



Superior Court of the State of California
County of Kings

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ON
THE PURCHASE OF SUPERIOR COURT FORMS OR PACKETS

ADOPTION PACKET

This packet is strictly for
Stepparent or Domestic Partner Adoptions
Packet Purchase Price: \$ 5.00



What is a stepparent adoption? 

When the spouse of the child's parent adopts that child. The law recognizes domestic partners too for stepparent adoptions.



What is a domestic partner adoption?

When the domestic partner of a child's parent adopts that child. A domestic partner adoption is the same as a stepparent adoption. Once the adoption is final, the domestic partner also becomes the child's legal parent, with all the legal rights and responsibilities of a parent/child relationship.

Kings County has four Superior Court locations:

AVENAL

501 E. Kings St.
Avenal, CA 93204
(559) 386-5225

CORCORAN

1000 Chittenden Ave.
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-5193

HANFORD

1426 South Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-1010

LEMOORE

449 "C" St.
Lemoore, CA 93245
(559) 924-7757

Hours of Operation:

Business Days: Monday – Friday
Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Filing Fees:

Adoption Request fee: \$ 20.00 / per child

Investigation fee: \$ 300.00

- This fee is paid upon the return of the Investigation Packet.
- If paying by check these fees (mentioned above) **must** be on **separate** checks.

Additional Investigation fee*: \$ 300.00

* For stepparent adoptions only. This fee will apply if the Petition to Declare minor Free of Custody and Control is filed at a **separate time** from the opening of the adoption.

There may be forms and/or attachments needed in your particular case. Forms are available at the Clerk's Office on specific request or may be accessed on www.courts.ca.gov



Can I obtain assistance online?

Yes, go to <http://www.courts.ca.gov/> for questions and answers regarding Adoptions. You may talk to a lawyer (to make sure you follow the right steps) or research this information on this web site.



- o Adoption files are confidential files.
- o Adoption files are **not** available to the public.
- o The only parties that may have access to your file are you (as the petitioner and/or your attorney (if applicable)). You may access your file upon providing the case number **and** your picture ID to the clerk.
- o **No** information will be given to you over the telephone.

Step 1

The following form has vital information regarding the adoption process:

Form name and number:	Last revised on:	# of pages
How to Adopt a Child in California (ADOPT 50)	07-01-10	2
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	Provides pertinent information on the procedure of an Adoption.	
<i>Note:</i>	Do not make copies of this form.	

Step 2

Open an Adoption case using the following forms:

Adoption Request (ADOPT 200)	07-01-10	3
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	Tells the judge about you and the child you are adopting.	
<i>Instructions:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete one (1) Adoption Request form per child. • Make additional copies, as needed. 	
Adoption Agreement (ADOPT 210)	07-01-10	2
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	Tells the judge that you and the child, if over 12, agree to the adoption.	
<i>Instructions:</i>	Fill it out, but do not sign it until the judge says so. This will be lodged for your future hearing.	
Adoption Order (ADOPT 215)	07-01-10	2
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	The judge signs this form if your adoption is approved.	
<i>Instructions:</i>	Fill it out. This will be lodged for your future hearing.	
Court Report of Adoption (VS44)	01/08	1
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	Provides information to Initiate a new birth certificate for the child.	
<i>Note:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) form is provided in this packet. • This form is to be completed by the adoptive parents. This form is for information purposes only. The clerk will use this information to prepare an original Court Report of Adoption form. Once an order is made in court, the verifying parent and attorney (if applicable) will be asked to sign the form the clerk prepares. 	
<i>Instructions:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) form shall be completed for each child. Make additional copies, as necessary. • Fill out sections I and II. DO NOT SIGN. 	

Consent forms utilized for the natural parent (if applicable)

Online assistance:

Go to <http://www.courts.ca.gov/> for more questions and answers regarding Adoptions. You may talk to a lawyer (to make sure you follow the right steps) or research this information on this web site.

The web site also answers questions such as:

- ✓ Does the child's other parent have to agree to the adoption?
- ✓ What if my child's other birth parent does not agree (consent) to the stepparent/domestic partner adoption?
- ✓ Why do I have to let my child's other birth parent know about the stepparent or domestic partner adoption?
- ✓ What if my child only has one birth parent?
- ✓ What if my child's other birth parent is deceased?
- ✓ What if my child's other birth parent does not admit that he or she is the child's parent?
- ✓ How can I find my children's other birth parent?
- ✓ What if I don't know where my child's other birth parent is?
- ✓ If my child's other birth parent has been gone for years, and we haven't seen him/her, do we still have to let him/her know?
- ✓ What will the court want me to do to try to find the other birth parent?

Form name and number:	Last revised on:	# of pages
<p>Consent to Adoption by Parent <i>In California</i> Giving Custody to Husband or Wife of Other Parent (local form)</p> <p><i>Purpose of form:</i> Provides full and free consent from the (birth parent) natural father or mother (who resides in California) to the stepparent to the adoption of said child. This form is used only when parent is giving custody of the child to the husband or wife of other parent.</p> <p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide this form to the natural father or mother. • It must be witnessed and signed in the presence of any of the following: the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Probation Officer, or, where stepparent investigations are delegated to County Welfare Departments, a County Welfare Department Staff member. 	12-19-05	1
<p>Consent to Adoption by Parent <i>Outside California</i> Giving Custody to Husband or Wife of Other Parent (local form)</p> <p><i>Purpose of form:</i> Provides full and free consent from the (birth parent) natural father or mother (who resides outside California) to the stepparent to the adoption of said child. This form is used only when parent is giving custody of the child to the husband or wife of other parent.</p> <p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide this form to the natural father or mother. • It must be witnessed and signed in the presence of any of a Notary Public in and for said County and State. 	12-19-05	1

Step 3 Investigation process and packet:

What is involved with the investigation?

In order to perform the investigation required, you will need to complete the items on the checklist (provided in the packet). The investigation packet can be submitted either along with the Adoption forms that open the case or after the case is opened.

Once all items have been completed return them to the clerk's office the investigator will schedule a home visit.



After the home visit the following will occur:

- a background check will be performed,
- collateral contacts will be made, as necessary,
- CPS and other agencies may be contacted,
- a follow-up interview may be scheduled,
- a report is then generated and sent to the Petitioner (and all other interested parties).
- the petitioner will then be contacted (by the investigator) and informed to contact the clerk's office (calendar desk) for a court date.



The investigation **will not** take place until this packet is submitted with the fee.

Adoption check-list for Petitioners –local form		08-08-08	1
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	This document lists the required forms and items that must be submitted to the court before your adoption investigation will be scheduled.		
<i>Note:</i>	Do not make copies of this form. However, keep this sheet handy.		
Adoption Questionnaire (Stepparent or DP Adoption) –local form		05-02-05	5
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	Introduces you and your situation to the investigator handling your case.		
<i>Note:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once this form is completed, submit this form along with the items required to be submitted from the check-list. 		
Adoption Witness Questionnaire (Stepparent or DP cases) –local form		05-05-08	3
<i>Purpose of form:</i>	Provides information to the investigator regarding you being a suitable candidate for the adoption of the minor child (children).		
<i>Note:</i>	Six (6) forms are provided.		
<i>Instructions:</i>	Provide this form to six individuals who will vouch for your qualification as a suitable candidate for the adoption of the minor child or children. Once they are completed, they are to be returned to you. Submit these forms with the items required to be submitted from the check-list.		

Step 4 Attend the adoption hearing.

After the court hearing, the court will complete the Court Report of Adoption (section III), and mail it to Sacramento, CA for a new birth certificate.