

Supreme Court of Florida

ORIGINAL

No. 80,074

IN RE: PETITION FOR APPROVAL
OF FORMS PURSUANT TO RULE 10-1.1(b)
OF THE RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA
BAR--STEPARENT ADOPTION FORMS

[December 24, 1992]

CORRECTED OPINION

PER CURIAM.

The Board of Governors of The Florida Bar petitions us for approval of forms under Rule Regulating The Florida Bar 10-1.1(b). We have jurisdiction. Art. V, § 2(a), Fla. Const. The forms deal with stepparent adoptions and we approve them.

Rule 10-1.1(b) permits "nonlawyers to engage in limited oral communications to assist a person in the completion of a legal form approved by the Supreme Court of Florida." Under the rule, oral communications between the nonlawyer and the individual being assisted are restricted to "those communications reasonably necessary to elicit factual information to complete the form and inform the person how to file the form." Rule 10-1.1(b) fosters access to the courts while protecting the public from advice from unqualified persons. The Florida Bar, in furtherance of these goals, is defining areas amenable to forms practice and developing simplified forms. The forms are the fill-in-the-blank type **and** merely require the insertion of factual information into the appropriate blank.

In addition to the proposed forms, the bar has prepared information about the use of the forms, titled "Appendix 5," and specific instructions for each of the **six** forms. While **we** authorize the publication of the information and instructions, we do not express an opinion on the legal correctness of either. Because local procedures may vary from circuit to circuit, the chief judge of each circuit is authorized to prepare supplemental directions for the use of the approved forms. **Supplemental directions shall be** filed with the clerk of the court in the respective circuit and with the clerk of this Court.

An objection to the forms was filed by Daniel T. Carpenter, Esquire, who practices in the area of family law. Mr. Carpenter writes:

A lawyer is needed to explain that the adoptive parent may be liable for child support in the event of a later divorce, could be liable in litigation for the actions of the child and that the child will inherit from him.

In addition, the child's other biological parent will be excused from a child support obligation and the child will not inherit from the biological father's family any longer. . . .

Posting a warning is not, in my opinion, sufficient

We share Mr. Carpenter's concerns. We therefore direct that the following language be added to forms 56A, 56B, and 56C:¹ "The adoptive stepparent may be liable for child support in the event of a later divorce, and could be liable in litigation for the actions of the adoptee. The adoptee's inheritance may also be affected."

We also received comments from Mr. Peter B. Dolinger, owner of Florida Prisoner Legal Research and Representation Services. We find the substance of Mr. Dolinger's comments already covered in rule 10-1.1(b) or in the forms, as revised by the bar, to reflect changes in witnessing requirements in section 63.082, Florida Statutes (1991).²

Having considered the petition and comments submitted, we approve the forms effective upon the filing of this opinion. The

¹ These forms are directed to the prospective adoptive stepparent, the birth parent to whom the adopting parent is not married, and the adoptee, respectively.

² Ch. 92-96, § 7, Laws of Fla.

forms and the bar's appendix described above are attached as an appendix to this opinion. The forms include:

FORM 56A--PETITION FOR ADOPTION BY STEPPARENT
FORM 56B--CONSENT AND WAIVER BY PARENT
FORM 56C--CONSENT TO ADOPTION BY ADOPTEE
FORM 56D--AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT SEARCH
FORM 56E--FINAL JUDGMENT OF ADOPTION
FORM 56F--PETITION FOR ADOPTION INFORMATION AND
ORDER RELEASING ADOPTION INFORMATION

Each form shall bear the notice: "Approved for use under rule 10-1.1(b) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar." The approval of these forms in no way authorizes a nonlawyer to give legal advice or to modify the forms.

It is so ordered.

BARKETT, C.J., and OVERTON, McDONALD, SHAW, GRIMES, KOGAN and HARDING, JJ., concur.

THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE FORMS.

