

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
STEPPARENT ADOPTION LOCAL FORMS**

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# STEPPARENT/DOMESTIC PARTNER ADOPTION GUIDELINES

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

### COUNTY OF TULARE

The following is a guide to stepparent /domestic partnership adoption in Tulare County. For more information on these actions, we suggest that you consult with an attorney, contact a legal typing service, read "How To Adopt Your Stepchild in the State of California" published by Nolo Press or check at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov). You can also contact the Court's Self Help Resource Center at 559-737-4422. Each county has different procedures for this process. We hope that this explanation will assist you with the procedures for this county. The forms located in this packet, which are marked as Judicial Council forms (such as, ADOPT-200), can also be found on the internet at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/adoption/adoptforms](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/adoption/adoptforms), and the Tulare County forms (such as Consent to Adoption) are contained in this packet.

#### THESE ARE THE FORMS YOU WILL NEED:

- #a **Adoption Request (ADOPT-200)** - One form for each child must be filled out and filed with the Clerk (cost is \$20.00 per child). You **must** send or bring a copy to Family Court Services, Room 203, County Courthouse, Visalia, CA, 93291.
- #b **Adoption Agreement (ADOPT-210)** - Must be lodged (placed in the court's file) prior to the hearing date. It will be completed at the stepparent adoption hearing.
- #c **Adoption Order (ADOPT-215)** - Must be lodged with the court prior to the hearing date. This will be completed at the stepparent adoption hearing.
- #d **Consent to Adoption by Parent In California /Outside California Giving Custody to Husband or Wife of Other Parent (Tulare County form)** - When there is a consent by the non-custodial parent, this form is filed with the Adoption Request, after being signed by that parent. PLEASE NOTE: The consent must be witnessed by a notary public, court clerk, probation officer, qualified court investigator, or county welfare department staff member if the parent resides in California. If the parent resides outside California, the form must be signed in the presence of a notary public.
- #e **Petition to Declare Minor Free from Parental Custody and Control and Terminate Parental Rights (Tulare County form)** - If the non-custodial parent has not consented to the adoption, this petition must be filed to terminate that parent's rights before any adoption can take place. This form may be used (a sample form is included) as a fill-in petition and must be filed with the clerk for this hearing.

- #f **Declaration of Custodial Parent (Tulare County form)** – This is completed if there is no consent and filed with the Petition to Declare Minor Free from Parental Custody and Control and Terminate Parental Rights.
- #g **Citation and Proof of Service for Petition to Declare Minor Free From Parental Custody and Control (Tulare County form)** - This form can be used to cite the non-custodial parent to the hearing.
- #h **Application and Order for Publication or Dispensing with Notice (Tulare County form)** - Fill out this form if you are unable to serve the absent parent with the Petition to Declare Minor Free from Parental Custody and Control (**e**). Bring it with the Declaration of Due Diligence (**i**) to the court clerk for the judge's signature to allow you to publish a notice in the newspaper most likely to be read by that parent. If you are asking that the court dispense with notice to an alleged natural father you will fill this form out also with the Due Diligence Declaration.
- #i **Declaration of Due Diligence (Tulare County form)** - This form is filled out and submitted with the Application (**h**) and outlines what you have done to try to find the absent parent.
- #j **Findings and Order of Court On Petition to Declare Minor(s) Free From Parental Custody and Control and Terminate Parental Rights (Tulare County form)** – Form submitted to court for signature at hearing.

1. **IF THERE IS A CONSENT FROM THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT**

Complete forms **a, b, c, and d**, and file the Adoption Request (**a**) along with the Consent to Adoption by Parent Giving Custody (**d**). Forms **b and c** must be lodged with the court. **A hearing date should not be scheduled for the stepparent adoption at this time.** Send or deliver a copy of the request and consent to Family Court Services, Room 203, County Courthouse, Visalia, 93291. An investigation will be initiated. The petitioner will receive a letter explaining the process and a file will be opened. A Family Court Services investigator will call the petitioner to set an appointment for the investigation when all the paperwork is completed.

2. **IF THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT WILL NOT CONSENT**, a petition to terminate the parental rights of the father/mother must be filed with the Court Clerk. Tulare County forms for terminating the parental rights (petition[**e**], declaration of custodial parent [**f**], citation and proof of service [**g**], application for publication or dispensing with notice [**h**], a declaration of due diligence [**i**], and findings and order of the court on the petition to declare minors free [**j**] are also in this packet).

File the Petition To Declare Minor Free From Custody and Control (**e**) with the court clerk in Room 201 along with the Declaration of custodial parent (**f**).

