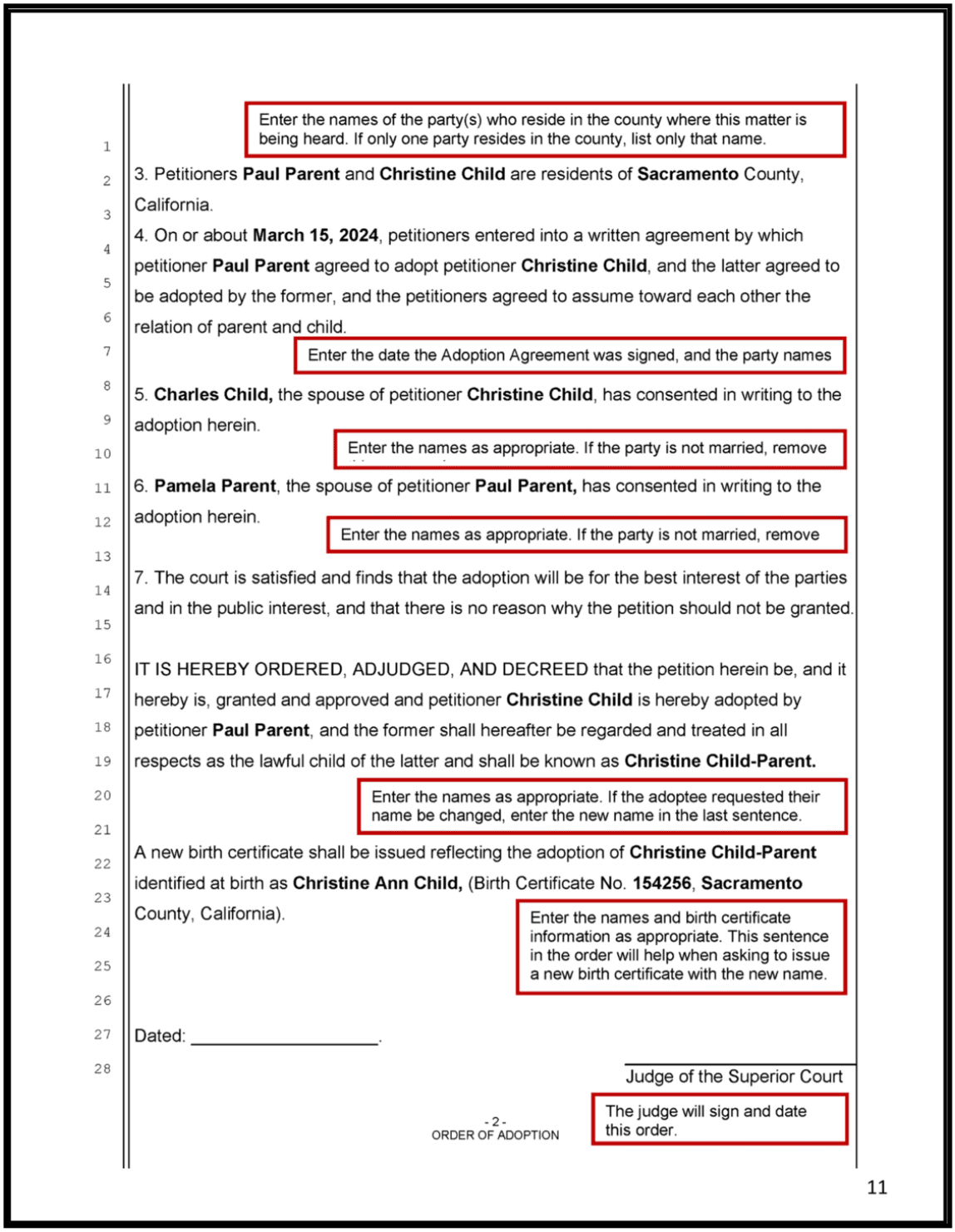
1. Petitioner **Paul Parent** has attained the age of majority and is older than petitioner **Christine Child**.

Enter the adoptee's name and status (e.g., adult or married minor).

2. Petitioner **Christine Child** is an adult.

- 1 -
ORDER OF ADOPTION

10



Enter the names of the party(s) who reside in the county where this matter is being heard. If only one party resides in the county, list only that name.

3. Petitioners **Paul Parent** and **Christine Child** are residents of **Sacramento** County, California.

4. On or about **March 15, 2024**, petitioners entered into a written agreement by which petitioner **Paul Parent** agreed to adopt petitioner **Christine Child**, and the latter agreed to be adopted by the former, and the petitioners agreed to assume toward each other the relation of parent and child.

Enter the date the Adoption Agreement was signed, and the party names

5. **Charles Child,** the spouse of petitioner **Christine Child**, has consented in writing to the adoption herein.

Enter the names as appropriate. If the party is not married, remove

6. **Pamela Parent**, the spouse of petitioner **Paul Parent,** has consented in writing to the adoption herein.

Enter the names as appropriate. If the party is not married, remove

7. The court is satisfied and finds that the adoption will be for the best interest of the parties and in the public interest, and that there is no reason why the petition should not be granted.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the petition herein be, and it hereby is, granted and approved and petitioner **Christine Child** is hereby adopted by petitioner **Paul Parent**, and the former shall hereafter be regarded and treated in all respects as the lawful child of the latter and shall be known as **Christine Child-Parent.**

Enter the names as appropriate. If the adoptee requested their name be changed, enter the new name in the last sentence.

A new birth certificate shall be issued reflecting the adoption of **Christine Child-Parent** identified at birth as **Christine Ann Child,** (Birth Certificate No. **154256**, **Sacramento** County, California).

Enter the names and birth certificate information as appropriate. This sentence in the order will help when asking to issue a new birth certificate with the new name.

Dated: _____.

_____
Judge of the Superior Court

The judge will sign and date this order.

- 2 -
ORDER OF ADOPTION

11

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