Original Proceeding - Rules Regulating The Florida Bar

Alan T. Dimond, President, Miami, Florida; John F. Harkness, Jr., Executive Director and Mary Ellen Bateman, UPL Counsel, Tallahassee, Florida; Robert M. Sondak, Chairman, Board Committee on Access to the Legal System, Miami, Florida; and Wayne L. Helsby, Chairman, Standing Committee on Simplified Forms, Orlando, Florida,

for Petitioner, The Florida Bar

Daniel T. Carpenter of Carpenter & Brown, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Peter B. Dolinger, pro se, Palm Harbor, Florida,

Responding

APPENDIX 5 — STEPPARENT ADOPTIONS

What is an adoption?

An adoption creates a legal relationship between a parent and a child that previously did not exist. It declares that the child is legally the child of the adoptive parent. The child becomes the adopting parent's legal heir. The child is entitled to all of the rights and privileges and subject to all of the obligations of a child born to the adoptive parent. **An** adoption ends the rights of a birth parent and creates rights for the adoptive parent.

Who may be adopted?

Any person, a child or an adult, may be adopted. In adoption proceedings the person who is being adopted is known as the "adoptee."

Who may adopt?

The following persons generally may adopt:

1. a husband and wife together;
2. an unmarried adult, including the birth parent of the adoptee;
3. the unmarried minor birth parent of the adoptee.

A married person also may adopt alone if the person to be adopted is not his or her spouse and if the other spouse is a parent of the person to be adopted and consents or the other spouse's failure to consent is excused by the court because of prolonged unexplained absence, unavailability, incapacity, or circumstances the court decides constitute unreasonable withholding of consent.

A person who is otherwise eligible to adopt may not be prohibited from doing so solely because of a physical disability or handicap, unless the disability or handicap prevents the person from serving as an effective parent.

A homosexual may not adopt in Florida.

The person adopting must be a Florida resident.

Who must consent to an adoption?

Unless the court does not require it, a petition to adopt a child under age 18 may be granted only if

1. the mother signed a written consent after the birth of the child;
2. the father signed a written consent if
 - a. the child was conceived or born while he was married to the mother;

- b. the child is his by a previous adoption;
 - c. the child has been established to be his by a court proceeding; or
 - d. he has acknowledged in writing, signed in the presence of a competent witness, that he is the father of the child and has filed the acknowledgment with the Vital Statistics **Office** of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and he has supported the child in a repetitive manner; and
3. the child, if older than **12** years, has signed a written consent.

A petition to adopt an adult may be granted if

1. the adult and the adult's spouse, if any, have signed written consents to the adoption; and
2. the adult's birth parents have signed written consents to the adoption **or proof** of service has been filed showing that notice was served on them and they have failed to respond.

The court may choose not to require consent to an adoption by:

1. a parent who has deserted a child without giving a means of identification or who has abandoned a child (note, however, that a diligent effort must be made to notify the parent and obtain consent);
2. a parent whose parental rights have been terminated by a court order;
3. a parent who has been declared incapacitated by a court and for whom restoration of capacity is medically improbable;
4. a legal guardian or custodian of a person to be adopted, other than a parent, who has failed to respond to a request for consent for **60** days or who, after examination by the court, is found to be withholding consent unreasonably.

What is the procedure for an adoption?

1. File an original and one copy of
 - a. the petition (Form **56A**) and the child's birth certificate;
 - b. the necessary consents (Forms 56B and 56C);
 - c. the Affidavit of Diligent Search (Form 56D), if necessary; and
 - d. the **UCCJA** Affidavit (Form **56**)

in the office of the clerk of the court in the courthouse of the county you live in or where the child lives. Keep one set of copies **for** yourself and send a set of copies to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services office in your county.

2. The judge will set a time and place for the hearing on the petition. In an adoption by a stepparent, the hearing can be held immediately after the petition is filed and a copy has been sent to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.
3. The person who filed the petition to adopt must give the following people notice about the time and place of the hearing:
 - a. any person whose consent was required but who did not consent; and
 - b. **any** person who gave consent but wants to withdraw it.

If the petition is for adoption of an adult, notice of the time and place of the hearing must be given to anyone who was required to consent to the adoption but did not.

