



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILY

The Texas Family Code sets for the legal requirements in order to complete an adoption. You will need to retain an attorney to represent you in the adoption proceeding. While it is not required, this attorney can be the attorney who previously represented the agency in the termination of parental rights. The child must live in your home for six months before an adoption can be granted, unless the court specifically waives this requirement. It is rare that a court will waive the six months requirement and it is usually in situations where the adoptive parents are being transferred out of the state or out of the country.

The following documents must be on file with the court prior to the granting of the adoption:

1. Court report
2. Criminal History Report
3. De-identified Copy of the Health, Social, Educational and Genetic History Report
4. Consent to Adoption

If you are married, then both spouses must attend the hearing. The court can permit only one parent to appear if a written request is submitted setting forth good causes for the absence of the other parent. If the child is over 12 years of age, then he or she must consent to adoption.

In the case of international adoptions, they are usually final at the time that they are recorded in the country of your child's origin. If married and both spouses go to the country to sign the adoption papers, the adoption is final. Readoption in the United States is optional. If you are married and only one parent goes to the country to sign the adoption papers, then you must readopt within two years of returning to the United States. If you have your child escorted to the United States and adopt through proxy in their country of origin, you must readopt within two years. In the event that you readopt, the previous information regarding Texas adoptions are to be used.

ADOPTION REGISTRY

The Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, keeps a voluntary registry of each adoptive family and birth family who have completed an adoption in the State of Texas. Family to Family Adoptions, Inc. files adoption information about each adoption with this agency. After an adoptive child is 18 years old, he may contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics to access his adoption record. Family to Family Adoptions, Inc. will keep its records intact permanently after the date of adoption. In the event that Family to Family Adoptions, Inc. should close its doors, all records will be moved to the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Adoption Registry.