



CERTIFYING FOREIGN ADOPTION

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

<https://courts.delaware.gov/family>

Family Court Contact Information

New Castle County

Leonard L Williams
Justice Center
500 N. King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-255-0300

Kent County

Family Courthouse
400 Court Street
Dover, DE 19901
302-672-1000

Sussex County

Family Courthouse
22 The Circle
Georgetown, DE 19947
302-855-7400

All Family Court Forms, FAQs, Filing Instruction Packets, and additional information can be found on the Family Court Website at:
<https://courts.delaware.gov/family>

What is a foreign adoption?

A foreign adoption is any adoption that was finalized outside of the United States.

Why do I need to certify the validity of my foreign adoption decree?

The certification of a foreign adoption decree is the way to register an international adoption. If your child's adoption was finalized in another state, you may also request that the Court certify the validity of the foreign adoption, however, the State of Delaware will give full faith and credit to the foreign adoption regardless of registration.

How do I certify the validity of a foreign adoption decree?

To certify the validity of a foreign adoption decree, you must file a petition and affidavit with the Court. To do so, complete Family Court Form 151 - Petition to Certify Validity of Foreign Adoption Decree. When submitting this form to the Court, you must also submit a copy of the foreign adoption decree. The Court will then review the paperwork and, if all the statutory requirements have been met, will issue an Order Certifying the Validity of the Foreign Adoption Decree.

What are the requirements for a foreign adoption decree to be certified?

1. The decree must have been issued in accordance with the laws of the country or state in which it was issued.
2. The child was not brought into Delaware until the adoption was finalized.

What happens after the Court certifies the validity of the foreign adoption decree?

A final decree of adoption in the State of Delaware will be issued indicating that the child is the legal child of the parents and a birth certificate shall be issued from the State of Delaware.

How can I file my petition and related paperwork?

Petitions and papers may be filed at or mailed to the Family Court in each county. Family Court also now accepts petitions and papers by email. To file your petition by email, you must send the petition and all required forms to: FC_CDN_TPR_Adoption@delaware.gov

Family Court will serve the other parties your petition.

****Before filing by email, please review the Civil Filing by Email FAQ:**

<https://courts.delaware.gov/family/faqs>