4. The judge may order an appropriate investigation to assist in determining if the adoption is in the best interest of the people involved.
5. The adopting stepparent and the adoptee are required to appear at the hearing, unless the adoptee is under 12 years of age or the presence of either of them is excused by the judge.
6. Fill out items 1-9 of the Final Judgment of Adoption (Form 56F) and take it with you to the hearing. At the hearing, the judge may ask you questions about the information you provided in these forms. If the judge determines that all necessary consents have been obtained and the adoption is in the best interest of the adoptee, the judge **will** complete and sign the final judgment of adoption.
7. After the final hearing, go to the clerk of the court's office and **ask** for the following:
 - a. an application for an amended birth certification;
 - b. at least three certified copies of the final judgment (note that the file is sealed **72** hours after the final hearing and after that an order from the judge will be needed to open it).

What forms are required?

The following forms are required for a stepparent to adopt his or her spouse's biological child:

1. Petition For Adoption By Stepparent (Form 56A) — This is filled out and signed **by** the adopting stepparent and the birth parent to whom the adopting stepparent is married. A **COPY** of the child's birth certificate must be attached.
2. Consent and Waiver By Parent (Form 56B) — This is filled **out** and signed by the parent to whom the adopting stepparent is **not** married (the "nonresidential parent"), unless consent is waived or not required. See "Who is required to consent to the adoption?"
3. Consent to Adoption by Adoptee (Form 56C) — This is filled out and signed by the person being adopted (the "adoptee") if he or she is more than 12 years old.
4. Affidavit of Diligent Search (Form 56D) — This must be filled out by the adopting

stepparent and the birth parent to whom the stepparent is married **if** the child's other birth parent could not be located to consent to the adoption, It is not to be used if the other parent has been contacted but refused to give consent.

5. Final Judgment of Adoption (Form 56E) — This must be filled out and given to the judge at the final hearing.

6. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act Affidavit (Form 56) — This must be completed **and** filed with the petition and consents.

How do I complete these forms?

Read all of the forms carefully before filling in the blanks. **If there is something you do not understand, have an attorney explain it to you.** Every person who completes and signs a form should understand it. All of the blanks must be filled in. If someone helps you fill out the form, their name and address must be shown on the bottom of the form. If that person is not an attorney they must complete the form for nonlawyers who assist others in completing forms at the front of this book.

At the top of each form, fill in the judicial circuit number (the clerk's office can give you this information) and the county where the petition will be filed. Leave the case number blank. Fill in the blank following "In the Matter of the Adoption of" with the full name by which the person being adopted will be known after the adoption.

Please note that a number of these forms must be signed under oath in the presence of a notary public. If the information **you** put on the form later is determined to be false, the adoption judgment may be overturned and you may be subject to penalties for perjury.

Specific instructions are provided before each of the forms. For more information see Chapter 63, Florida Statutes.

FORM 56A -- PETITION FOR ADOPTION BY STEPPARENT

The adopting stepparent is the "Petitioner" on this form. All information required must be filled in by the adopting stepparent. After the petition is completed take it to a notary **public**. You and your spouse must sign the form in the presence of the notary, who must also sign the form and seal it.

See Appendix 5 and Chapter **63**, Florida Statutes, for further information.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR _____, COUNTY, FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Adoption of _____

CASE NO: _____

**PETITION FOR ADOPTION
BY STEPPARENT**

_____,
Adoptee

Petitioner, _____, Social Security No. _____, files this
petition for adoption of the above-named minor child, pursuant to Chapter 63, Florida Statutes,
and states as grounds for it:

1. This is an action for adoption of a minor child by his/her stepparent,

2. I desire to adopt _____, who was born on
[child's current name]

_____, at _____
[date] [city, county, and state]

A copy of the birth certificate is attached. Further, I desire to adopt the minor child in that the
child has resided in my care and custody since _____ and I now wish to establish
[date]

legally the parent/child relationship already existing between me and the child. Since that time I
have adequately been able to provide for the material needs of the child and am able to continue to
do so in the future, as well as to provide for the child's mental and emotional well-being.

3. I am _____ years old and I currently live in _____ County, Florida.
I have sufficient resources to provide for the child including the following [Employer's name and
address or other source of income]: _____
I intend to remain a resident of Florida.