- a. Family Court Services will be completing an investigation for this hearing and must be given notice of the hearing date in sufficient time to complete a report.
  - b. The non-custodial parent must be given notice of this hearing and has the right to have counsel appointed to represent him/her. The Citation and Proof of Service (**g**) must be filled out and the clerk will fill in the hearing date. Once the parent is served, the Proof of Service is filled out and returned to the court clerk's office.
  - c. If the non-custodial parent cannot be located after reasonable efforts have been made, you must file a Declaration (**i**) setting forth those efforts and an Application and Order for Publication (**h**). This order must be signed by the Court and publication completed prior to the hearing date. (See Family Code 7882)
  - d. Once it is determined by the judge at a hearing, that the non-custodial parent's rights are terminated, a copy of the judge's order must be given to Family Court Services and the stepparent adoption investigation is then completed.
3. **ON THE DATE OF THE ADOPTION HEARING** the petitioner, custodial parent and child or children must appear, unless an order is first signed upon a showing of good cause excusing the appearance of the child/ren. The adoptive parent will sign the Adoption Agreement (form **b**) in the presence of the judge who then signs the Agreement and the Adoption Order (form **c**). If the child to be adopted is 12 years of age or older, s/he must consent in writing to the adoption at the time of the hearing. **Once these forms are signed and filed, the adoption is considered final.** The signed order will be delivered to Room 201 for filing. You may need to return to Room 201 to obtain your certified copies.
4. The Court will sign the Fee Statement submitted by Family Court Services and determine whether the fee is ordered or waived. The current fee for the investigation of the adoption is \$114.00. If the fee is ordered, it is due and payable at the time of the order.
5. If you wish to change the child's name on the birth certificate, complete the Court Report of Adoption form which will be given to you in the interview with the Family Court Services. You must lodge it with the Clerk's Office before the hearing and the Clerk will forward it to the State Registrar in Sacramento.
6. **PLEASE NOTE:**  
**It is always in your best interest to seek legal advice in these matters—legal processes are confusing. The adoption hearing is the last step, where the Adoption Agreement and Order are signed, but your case may require hearings prior to the final adoption hearing for the judge to make orders regarding such issues as dispensing with notice, terminating parental rights, etc.**

(TCSPA001)

The Superior Court of the State of California  
In and for the County of TULARE

STEPARENT ADOPTION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Consent to Adoption by Parent In/Outside  
California Giving Custody to Husband Or  
Wife of Other Parent

CASE: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, being the father/mother of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby give my full  
and free consent to the adoption of said child by:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Petitioner)

the petitioner herein, it being fully understood by me that with the signing of this document my consent may not  
be withdrawn except with court approval, and that with the signing of the order of adoption by the court, I shall  
give up all my rights of custody, services, and earnings of said child, and that said child cannot be reclaimed by  
me. Further, if I and my child lived together at any time as parents and child, the adoption of this child by a  
stepparent does not affect the child's right to inherit my property or the property of other blood relative.

Said child was born on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) in \_\_\_\_\_  
(city and state)

and is the child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(natural father) (natural mother)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

Signed in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_, Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\* A notary public, court clerk, probation officer, qualified court investigator or county welfare department staff  
member of any county of California may witness this consent. (CFC 9003 (a)) Notary must affix

=====

FOR USE BY NOTARY PUBLIC ONLY

State of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_

On \_\_\_\_\_ (date) before me, \_\_\_\_\_ (name

and title of officer) personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (parent),  
personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is  
subscribed to be within this document and acknowledged to me that s/he executed the same in his/her authorized  
capacity; and that, by his/her signature on the instrument, the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person  
acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal)

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Address, and Telephone No.):<br><br>ATTORNEY FOR: _____ ATTORNEY BAR #: _____   | <b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b> |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TULARE<br>Street Address: County Civic Center<br>Mailing Address: 211 S. Mooney Blvd.<br>City and Zip code: Visalia, CA 93291 |                           |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:<br>_____ (Adopting stepparent/domestic partner)<br>on behalf of:<br>_____<br>_____ (Minor/s)                               |                           |
| <b>PETITION TO DECLARE MINOR(S) FREE FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL AND TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS</b>  | CASE NUMBER: _____        |

Petitioner respectfully represents:

