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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 (http://www.uscis.gov/adoption/immigration-through-adoption/other-adoption-related-immigration) purposes.

Templates and Forms

- Petition for Adult Adoption Template RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-petition-1.rtf)
- Agreement for Adult Adoption Template RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-agreement.rtf)
- Consent of Spouse of Adoptee Template RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-spouse-of-adoptee-1.rtf)
- Consent of Spouse of Adopting Person Template RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CONSENT-OF-SPOUSE-OF-ADOPTING-PARENT-TEMPLATE.rtf)
- Order Granting Adult Adoption Template RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-order.rtf)

Information included in this guide does not apply to independent, agency, international, or stepparent adoptions. Stepparent Adoption forms can be accessed through the Sacramento Superior Court at the following link: Stepparent Adoption Forms (https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/adoptions.aspx).

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§ionNum=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.

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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 these links:

- Petition for Approval of Adoption Agreement (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/adult-adoption/sbs-adult-adoption-petition-2/)
- Adoption Agreement (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/adult-adoption/sbs-adult-adoption-agreement/)
- Consent of Spouse of Adopted Person (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/adult-adoption/sbs-adult-adoption-spouse-of-adoptee-2/)
- Consent of Spouse of Adopting Parent (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/sbs-adult-adoption-spouse-of-adopting-parent.rtf)
- Order of Adoption (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/adult-adoption/sbs-adult-adoption-order/)

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

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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 Code § 103730 (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=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§ionNum=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

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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 <u>qualifying case (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/#who)</u> 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

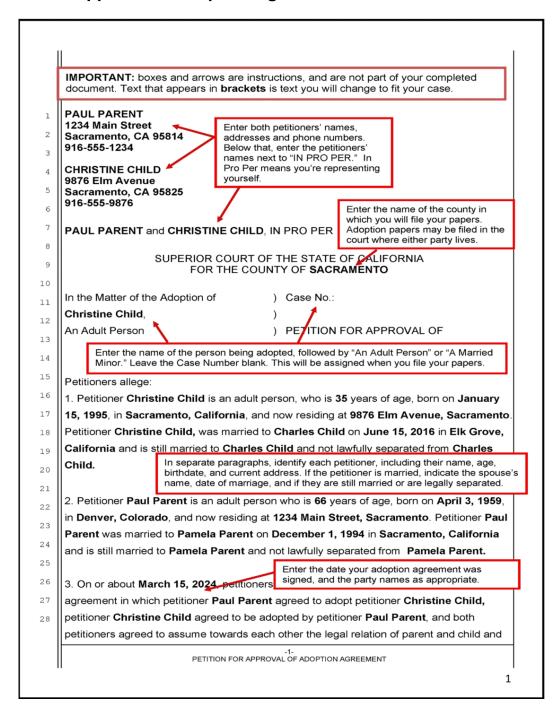
Chap. 6, § III: Adoption of Adult or Unmarried Minor.

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



Samples

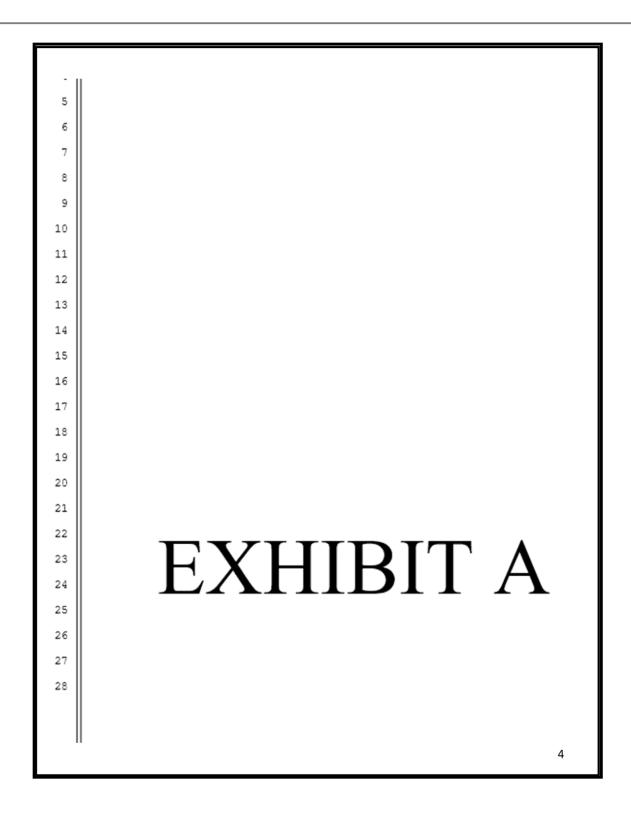
Petition for Approval of Adoption Agreement