4. The birth father/mother of the child and I were married on _____ in
[date]

_____ County, Florida.

5. The adoptee's name shall be: _____

6. A completed Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Affidavit is attached to this
petition.

7. The adoptee's birth parents are:

_____	_____
Father's Name	Birthdate

Address	
_____	_____
Mother's Name	Birthdate

Address	

8. Consent (mark all that apply):

_____ a. _____, the birth mother/father of the child consents to this adoption. The consent is attached to and made a part of this petition.

_____ b. The consent of the birth father should not be required because:

_____ The minor child is not the birth father's by virtue of a previous adoption.

_____ The minor child has not been established by a court proceeding to be his child.

_____ To my knowledge, the birth father has not acknowledged in writing, signed in the presence of competent witnesses, that he is the father of the minor child, nor has he filed such an acknowledgment with the Vital Statistics Office of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

_____ The birth father has not provided the child with support in a repetitive and customary manner.

_____ c. The consent of the birth parent should be excused for the following reason:

_____ The birth parent has deserted the child without providing a means of identification or has abandoned the child.

_____ The birth parent's rights have been terminated by a court order.

_____ The birth parent has been declared incapacitated by a court and restoration of capacity is medically improbable.

_____ The legal guardian or lawful custodian of the child, other than the birth parent, has failed to respond in writing to a request for consent for a period of 60 days or, after examination of his/her reasons for withholding consent the court has found them to be unreasonable.

_____ The former spouse or birth parent's consent is excused because of prolonged, unexplained absence, unavailability, incapacity, or another circumstance constituting unreasonable withholding of consent.

_____ d. The written consent of the minor child, _____, age _____ (if over 12 years), is attached and made a part of this petition.

_____ e. The nonresidential parent is dead,

9. The minor child has property in the approximate value of \$ _____, described as follows: _____

10. A copy of this petition for adoption has been sent to the local office of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

I am aware that the adoptive stepparent may be liable for child support in the event of a later divorce, and could be liable in litigation for the actions of the adoptee. The adoptee's inheritance may also be affected.

WHEREFORE, I request that this court enter a Final Judgment of Adoption of the minor child by the Petitioner Stepparent, and change the name of the adoptee.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY that the information in this petition is true and correct.

Petitioner
Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on _____
[date]

NOTARY PUBLIC:
Signature: _____
Print: _____
State of Florida at Large
My Commission Expires: _____

_____ Personally known to me

_____ Produced _____ as identification.
[document]

This form was completed
with the assistance of:
Name:
Address:
Telephone Number:

FORM 56B — CONSENT AND WAIVER BY PARENT

This form is completed and signed by the birth parent to whom the adopting parent is not married. It must **be** signed in the presence of a notary public, who will also sign and seal it, and two witnesses other than the notary. **The** form is **filed** with the petition for adoption.

See Appendix 5 and Chapter **63**, Florida Statutes, for more information.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR _____, COUNTY, FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Adoption of _____

CASE NO: _____

**CONSENT AND WAIVER BY
PARENT**

Adoptee

Before me, personally appeared _____, who is personally known to
me/produced _____ as identification, and who, after first being duly,
[document]
sworn states:

1. I, _____, am the birth mother/father of the above-named child, who
was born on _____, at _____. I do hereby
relinquish all rights to and custody of this minor child, _____, and do consent
to the adoption by the Petitioner, _____, with full knowledge of the legal effect
of the stepparent adoption.

2. I understand my legal rights as a parent and I understand that I do not have to sign
this consent and release of my parental rights. I acknowledge that this consent is being given
knowingly, freely, and voluntarily. I further acknowledge that my consent is not given under
fraud or duress. I understand that there is no "grace period" in Florida during which I may revoke
my consent. I understand that in signing this consent I am permanently and forever giving up all
of my parental rights to and interest in this child. I voluntarily permanently relinquish all my
parental rights to this child.

3. I understand that: "After 1 year from the entry of a judgment of adoption, any
irregularity or procedural defect in the proceedings is cured, and the validity of the judgment shall
not be subject to direct or collateral attack because of any irregularity or procedural defect. Any
defect or irregularity of, or objection to, a consent that could have been **cured** had it been made
during the proceedings shall not be questioned after the time for taking an appeal has expired."

4. I do now, of my own free will, consent and release **and** give up completely and
permanently my parental rights to this child, for the purpose of adoption.

