

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING INDEPENDENT ADOPTIONS PROGRAM

You will be consenting to the adoption of this child by signing the consent to adoption form. Consenting means you agree to the permanent placement of this child with the petitioner(s) to raise as his/her/their own. When the adoption petition is granted, you will no longer have any rights as a parent to this child.

Before you sign this form and the consent to adoption form, read each of the attached statements in consultation with the agency or California Department of Social Services' representative.

Be sure to ask questions about any statement you do not understand. Consenting to the adoption of this child is an extremely important decision. You should know all the facts before making your decision.

### Instructions On How To Complete This Statement Of Understanding:

### **BEFORE YOU SIGN THIS STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND THE CONSENT TO ADOPTION FORM, READ BOTH VERY CAREFULLY WITH THE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE. BE SURE TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.**

- 1. Complete this Statement of Understanding only after you have carefully thought about the permanent placement of this child and you are sure that you want this child adopted by the petitioner(s) and raised by him/her/they.*
- 2. Read each of the statements in this document very carefully. If you do not understand a statement, ask the agency representative to explain it to you until you completely understand.*
- 3. If you understand and agree with a statement, put your initials on the line next to the number of that statement.*
- 4. If you do not agree, or if you do not understand a statement after the agency representative's explanation, do not initial the line. Ask for more help and time in making your decision.*
- 5. If you have initialed all the lines, sign your name on page 3 of this form.*
- 6. You will receive a copy of this Statement of Understanding and the consent to adoption form when it has been completed.*

**THIS FORM MUST BE USED WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS:  
AD 594 OR AD 842**

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

### Alleged Father

- \_\_\_\_ 1. I have carefully considered the reasons for consenting to the adoption of \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF CHILD  
 by \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME(S) OF THE PETITIONER(S)
- \_\_\_\_ 2. The adoption agency has told me why they think I am the alleged father of this child, and I understand that I may:
- A. File a petition in court to prove that I am the father of this child;
  - B. Deny I am the father;
  - C. Give up my rights to any other notice of the adoption proceedings;
  - D. Sign a consent to adoption; or
  - E. Take no action.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. I understand I have the right to look for a lawyer or that the adoption agency can refer me to public legal help in my community to assist me in any of the following:
- A. To help me in the independent adoption process;
  - B. To get a court order that says I am this child's father and gives me physical custody of this child; or
  - C. To help me argue against the petitioner(s) having my parental rights terminated if I choose not to sign this Statement of Understanding and the consent to adoption form.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. I understand if I want to raise this child and I am successful in proving I am the father of this child in court and get physical custody of this child, there are:
- A. Temporary arrangements I can make for this child which include child care, placing this child with friends, relatives or foster care;
  - B. Services to help this child and me learn to have a father and child relationship; and
  - C. Other agencies that could help me with family, health, money and other problems.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. I understand I may talk about my plan of adoption for this child with other professional people, my family and friends.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. I understand the consent to adoption form will automatically become an irrevocable consent to adoption either when the 30-day period has ended or when I sign a Waiver of Right to Revoke Consent (AD 929), whichever occurs first. The first day of the 30-day period is the day the consent is signed.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. I understand if I change my mind after I sign the consent to adoption form, I must sign and deliver to the California Department of Social Services or to the delegated county adoption agency, whichever is investigating the proposed adoption, a written statement revoking the consent. I may not revoke the consent after the 30-day period has ended or after I sign a Waiver of Right to Revoke Consent (AD 929), whichever occurs first. The first day of the 30-day period is the day the consent to adoption form is signed. I understand this child will not be returned to me unless I have a court order that says I am this child's father and gives me physical custody of this child.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. I understand after the consent to adoption form becomes irrevocable, I may establish paternity of this child in court only if the petitioner(s) agree(s) to withdraw his/her/their petition for adoption or if the court denies the adoption petition.
- \_\_\_\_ 9. I understand if the adoption petition is withdrawn, dismissed, or denied, the agency will notify me. I understand I must keep the agency informed of my current address.

