

ADULT 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>

Who may adopt an adult?

Any person, or any husband and wife jointly, that wants to adopt any person or people over the age of 18 may file a Petition for Adult Adoption with the Family Court.

Where do I file my petition?

You should file your petition in the county in which the Petitioner(s) or the person to be adopted lives.

What forms do I need to file?

You should file the following forms:

- Form 150A - Petition for Adult Adoption
- Form 240 - Information Sheet
- Form 149 - Affidavit of Consent of Petitioner(s) in Adult Adoption
- Form 153 - Affidavit of Consent of Adoptee in Adult Adoption
- Form 164 - Order for Hearing on Petition for Adult Adoption
- Form 152A - Final Order of Adoption

You must also file a certified copy of the adoptee's birth certificate and a form from the Office of Vital Statistics. This vital statistics form is available in the Family Court Resource Centers.

Do I have to appear in Court?

Yes. After you file the Petition for Adult Adoption, you will be scheduled for a Court Hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to make sure that both parties consent to the adoption and understand the effects of the adoption.

After this hearing, the Court may render a decree ordering the issuance of a certificate of adoption.

Does the adoptee have to change their name?

The adoptee is not required to change their name, but if they wish to do so, may indicate that on the Petition for Adult Adoption.

What are the effects of an Adult Adoption?

Upon the issuance of the decree of adoption, all the legal duties, rights, privileges and obligations that exist between a parent and child now exist between the Petitioner(s) and adoptee(s). These include, but are not limited to the duty to support and inheritance rights.

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>