1. Petitioner, \_\_\_\_\_, is an adult person, the stepfather/stepmother of the minor child/ren \_\_\_\_\_, and seeks to adopt the child/ren on termination of rights of \_\_\_\_\_, to custody and control. Petitioner is the husband/wife of \_\_\_\_\_, who is the mother/father of the minor and who has custody of the minor/s.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is/are unmarried minor child/ren who was/were born \_\_\_\_\_ and is a/are resident/s of \_\_\_\_\_, Tulare County, California.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the parent who has custody of the child/ren and resides at \_\_\_\_\_, Tulare County, California.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the non-custodial parent of the child/ren who resides at \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The child/ren has/have been left by their father/mother, \_\_\_\_\_, in the care and custody of \_\_\_\_\_, without provision for support since \_\_\_\_\_, a period of more than one (1) year, and without communication from him/her with the intent on the part of \_\_\_\_\_ to abandon the child/ren.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF (Name of adopting Parent)

CASE NUMBER:

Wherefore, Petitioner prays for judgment as follows:

1. For an order declaring that the minor child/ren, \_\_\_\_\_,  
is/are free from the custody and control of \_\_\_\_\_,  
and terminating all of his/her rights and responsibilities with regard to the child/ren;
2. For such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.

#### VERIFICATION

I have read the foregoing Petition to Declare Minors Free From Parental Custody and Control and Terminate Parental Rights and know the contents thereof; and that the same is true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated upon my information or belief, and as to those matters that I believe them to be true.

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, California.  
(DATE) (PLACE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

## DECLARATION OF CUSTODIAL PARENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, make the following statement in connection with the adoption plans for my child.

1. The child's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(day, month, year) (city, state)

2. I believe that the non-custodial parent of the child is: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name, including any aliases)

(If more than one person may be the child's birth father, please provide the following information for each person whom you believe to be the child's birth father.)

3/ The non-custodial parent lives at: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address, city, state)

(If present address unknown, give any known past addresses.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

S/he works for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(employer's name and address)

as a \_\_\_\_\_  
(position or type of work)

Give the names and address of any past employers, if known:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Is s/he in school? Yes  No  Don't Know

If Yes, \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of school, city, state)

4. Is s/he in the armed forces Yes  No  Don't Know

If yes, what branch is he in and where stationed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you know where or when the non-custodial parent was born? Yes  No  Don't Know

If yes, date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(day, month, year/age) (city, state)

9. Is the non-custodial parent married? Yes  No  Don't Know

6. Has a court ordered the non-custodial parent to help support the child? Yes  No  Don't Know

If yes, which court, when, and in what amounts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. Has s/he promised you in writing to help support the child? Yes  No   
If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you ever refused to take money or items to help with child support expenses from the non-custodial parent?  
Yes  No   
If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Has the non-custodial parent ever written to, spoken to, or visited with the child? Yes  No  Don't Know   
If yes, what did he do, when, and how many times (state in numbers): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you ever refused to let him write to, speak to, or visit with the child? Yes  No   
If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Has s/he offered to take the child into his/her home? Yes  No  Don't Know

11. Has the birth father ever acknowledged that he is the father of the child? Yes  No  Don't Know   
If yes, when, where, and in what manner? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Did you and the other parent sign a Voluntary Declaration of Paternity? Yes  No   
If yes, when and where was the declaration signed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Has a paternity test been administered to the child and any possible fathers? Yes  No   
If yes, who administered the tests and what were their results? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Has the child ever lived with the non-custodial parent rather than with you? Yes  No   
If yes, give dates: From: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Has any legal action been brought to determine custody or paternity of the child? Yes  No  Don't Know   
If yes, who brought the action, where, and when? \_\_\_\_\_

- 
20. Have you discussed adoption of the child with the non-custodial parent? Yes  No
21. Do you think s/he would agree to an adoption if that is what you wished? Yes  No  Don't Know
22. The identity of the birth father/mother of the minor child is unknown to me because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
23. I am unable to identify the birth father/mother of the minor because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
24. Other information:

I understand that this information is given to assist the court in the investigation of the Petition to Declare Minor Free and Terminate Parental Rights. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
 (city , state) (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Printed name of person who witnessed signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of person who witnessed signature of declarant)

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Address, and Telephone No.):<br><br>ATTORNEY FOR: _____ ATTORNEY BAR #: _____   | <b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b> |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TULARE<br>Street Address: County Civic Center<br>Mailing Address: 211 S. Mooney Blvd.<br>City and Zip code: Visalia, CA 93291 |                           |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:<br><br>_____<br>(Adopting stepparent/domestic partner)   |                           |
| <b>CITATION FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL</b>   | CASE NUMBER: _____        |

The People of the State of California

To (name) \_\_\_\_\_:

YOU ARE advised that you are required to appear in the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Tulare, at the County Courthouse, Department \_\_\_\_\_, located at 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93291 on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. to show cause, if any you have, why (name/s)

\_\_\_\_\_, minor/s should not be declared free from parental custody and control (for the purpose of adoption) as requested in the petition.