copy of the Adoption A	greement is attached	hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.
4. The spouse of Chris	stine Child, Charles	Child, has duly consented in writing to the
adoption sought herein	a. A copy of his/her co	onsent is attached hereto as Exhibit B and made
		s consent is required. Enter the names as appropria d. If one or both are unmarried, remove the paragra
5. The spouse of Paul	Parent, Pamela Par	ent, has duly consented in writing to the
adoption sought herein	a. A copy of his/her co	onsent is attached hereto as Exhibit C and mad
a part hereof.		Enter the names of the petitioners as appropriate, indicate that both parties desire this adoption.
6. Petitioner Paul Pare	ent desires to adopt p	petitioner Christine Child , and petitioner
Christine Child desire	Indicate the f	ramily relationship between the parties, such as nephew. If there is no family relationship, remove thi
7. Petitioner Christine	Child is a stepdaug	hter of petitioner Paul Parent.
8. Petitioner Paul Par	ent has known Chri	stine Child for 15 years. Petitioner Christine
Child came to live wit	th petitioner Paul Pa	arent at the
		Describe the length and nature of the
married petitioner, an	nd resided in his ho	me until he relationship between the parties.
		me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not
completed during the	minority of Christin	me until he relationship between the parties.
completed during the give his consent to th	e minority of Christine adoption.	me until he relationship between the parties.
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek	e minority of Christine adoption.	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek fact, and because it is	e minority of Christine adoption. It this adoption in order in their best intere	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not
completed during the give his consent to the give his consent to the given his consent to the gi	e minority of Christing adoption. It this adoption in order in their best interest parent and child	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in state reasons why this adoption is sought and is in
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek fact, and because it is rights and obligations of support. This adoption	e minority of Christine adoption. It this adoption in order in their best interest parent and child be bon is in the public interest.	ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in state reasons why this adoption is sought and is in est interests of the parties and the public.
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek fact, and because it is rights and obligations confusions. This adoption because it will create least	e minority of Christing adoption. It this adoption in order in their best interest parent and child be on is in the public interest and duties of support	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in state reasons why this adoption is sought and is in est interests of the parties and the public. erest for the same reasons, and particularly
