

Service Center

New Hampshire Circuit Court

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

Items listed below are needed to start this type case:

- Petition for Termination of Parental Rights form (NHJB-2188-F)
- Certified Copy of Child's Birth Certificate

Other items that may be needed:

- Social Study – Although not required to open a case, one will be needed before the case can be decided. You will need to contact a licensed agency to start this process. A list is available at: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/adoption/adoptagencies.htm>
However, if one parent is seeking to terminate the other parent's rights, the court may grant a request to waive or limit the extent of the social study.
- The Motion for Alternative Service form (NHJB-2765-FP) should be filed if the address of the parent having their rights terminated is unknown. Use this form to request the court's permission to publish notice to the parent (who is having their rights terminated) in a newspaper of general circulation in the town or city where he/she was last known to reside.
- Photo identification may be required.

How much will this cost?

- Filing fee of **\$180.00** for each petition for Termination of Parental Rights. One petition per parent, per child must be filed.

What happens next?

- Once the Petition is filed, a Guardian *Ad Litem* (GAL) will be appointed. Please note that petitioner is responsible for the payment of the Guardian *Ad Litem* (GAL) fees.
- You will receive an Orders of Notice packet. This document will provide you with the date, time and place of the hearing, as well as instructions for sending copies of the documents to the other parties. This process is known as service.
- Please note that you are responsible for payment of service by the Sheriff or newspaper publication.

**Forms and Instructions are available at any NH Circuit Court
or at**

www.courts.nh.gov