You are advised that if the parent/s are present at the time and place above stated, the judge will read the petition, and if requested, may explain the effect of the granting of the petition and, if requested, shall explain any term or allegation contained therein and the nature of the proceeding, its procedures and possible consequences, and may continue the matter for not more than 30 days for the appointment of counsel or to give counsel time to prepare.

The court may appoint counsel to represent the minor whether or not the minor is able to afford counsel. If any parent appears and is unable to afford counsel, the court shall appoint counsel to represent each parent who appears unless such representation is knowingly and intelligently waived.

If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your pleading, if any, may be filed on time.

LARAYNE CLEEK  
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

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The above citation was called in open court at the date and time therein set forth (with) (without) response.

LARAYNE CLEEK  
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

PROOF OF SERVICE OF CITATION (FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL)
(use separate proof of service for each person served)

- 1. I served the person cited (name):
with the citation and petition as follows:
a. by serving
(1) Person cited
(2) Person and title or relationship to person cited (name, etc.):
b. Delivery at: home business
(1) Date:
(2) Time:
(3) Address:
c. Mailing
(1) Date:
(2) Time:
(3) Address:
2. Manner of service: (check proper type)
a. Personal service. By personally delivering copies (CCP 415.10)
b. Substituted service on natural person, minor, incompetent or candidate. By leaving copies at the dwelling house usual place of business of person cited in the presence of: (name) , who was informed of the general nature of the papers, and thereafter mailing by first class mail, postage prepaid, copies to the person cited at the place where the copies were left (CCP 415.20(b)). (Attach separate declaration or affidavit stating acts relied on to establish reasonable diligence in first attempting personal service.)
c. Mail and acknowledgement service. By mailing by first-class mail copies to the person cited, together with two copies of the form Notice and Acknowledgement of Receipt and a return envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the sender (CCP 415.30). (Attach completed Acknowledgement of Receipt form.)
d. Return receipt requested mail service. By mailing to address outside California, with return Receipt requested, copies to the person cited (CCP 415.40). Attach signed return receipt or other evidence of actual delivery to the person served.)
e. Other—CCP 413.10, 413.30. Attach separate page if necessary:
Additional page is attached.
3. At the time of service I was at least 18 years of age and not a party to this case.
4. Fee for service is: \$
5. Name, address and telephone number of person serving:
a. Not a registered California process server (CCP 417.40 and exempt (Bus & P Code 22350)
b. Registered: Number: County:
c. California sheriff, marshal or constable
(1) Title:
(2) County:
(3) Municipal or Justice Court District:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date Typed or printed name Signature



|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Address, and Telephone No.):<br><br>ATTORNEY FOR: _____ ATTORNEY BAR #: _____   | <b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b> |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TULARE<br>Street Address: County Civic Center<br>Mailing Address: 211 S. Mooney Blvd.<br>City and Zip code: Visalia, CA 93291 |                           |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:<br><br>_____<br>_____<br>Adopting Parents/Domestic Partner   |                           |
| <b>APPLICATION AND ORDER FOR PUBLICATION<br/>OR<br/>DISPENSING WITH NOTICE TO ALLEGED FATHER<br/>ON PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS</b>                         | CASE NUMBER: _____        |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Natural Father or Unknown Natural Father

Application is made for an order directing service of citation on \_\_\_\_\_ by publication in the following newspaper most likely to give actual service to the party to be served.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of newspaper)

Application is made for an order dispensing with notice to alleged natural father.

DECLARATION OF DUE DILIGENCE IN SUPPORT OF THIS APPLICATION IS ATTACHED

I certify (or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, California  
Date Place

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**ORDER OF THE COURT**

It is the order of this Court that notice to the alleged natural father (named above) or unknown natural father is dispensed with.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Superior Court



|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Address, and Telephone No.):<br><br>ATTORNEY FOR: _____ ATTORNEY BAR #: _____   | FOR COURT USE ONLY |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TULARE<br>Street Address: County Civic Center<br>Mailing Address: 211 S. Mooney Blvd.<br>City and Zip code: Visalia, CA 93291 |                    |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:<br><br>_____   |                    |
| DECLARATION OF DUE DILIGENCE IN SUPPORT OF<br>A REQUEST FOR AN ORDER OF PUBLICATION<br>OR FOR ORDER DISPENSING WITH NOTICE  | CASE NUMBER: _____ |

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare:

- I am the \_\_\_\_\_, in the above-entitled action.  
(i.e., petitioner, respondent, objector)
- I have attempted personal service on \_\_\_\_\_ (name of person), and I am unable to complete such service.
- The following facts show that I have lost contact with \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot reasonable locate him/her:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. I have used the following ways to attempt to locate this person: **check boxes which apply**

