

Service Center

New Hampshire Circuit Court

ADOPTION – UNRELATED MINOR CHILD

Items listed below are needed to start this type case:

- Petition for Adoption of Unrelated Minor Child form (NHJB-2185-FP)
There must be a separate form filed for each child being adopted. This form is used when neither petitioner is related to the minor they seek to adopt.
- Certified copy of the adoptee's Birth Certificate
- Confidential Report of City and Town Clerk Relative to Adoption form (VS-37)
- The assessment/home study conducted by agency is required to be filed within 60 days of filing the adoption petition.

Other items that may be needed:

- Interstate Adoption Putative Father Registry Information form (NHJB-2190-FP) is needed if adoptee was born out of state.
- Affidavit of Expenses is required prior to a final order. (This form is available from Division for Children Youth & Families (DCYF).)
- Copy of death certificate if a birth parent(s) is deceased.
- Photo identification may be required.

How much will this cost?

- Filing fee of **\$150.00** for each petition filed.

What happens next?

- You will receive a Notice of Hearing in the mail when all required documents have been filed. This notice will inform you of the day and time of the court hearing. The adoptive parents and adoptee are required to attend the court hearing.
- If the child has been in the adoptive home for six months, the hearing will be a final hearing. A final post placement report must be filed before the hearing.
- If the child has been in the home for less than six months, a second court hearing may be scheduled after the child has been in the home for at least six months. A final post placement report must be filed before the hearing.
- At the final hearing the adoptive parents will receive the Certificate of Adoption.
- When adoption is finalized the adoptive parents may contact city/town hall where the child was born, NH Vital Records or if born out of state, the Vital Records in that state for a new birth certificate. Please allow 6-8 weeks before requesting the birth certificate. Information on obtaining a birth certificate is available at:
<http://www.courts.state.nh.us/probate/servicecenters/pamphlets/index.htm>

**Forms and Instructions are available at any NH Circuit Court – Probate Division
or at
www.courts.state.nh.us/probate**