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## ADOPT-050 How to Adopt a Child in California

### Independent, Agency, or International Adoptions

If this is an independent, agency, or international adoption, fill out and file the forms below.

1. Fill out and file court forms.

ADOPT-200 Adoption Request

This tells the judge about you and the child you are adopting.

ADOPT-210 Adoption Agreement

This tells the judge that you and the child, if over 12, agree to the adoption. Fill it out, but do not sign it until the judge says so.

ADOPT-215 Adoption Order

The judge signs this form if your adoption is approved.

ADOPT-230 Adoption Expenses

This tells the judge about all your adoption expenses.

2. The social worker writes a report.

In every adoption, a social worker writes a report. This report gives important information to the judge about the adopting parents and the child. The social worker will ask you questions. You may have to fill out forms. The social worker will file the report and send you a copy. When you get the report, ask the clerk for a date for your adoption hearing.

3. Go to court on the date of your hearing.

Bring:

The child you are adopting

Form ADOPT-210

Form ADOPT-215

Form ADOPT-230

A camera, if you want a photo of you and your child with the judge

Friends/relatives

4. Is this an “open” adoption?

If you want your child to have contact with his or her birth family, fill out ADOPT-310, which asks for an open adoption.

5. If you are adopting an Indian child...

Also fill out and bring:

Form ADOPT-220 Adoption of Indian Child

Form ADOPT-225 Parent of Indian Child Agrees to End Parental Rights