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek fact, and because it is rights and obligations of support. This adoption because it will create leading the because it will create leading the seek fact.	e minority of Christing adoption. It this adoption in order in their best interest parent and child be on is in the public interest in the public in t	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in state reasons why this adoption is sought and is in est interests of the parties and the public. erest for the same reasons, and particularly the between the petitioners and thereby reduce the ablic charge in the future.
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek fact, and because it is rights and obligations of support. This adoption because it will create lead likelihood of either petitions.	e minority of Christing adoption. It this adoption in order in their best interest parent and child be on is in the public interest in the public in t	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in estate reasons why this adoption is sought and is in est interests of the parties and the public. erest for the same reasons, and particularly to between the petitioners and thereby reduce the ablic charge in the future. parents and adult children of petitioner Christin List the names and addresses of the
completed during the give his consent to the 9. The Petitioners seek fact, and because it is rights and obligations of support. This adoption because it will create lead likelihood of either petition. The names and ad	e minority of Christing adoption. It this adoption in order in their best interest in their best interest in their best in the public interest in the public interest in the public in the public interest in the public in the p	me until he relationship between the parties. ne Child because the birth father would not er to establish a legal relationship that exists in estate reasons why this adoption is sought and is in est interests of the parties and the public. erest for the same reasons, and particularly to between the petitioners and thereby reduce the ablic charge in the future. parents and adult children of petitioner Christin
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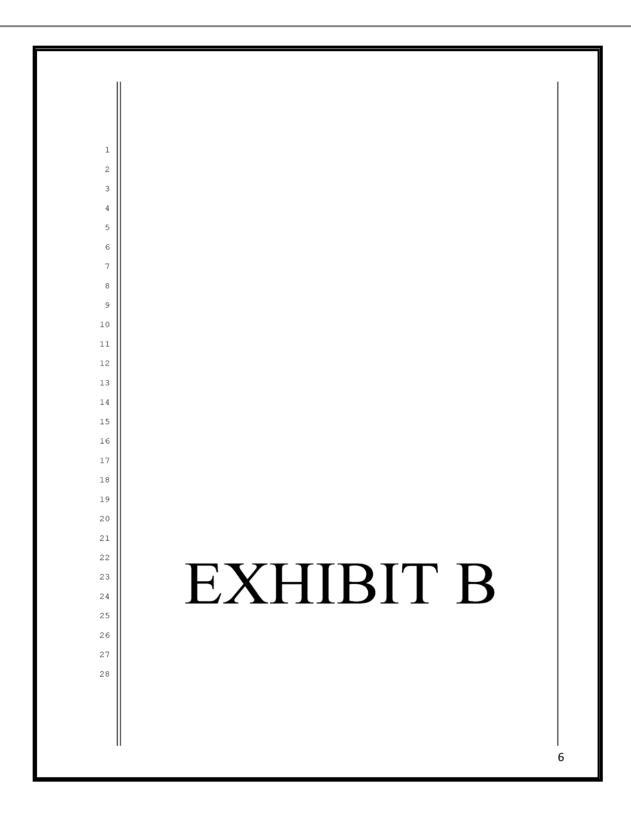
12. Petitioner Christine Ch	hild wishes to continue to	be known by that name (or be known
by the name of New Name		doptee wishes to keep their current he family name of the adoptive parent.
WHEREFORE, petitioners	pray that the court permit	all persons concerned in this matter to
attend and be heard, and t	hat the court examine all p	persons appearing before it as required
by law, and if satisfied that	the best interests of the p	parties and the public
nterest will be promoted by	y the proposed adoption,	grant the petition, approve the
agreement of adoption, and	d make a decree that Chr	istine 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:	·	and date this petition.
		\
		Paul Parent
		Christine Child
	VERIFICATIO	N
, Paul Parent, am one of t	the petitioners in the abov	e-entitled proceeding. I have read the
oregoing petition and know	w the contents thereof. Th	e same is true of my own knowledge,
except as to those matters	which are therein alleged	on information and belief, and, as to
hose matters, I believe it t	o be true.	
declare under penalty of p	perjury under the laws of t	he State of California that the foregoin
s true and correct.		
Dated:		
		<u> </u>
	earty must sign the verification that the contents of the	Paul Parent
	n are true and correct.	1
petitio		
petitio		



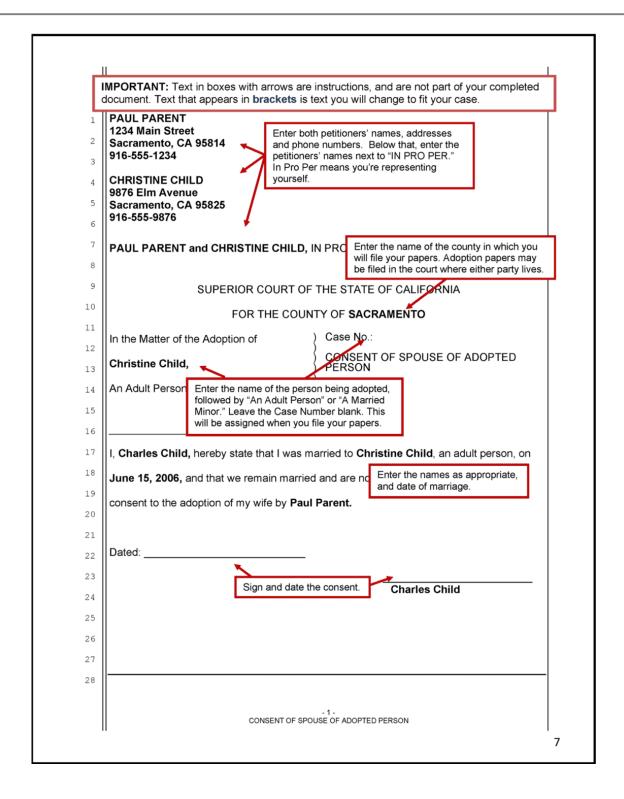


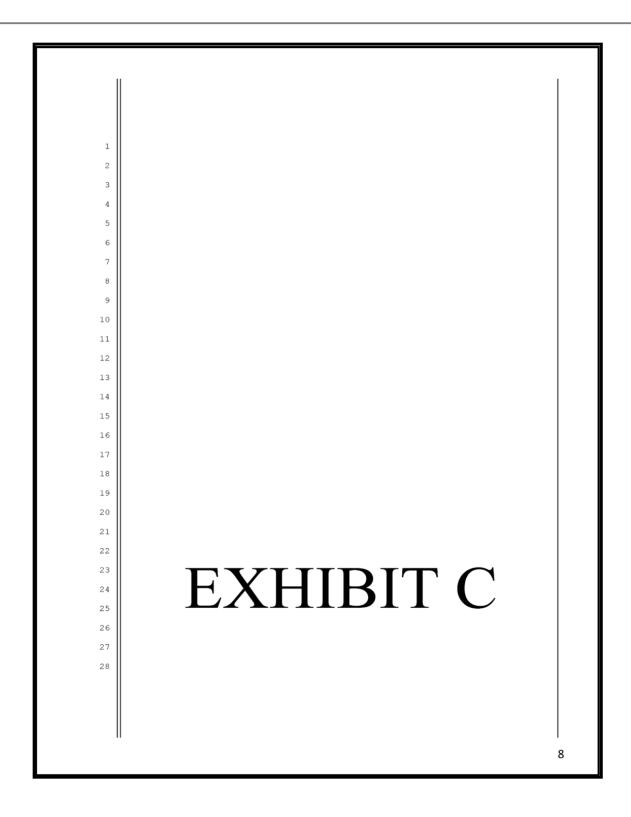
PAUL PARENT	at appears in brackets	is text you wi	Il change to fit your case.
1234 Main Street Sacramento, CA 99 916-555-1234	will file you be filed in	ur papers. Add	ounty in which you option papers may re either party lives.
CHRISTINE CHILD 9876 Elm Avenue Sacramento, CA 99 916-555-9876	/		
PAUL PARENT and	CHRISTINE CHILD, IN	J DDO Will fil	the name of the county in which you le your papers. Adoption papers ma ed in the court where either party liv
s	UPERIOR COURT OF	THE STATE	OF CALIFORNIA
	FOR THE COUNT	TY OF SACE	RAMENTO
In the Matter of the	Adoption of	Case No.:	
Christine Child,	}	ADOPTION	N AGREEMENT
An Adult Person	Enter the name of the perfollowed by "An Adult Perform." Leave the Case will be assigned when you	erson" or "A M Number blank	arried . This
		,	ento, and Christine Child, age 25
			nto the following agreement:
WHEREAS, Paul Pare adopted by Paul Pare		stine Child, ar	nd Christine Child wishes to be Enter the names, ages, and
	rties agree as follows:		current addresses for both parties
To assume toward responsibilities of that	each other the legal relation;	on of parent a	Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers.
2. To file a joint petition	on in the Superior Court of	California, Co	ounty of Sacramento, praying for
approval of this Agree	ement of Adoption by issua	ance of a decr	ee of adoption.
Dated:		_	
Datad		Pa	aul Parent
Dated: Both parties this agreeme	must sign and date nt.	CI	hristine Child
		-1-	



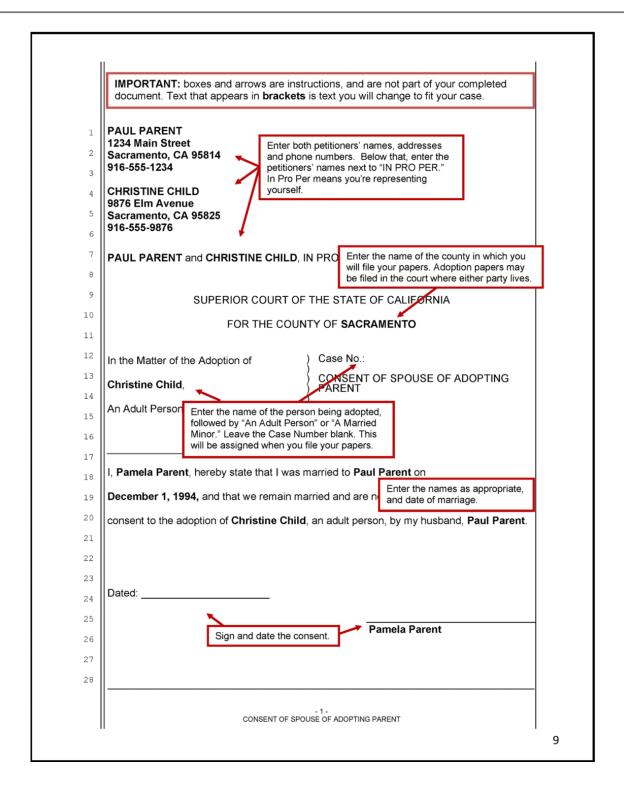




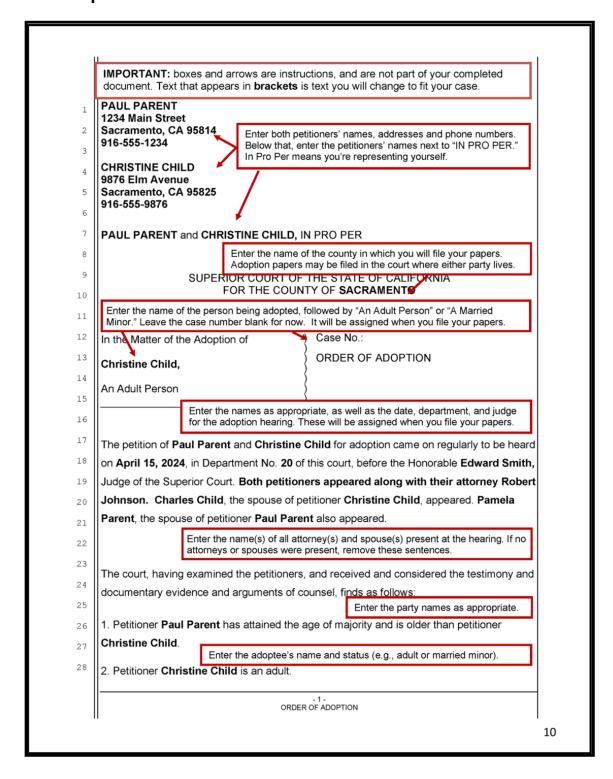








Order of Adoption



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