



# 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 <a href="Immigration">Immigration</a> (http://www.uscis.gov/adoption/immigration-through-adoption/other-adoption-related-immigration) purposes.

## **Templates and Forms**

- Petition for Adult Adoption Template a?? RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-petition-1.rtf)
- Agreement for Adult Adoption Template â?? RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-agreement.rtf)
- Consent of Spouse of Adoptee Template â?? RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-adult-adoption-spouse-of-adoptee-1.rtf)
- Consent of Spouse of Adopting Person Template â?? RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/sbs-adult-adoption-spouse-of-adopting-parent.rtf)
- Order Granting Adult Adoption Template â?? 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 adopteeâ??s stepparent. When a stepparent adopts an adult stepchild, the adopting parentâ??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.) §Â§ 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 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 a??endorsed fileda?• 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 <a href="California Health & Safety">California Health & Safety</a> 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. ŧ 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>\(\frac{\alpha??What we can help with \)</u> (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/#canhelp) \(\frac{\alpha?}{\infty}\) 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 Libraryâ??s computers, using Lexis Advance.

California Transactions Forms: Family Law KFC 68 .F3

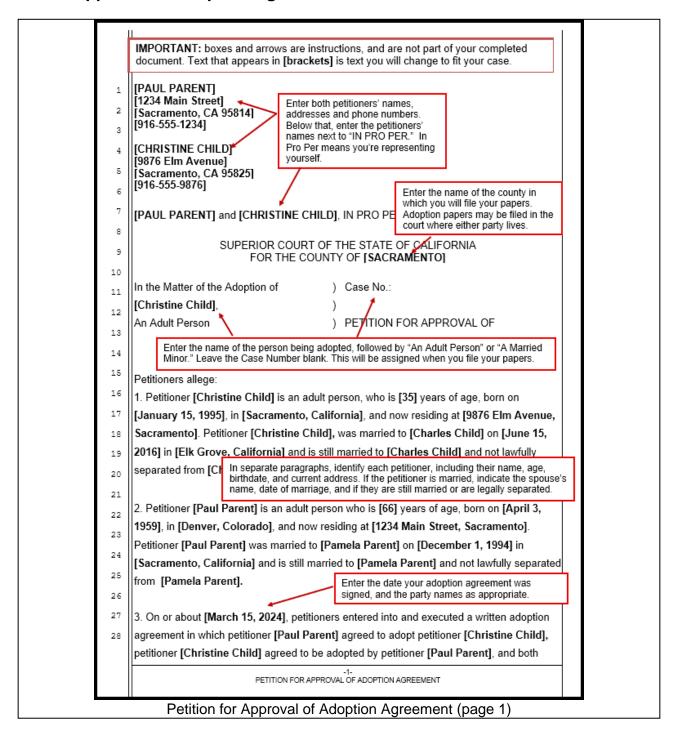
Chap. 6, § III: Adoption of Adult or Unmarried Minor.

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



## **Samples**

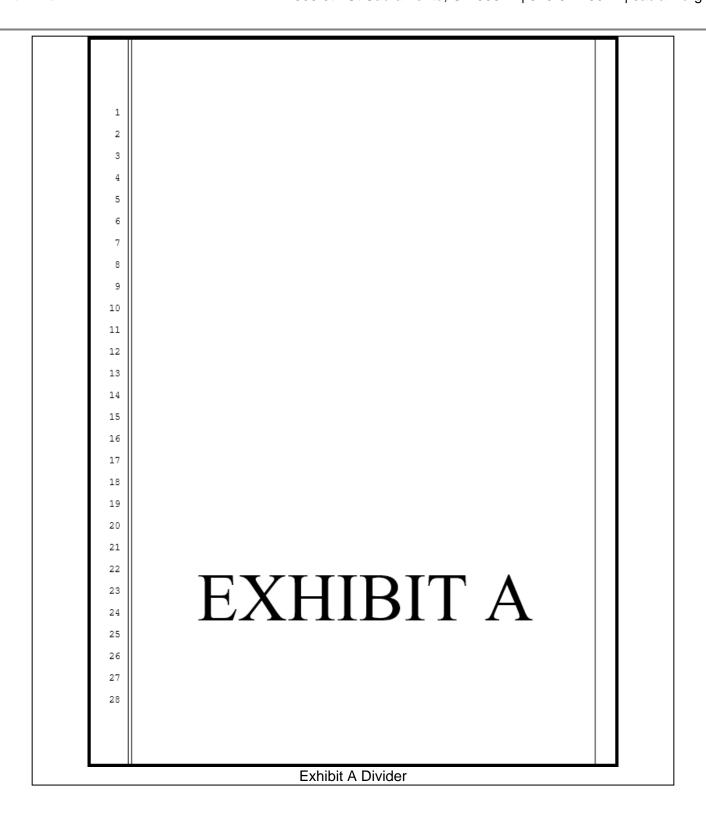
## **Petition for Approval of Adoption Agreement**



1	petitioners agreed to assume towards each ot		
2	to have all the rights and be subject to all the duties and responsibilities of that relation. A		
3	copy of the Adoption Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.		
4	4. The spouse of [Christine Child], [Charles Child], has duly consented in writing to the		
1	1 1 1	sent is attached hereto as Exhibit B and made	
	If the adoptee or adopter is married, their spouse's c to indicate that spousal consent has been obtained.	onsent is required. Enter the names as appropriate If one or both are unmarried, remove the paragraph.	
7	5. The spouse of [Paul Parent], [Pamela Parent], has duly consented in writing to the		
8	adoption sought herein. A copy of his/her cons	sent is attached hereto as Exhibit C and made	
9		Enter the names of the petitioners as appropriate, to ndicate that both parties desire this adoption.	
10	6. Petitioner [Paul Parent] desires to adopt pe	etitioner [Christine Child], and petitioner	
11		nily relationship between the parties, such as onew. If there is no family relationship, remove this	
13	7. Petitioner [Christine Child] is a [stepdaughter] of petitioner [Paul Parent].		
14			
15	8. [Petitioner Paul Parent has known Christine Child for 15 years. Petitioner Christine  Child came to live with petitioner Paul Parent at the Passible the length and network of the		
16	married petitioner, and resided in his home	Describe the length and hattie of the	
17	completed during the minority of Christine		
18	give his consent to the adoption].		
19	9. The Petitioners seek this adoption in order to establish a legal relationship that exists in		
20	fact, and because it is in their best intere: Stat	te reasons why this adoption is sought and is in	
21	rights and obligations of parent and child bes	t interests of the parties and the public.	
22	of support. This adoption is in the public interest for the same reasons, and particularly		
23	because it will create legal duties of support between the petitioners and thereby reduce the		
24	likelihood of either petitioner becoming a public charge in the future.		
25	10. The names and addresses of the living parents and adult children of petitioner		
26	[Christine Child] are as follows:	List the names and addresses of the	
	[Father's name and address]	adoptee's parents and adult children. If none, remove this paragraph.	
27	[Mother's name and address]		
28			
	II .		

1	11. [Paul Parent] has previously adopted [Name of previous adult adopted person], an	
2	[adult] person, on [March 26, 2000], at [Sacramento, California].	
3	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.	
4	12. Petitioner [Christine Child] wishes to continue to be known by that name (or be known	
5	by the name of [New Name]). Indicate if the adoptee wishes to keep their current	
6	name, or take the family name of the adoptive parent.	
7	WHEREFORE, petitioners pray that the court permit all persons concerned in this matter to	
8	attend and be heard, and that the court examine all persons appearing before it as required	
9	by law, and if satisfied that the best interests of the parties and the public	
10	interest will be promoted by the proposed adoption, grant the petition, approve the	
11	agreement of adoption, and make a decree that [Christine Child] has been duly and legally	
12	adopted by petitioner [Paul Parent]. Enter the names of the parties as	
13	appropriate. Both parties must sign and date this petition.	
14		
15	[Paul Parent]	
16		
17	[Christine Child]	
18	VERIFICATION	
19	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,	
20	except as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and, as to	
21	those matters, I believe it to be true.	
22		
23	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing	
24	is true and correct.	
25		
26	Dated:	
27	One party must sign the verification,	
28	indicating that the contents of the petition are true and correct.  [Paul Parent]	
	-3- PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF ADOPTION AGREEMENT	





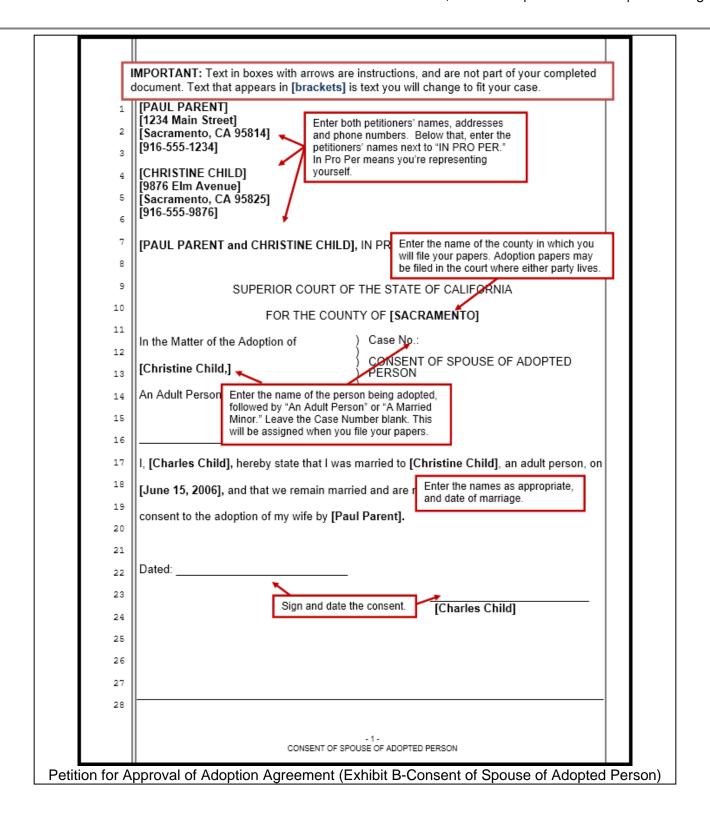
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1 2 3	[PAUL PARENT ] [1234 Main Street] [Sacramento, CA 95814] [916-555-1234]  Enter the name of the county in which you will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.		
4 5 6	[CHRISTINE CHILD] [9876 Elm Avenue] [Sacramento, CA 95825] [916-555-9876]  Enter the name of the county in which you		
7	[PAUL PARENT] and [CHRISTINE CHILD], IN P will file your papers. Adoption papers may be filed in the court where either party lives.		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
9	FOR THE COUNTY OF [SACRAMENTO]		
10	FOR THE COUNTY OF [SACRAMIENTO]		
12	In the Matter of the Adoption of Case No.:		
13	[Christine Child],		
14	An Adult Person Enter the name of the person being adopted,		
15	followed by "An Adult Person" or "A Married Minor." Leave the Case Number blank. This will be assigned when you file your papers.		
16	[Paul Parent], age 50, who lives at [1234 Main Street, Sacramento], and [Christine Child], age		
17	[25], who lives at [9876 Elm Avenue, Sacramento, have entered into the following agreement:		
18	WHEREAS, [Paul Parent] wishes to adopt [Christine Child], and [Christine Child] wishes to be		
19	adopted by [Paul Parent].  Enter the names, ages, and current addresses for both parties.		
20	THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:		
21	To assume toward each other the legal relation of parent a which you will file your papers.  The parent a which you will file your papers.  The parent a which you will file your papers.		
23	2. To file a joint petition in the Superior Court of California, County of [Sacramento], praying for		
24	approval of this Agreement of Adoption by issuance of a decree of adoption.		
25	Dated:		
26	[Paul Parent]		
27	Both parties must sign and date this agreement. [Christine Child]		
28			

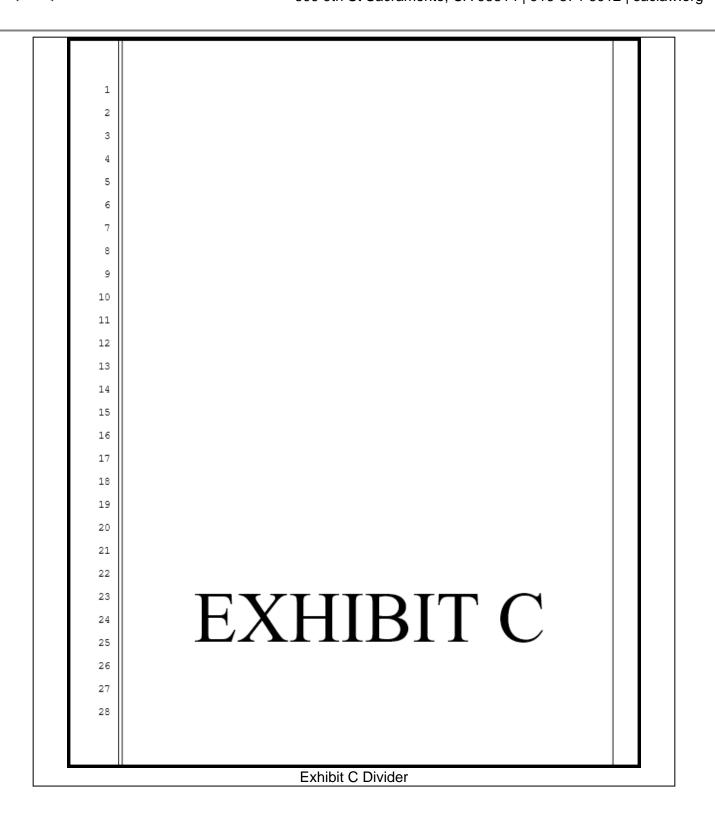




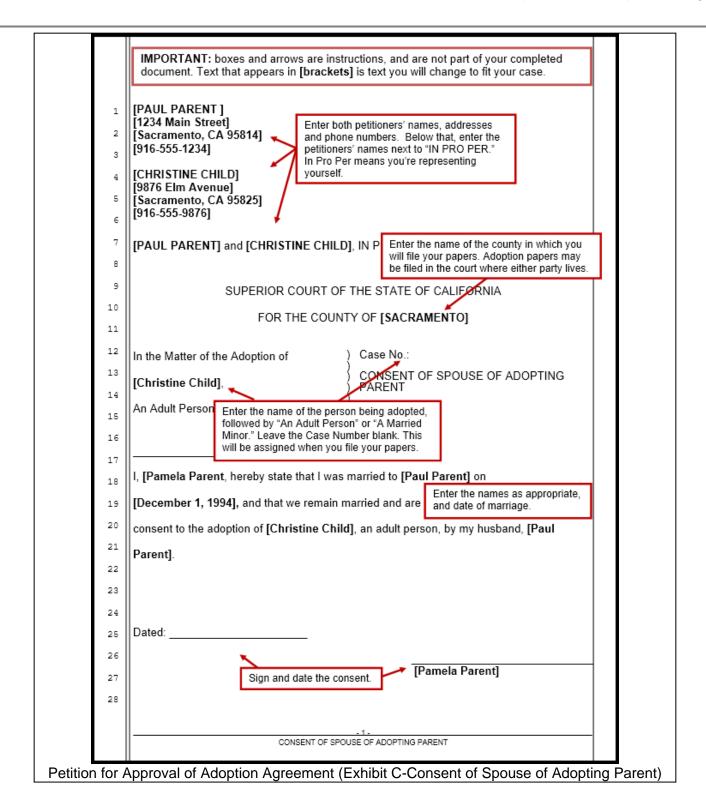






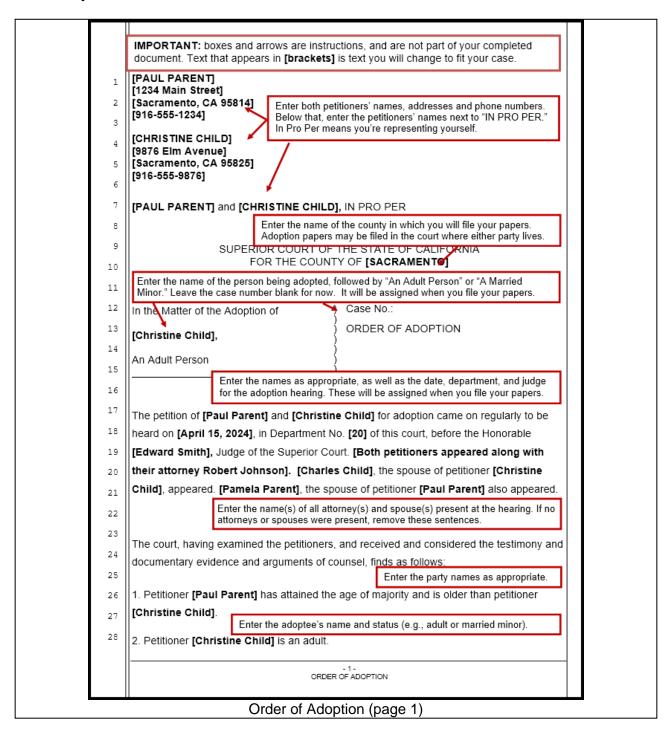


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## **Order of Adoption**





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