- \_\_\_\_ 10. I understand if I ask the agency which investigates the proposed adoption for information at any future time, the agency must give me all known information about the status of this child's adoption, including the approximate date the adoption was completed and, if the adoption was not completed or was vacated for any reason, whether adoptive placement of this child is again being considered.
- \_\_\_\_ 11. I understand after this child's adoption has been granted in court, all inheritance rights from any blood relatives will end unless they have made arrangements in his/her/their will or in a trust which specifically includes this child. This child will legally inherit from his/her adoptive parent(s).
- \_\_\_\_ 12. I understand the adoption agency may release identifying information from the adoption case record only when:
- A. It has been requested by certain agencies as named in law because the information is needed to help this child;
  - B. This child, when he/she is an adult, and I have signed forms agreeing to the release of identifying information so that contact can be arranged;
  - C. This child has reached 21 years of age, asks for my identity and I have agreed in writing to the release of my identity and most current address in the adoption agency's record;
  - D. This child has reached 21 years of age and has indicated in writing that I may have his/her adopted name and most current address as indicated in the adoption agency's records and I have asked for this information; or
  - E. This child is under 21 years of age and the adoption agency has found that the release of my identity and most current address as indicated in the agency's record is justified according to the law.
- \_\_\_\_ 13. I understand I will be able, at any time, to add information about myself to the record of the agency that investigates the independent adoption.
- \_\_\_\_ 14. I understand the court may, after considering a request, release identifying information from the court adoption file.
- \_\_\_\_ 15. I understand if I think I was deliberately not told the truth about having this child adopted, I have three years after the date the adoption was completed or within 90 days of discovery of the fraud, whichever is earlier to ask the court to set-aside the adoption of this child.
- \_\_\_\_ 16. I understand I will no longer be considered this child's legal parent once the adoption is granted in court. This means that:
- A. I will no longer be responsible for the care of this child;
  - B. The petitioner(s) will be the parent(s) and will be legally responsible for caring for this child;
  - C. I will no longer have any right to the custody, services or earnings of this child; and
  - D. I will no longer be able to reclaim this child.
- \_\_\_\_ 17. I have carefully thought about the reasons for keeping or having this child adopted. I have decided that having this child adopted by the petitioner(s) is in the best interest of this child. I have read and understand this Statement of Understanding and the consent to adoption form. I do not need any more help or time to make my decision. I have decided to consent to the adoption of this child by the petitioner(s) and I am signing this freely and willingly.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, alleged father of \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF ALLEGED FATHER NAME OF CHILD

understand and agree to the statements I have initialed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF ALLEGED FATHER

**SECTION A:  
Complete if signed in California**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, an authorized official  
NAME AND TITLE  
of \_\_\_\_\_, have witnessed the signing of this  
NAME OF AGENCY  
Statement of Understanding by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF ALLEGED FATHER DATE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

**SECTION B:  
Complete if signed outside of California \***  
**\*\*\* THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC WHEN SIGNED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA \*\*\***

*The Notary Public must staple the Acknowledgement document to this form and sign and date below.*

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* If signing outside of the United States, this section must meet the requirements of California Civil Code Section 1183.**

**SECTION C:  
Complete if signed outside of California in the Armed Forces**

**Signed (pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1183.5) in the presence of:**  
On this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ before me, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF OFFICER  
the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ known to me (or satisfactorily  
NAME OF PARENT  
proven) to be (a) serving in the armed forces of the United States, (b) a spouse of a person serving in the armed forces of the United States, or (c) a person serving with, employed by, or accompanying the armed forces of the United States outside the United States and outside the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, and to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same. And the undersigned does further certify that he is at the date of this certificate a commissioned officer of the armed forces of the United States having the general powers of a notary public under the provisions of Section 936 or 1044a of Title 10 of the United States Code (Public Law 90-632 and 101-510).  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ CAPACITY IN WHICH SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_