5. I waive any further notice of the adoption proceeding.

6. I have/have not been interviewed about this adoption pursuant to a preliminary home
study.

I am aware that the adoptive stepparent may be liable for child support in the event of a later divorce, and could be liable in litigation for the actions of the adoptee. The adoptee's inheritance may also be affected.

Signature
Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____

SWORN **TO** AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on _____
[date]

NOTARY PUBLIC:
Signature: _____
Print: _____
State of Florida at **Large**
My Commission Expires: _____

WITNESS:
Signature: _____
Print: _____
Home/Business Address: _____

Social Security No.: _____

WITNESS:
Signature: _____
Print: _____
Home/Business Address: _____

Social Security No.: _____

This form was completed
with the assistance of:

Name:
Address:
Telephone Number:

FORM 56C — CONSENT TO ADOPTION BY ADOPTEE

This form must be completed and signed by the person being adopted, the adoptee, if he or she is over 12 years of age. It must be signed in the presence of a notary public, who will sign and seal it, **and** two witnesses other than the notary.

For more information see Appendix 5 and Chapter 63, Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN **AND** FOR _____, COUNTY, FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Adoption of _____

CASE NO: _____

**CONSENT TO ADOPTION
BY ADOPTEE**

_____,
Adoptee

Before me, personally appeared _____, who is personally known to
me/produced _____ as identification, and who, after first being duly, sworn
[document]
states:

1. I, _____, being _____ years of age, do hereby consent to my
adoption by _____, to be his/her/their legal child and heir at law.

2. I hereby consent to being known as _____, from now on.

I am aware that the adoptive stepparent may be liable for child support in the event of a
later divorce, and could be liable in litigation for the actions of the adoptee. The adoptee's
inheritance may also be affected.

Signature

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on _____
[date]

NOTARY PUBLIC:

Signature: _____

Print: _____

State of Florida at Large

My Commission **Expires:** _____

WITNESS:

Signature: _____

Print: _____

Home/Business Address: _____

Social Security No.: _____

WITNESS:

Signature: _____

Print: _____

Home/Business Address: _____

Social Security No.: _____

Approved for use under rule 10-1.1(b) of
the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar

This form was completed

with the assistance of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

FORM 56D --- AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT SEARCH

This form is to be used if the birth parent who is not married to the stepparent adopting the child could not be located to give consent. It is not to be used **if** the birth parent was located and **refused** to **agree** to the adoption. The birth parent who is married to the adopting stepparent completes this form showing what efforts were made to locate the other birth parent. The form must **be** signed in the presence of a notary public, **who** will sign and seal it.

For more information see Appendix 5 and Chapter **63**, Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR _____, COUNTY, FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Adoption of

CASE NO: _____

**AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT
SEARCH**

Adoptee

Before me, personally appeared _____, who is personally known to
me/produced _____ as identification, and who, after first being duly, sworn
[document]
states:

1. I am married to the child's birth parent.
2. The birth father's/mother's last known address was _____
_____ and his/her last known address of employment was _____
_____, as of _____.
3. The birth father/mother is over the age of 18.
4. The birth father/mother is not a member of the Armed Forces of the United States
or the US. Public Health Service, within the meaning of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act,
as amended.
5. The birth father's/mother's address or location is not known and cannot be
determined, although I **have** made a reasonable effort to locate him/her: (Describe efforts and
when made below):

_____ Contacted his/her family: _____

_____ Contacted his/her employer: _____

_____ Contacted his/her friends: _____

_____ Contacted his/her last known address: _____

_____ Sent letters to his/her last known address: _____

_____ Sent letters to the **Armed Forces** on _____ who responded

_____ Other: _____

I declare under penalty of perjury that, I have read this document and that the contents are true and correct.

Signature
Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on _____
[date]

NOTARY PUBLIC:
Signature: _____
Print: _____
State of Florida at Large
My Commission Expires: _____

_____ Personally known to me

_____ Produced _____ as identification.
[document]

This form was completed
with the assistance of:
Name:
Address:
Telephone Number:

FORM 56E — FINAL JUDGMENT OF ADOPTION

Before you go to court for the final hearing on the adoption, you should complete items 1 through 9 on this form. Leave the remainder of the form blank for the judge to complete **if** the adoption is granted. **Take** this form with you to court to give it to the judge.