The last known address for \_\_\_\_\_ is:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I have contacted the following people in the vicinity of that address within the last thirty (30) days in an attempt to determine the other party's whereabouts:

\_\_\_\_\_

I have mailed certified, return receipt letters to the following relatives, friends, etc., who may know the whereabouts of this person: (attach proof of mailing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF:

CASE NUMBER:

The last known **business** address for this person is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
I have contacted the following people in the vicinity of that address within the last thirty (30) days in an attempt to determine his/her whereabouts:

\_\_\_\_\_

I have examined the following telephone directories within the last thirty (30) days in an effort to locate this person, and no address was found:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The records of the Tax Assessors in the following counties were examined within the last thirty (30) days, and no address for this person was found:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other efforts: (such as checking Post Office forwarding address, voter records, telephone directories, friends, relatives, former employers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, California.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of declarant

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Address, and Telephone No.):<br><br>ATTORNEY FOR: _____ ATTORNEY BAR #: _____   | <b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b> |
| SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TULARE<br>Street Address: County Civic Center<br>Mailing Address: 211 S. Mooney Blvd.<br>City and Zip code: Visalia, CA 93291 |                           |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:<br><br>_____<br>(Adopting stepparent/domestic partner)   |                           |
| <b>FINDINGS AND ORDER OF THE COURT</b><br><b>ON THE PETITION TO DECLARE MINOR(S) FREE FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL AND TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS</b>             | CASE NUMBER: _____        |

A petition to terminate the parental rights of \_\_\_\_\_, who is  
 (name of absent parent)

- presumed father
- mother

of the child, who is the subject of this adoption, having come on regularly for hearing, and a notice of hearing having been given as required by law, and the Court being advised of the circumstances, the Court finds as follows:

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the natural mother of the subject minor \_\_\_\_\_, born on \_\_\_\_\_, who is now in the custody of the above-named adopting parent.
- the presumed father of such child has been served notice of this action.

It is therefore the ORDER OF THIS COURT that the parental rights of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (presumed father/mother)  
 be terminated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge of the Superior Court



## HOW TO FIND THE CHILDREN'S OTHER BIRTH PARENT

- Send a certified letter to that parent's last known address
- Call friends you had in common or family members of the other parent to see if they have any information
- Call telephone directory in any city where you think the other parent could be living
- Do an internet search for the other parent
- Contact the Department of Child Support Services in your city or county to see if they have any information on the other parent, especially if you ever filed for child support before.
- Contact the DMV to see if they will give you any information. It's very possible that the DMV will not give you information, so just make a note of when you called and what they told you.
- Contact the County Recorder's office in any county the other parent has lived in to see if you can find any information.
- Check the voter registration records in the county where the other parent lives or has lived.

# **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF TULARE**

## **LIVESCAN FINGERPRINT FACT SHEET AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR STEPPARENT ADOPTIONS**

California Family Code Section 9001 mandates the investigation of each stepparent adoption request. Tulare County Family Court Services provides these reports to the court and requires the prospective adoptive parent to provide their fingerprints to access criminal records.

LiveScan Fingerprints are completed by having a technician at the Tulare County Sheriff's Office roll your fingers across a computer screen which "reads" your fingerprint(s). Please be prepared to spend approximately 15 to 30 minutes for the process to be completed.

**Fingerprinting is done by appointment only** at the Tulare County Sheriff's Office located at 2404 W. Burrel Street, Visalia, California, 93291. This office is located inside the lobby of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office/Main Jail located west of the main courthouse.

**Please call (559) 733-6225 for your appointment.** Hours of operation are as follows:

**Monday - Friday 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

Please first call the Sheriff's Office for an appointment. Allow enough time before your appointment to go to Family Court Services in Room 203 on the second floor of the Courthouse to pick up a **LiveScan form**. When you go to your appointment at the Sheriff's Office, **take the completed LiveScan form and personal identification and give it to the fingerprint technician. The cost for the LiveScan process is \$42.00.**

The fingerprint technician will complete your fingerprinting, fill in the bottom portion of the form, keep the top copy of the form, and return two copies to you. **Bring or mail the bottom copy of the LiveScan Fingerprint form to:**

**Family Court Services  
221 So. Mooney Blvd., Rm. 203  
Visalia, California 93291**

The investigation cannot be completed until these results are obtained. Contact Family Court Services at (559) 730-5000 option 6 if you have any problems or questions about this process.

**\*Please note that if you are having your LiveScan Fingerprints completed at a location other than the Tulare County Sheriff's Main Office, you may be charged an additional fee.**