For more information, see Appendix **5** and Chapter **63**, Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR _____, COUNTY, FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Adoption of

CASE NO: _____

**FINAL JUDGMENT
OF ADOPTION**

Adoptee

This matter was heard for consideration by the court on the Petition for Stepparent Adoption filed in this action, and having heard testimony and considered the evidence, **THE COURT FINDS THAT:**

1. It has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the petition for adoption.
2. It has jurisdiction over the minor child, _____, the petitioner, _____, and the birth parent, _____, in that they are residents of _____ County, State of Florida. Further, the child and petitioners have significant connections with the State of Florida.

3. There is no pending litigation regarding this child in the State of Florida or any other state, **nor** is there any other person not a party to these proceedings who has, or claims to **have**, physical custody or visitation rights to the minor child.

4. The best interests of this child would be served and promoted **by** this adoption and the petitioner desires the permanent responsibility of a parent in this adoption.

5. Consent of the birth parent is:

_____ Attached

_____ Waived because:

_____ the parent has deserted the child without affording a means of identification.

_____ the parent has abandoned the child, and has not visited, supported, contacted, or communicated with the child.

_____ the parent has been judicially declared incapacitated and restoration of capacity is medically improbable.

_____ the legal guardian or lawful custodian of the adoptee, other than the parent, has failed to respond in writing to a request for consent for 60 **days**, or the court has examined the written reasons for withholding consent and has found the withholding of consent to be unreasonable.

_____ Other: _____

_____ Not required because he/she is deceased.

6. The petitioner stepparent is a fit and proper person to adopt the minor **child** and the best interests of the child will be promoted **by** this adoption.

7. The minor child is suitable for adoption **by** the petitioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

8. The minor child presently known as _____ is declared to be the legal child of petitioner, _____, and is given the name of _____, **by** which he/she shall hereafter be known.

9. This minor child shall be the child and legal heir of law of the petitioner, _____, and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges, and subject to all obligations of children born of petitioner.

10. **All** legal relations between the adoptee and the birth mother/father and between the adoptee and the relatives of the birth parent are hereby terminated **by** this adoption, as are **all** parental rights and responsibilities **of** the birth parent.

11. This Final Judgment of Adoption creates a relationship between the adoptee and the petitioner **and** all relatives of petitioner that would have existed if the adoptee were a blood decedent of the petitioner, born within wedlock, entitled to all rights and privileges thereof, and subject to all obligations of a child being born to petitioner.

ORDERED on _____, at _____,
_____ County, Florida.

Circuit Judge

Copies to:

This form was completed
with the assistance of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

FORM 56F — PETITION FOR ADOPTION INFORMATION
AND ORDER RELEASING ADOPTION INFORMATION

This form is used to request release of information on an adoption. It should be filed with the clerk of the circuit court.

For more information, see **Appendix 5** and Chapter **63**, Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR _____, COUNTY, FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Adoption of

CASE NO: _____

**PETITION FOR ADOPTION
INFORMATION AND ORDER
RELEASING INFORMATION**

_____,
Adoptee

1. I, _____, am interested in this matter as:
 adult adoptee (over 18)
 adoptive parent
 adult birth sibling
 other: _____
2. The adoptee was born on _____
3. I request nonidentifying information as to family medical history and social history of the adoptee as follows:
 If available, to be furnished to adoptive parents before finalization of the adoption.
 If available, to be furnished to adoptees upon request after adoptee reaches majority.
4. The reason I am requesting disclosure of this information is _____

I declare that I have read this petition and it is true and correct.

Signature
Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on _____
[date]

NOTARY PUBLIC:
Signature: _____
Print: _____
State of Florida at **Large**
My Commission Expires: _____

____ Personally known to me
____ Produced _____ as identification.
[document]

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED

- ____ 1. **The** petitioner shall **receive**
____ Nonidentifying information as to: _____
____ Identifying information as to: _____
____ **All** records relating to the adoption proceedings.
- ____ 2. **The** petition is denied in whole or part because: _____

Date: _____

Circuit Judge

This form was completed
with the assistance of:
Name:
Address:
Telephone Number: