

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING INDEPENDENT ADOPTIONS PROGRAM

You will be consenting to the adoption of your child by signing the consent to adoption. Consenting means you agree to the permanent placement of your child with the prospective adoptive parent(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 your 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 your child is an extremely important decision. You should know all the facts and consequences 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, 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 your child and you are sure that you want your child adopted by the prospective adoptive parent(s) and raised by him/her/them.*
- 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 5 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 1A, AD 1F, AD 165, OR AD 4336**

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Parent Who Gave Physical Custody of the Child to the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)

___ 1. I want my child, _____, permanently placed with _____, for adoption.

NAME OF CHILD

NAME(S) OF THE PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENT(S)

___ 2. I have chosen the prospective adoptive parent(s) to be the parent(s) for my child based on my personal knowledge of at least the following information about him/her/them:

First Prospective Adoptive Parent:

Full Legal Name: _____

Age: _____ Religion: _____ Race and Ethnicity: _____

Number of Previous Marriages: _____ Employment: _____

Health conditions restricting normal daily activities or reducing normal life expectancy:

Children who do not live in the home; child support obligation for these children; and any failure to meet child support obligations:

Any history of arrest and convictions for any crimes other than minor traffic violations:

Any removals of children from care due to child abuse or neglect:

Second Prospective Adoptive Parent:

Full Legal Name: _____

Age: _____ Religion: _____ Race and Ethnicity: _____

Number of Previous Marriages: _____ Employment: _____

Health conditions restricting normal daily activities or reducing normal life expectancy:

Children who do not live in the home; child support obligation for these children; and any failure to meet child support obligations:

Any history of arrest and convictions for any crimes other than minor traffic violations:

Any removals of children from care due to child abuse or neglect:

Family:

Length of Current Marriage: _____

General residence location or, if requested, specific address:

Other children and adults residing in the home of the prospective adoptive parent(s):

- ___ 3. I understand if I do not consent to the adoption I may sign a Refusal to Give Consent to Adoption form (AD 20) or write a letter to the adoption agency and the adoption agency will report to the court that I do not want my child to be adopted by the prospective adoptive parent(s).
- ___ 4. I understand if I do not sign the consent to adoption form I may request that my child be returned to me. If the prospective adoptive parent(s) do not return my child to me, I may ask the court for the return of my child. I probably will need a lawyer to help me do this.
- ___ 5. I understand I have the right to look for a lawyer to help me in the Independent Adoption process and that the prospective adoptive parent(s) may be required to pay the cost, up to \$500 unless the prospective adoptive parent(s) and I agree to a higher amount, of such legal counsel.
- ___ 6. I understand I may talk about my plan of adoption for my child with other professional people, my family, and friends.
- ___ 7. I understand if I am not sure I want to have my child adopted, there are other places the agency can refer me to that could help me with family, health, money, and other problems.
- ___ 8. 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 to adoption form is signed.
- ___ 9. 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 to adoption and requesting that the child be returned to me. I may not revoke the consent to adoption 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.
- ___ 10. I understand after the consent to adoption form becomes irrevocable, I may regain custody of the child only if the prospective adoptive parent(s) agree(s) to withdraw his/her/their petition for adoption or if the court denies the adoption petition.
- ___ 11. I understand I will remain legally responsible for my child until the adoption is granted by the court. If the adoption petition is withdrawn, dismissed, or denied, the agency will notify me and request that I make other plans for the child. I understand I must keep the agency informed of my current address.

- ___ 12. 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 my 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 my child is again being considered.
- ___ 13. I understand after my child's adoption has been granted in court all inheritance rights from any blood relatives will end unless they have made arrangements in their will or in a trust which specifically includes my child. My child will legally inherit from his/her adoptive parent(s).
- ___ 14. 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 my child;
 - B. My 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. My 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 records;
 - D. My 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. My 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 law.
- ___ 15. 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.
- ___ 16. I understand the court may, after considering a request, release identifying information from the court's adoption file.
- ___ 17. I understand if I think I was deliberately not told the truth about consenting to the adoption of my child, 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 my child.
- ___ 18. I understand I will no longer be my 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 my child;
 - B. The prospective adoptive parent(s) will be the parent(s) and will be legally responsible for caring for my child;
 - C. I will no longer have any right to the custody, services, or earnings of my child; and
 - D. I will not be able to reclaim my child.

___19. I have received enough information about the prospective adoptive parent(s) and about my child's adjustment in the prospective adoptive parent(s) family, and I wish to proceed with signing the consent to adoption form.

___20. I have carefully thought about the reasons for keeping or consenting to the adoption of my child. I have decided that consenting to the adoption of my child by the prospective adoptive parent(s) is in the best interest of my 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 my child by the prospective adoptive parent(s), and I am signing this freely and willingly.

I, _____, mother/father of _____
NAME OF CONSENTING PARENT NAME OF CHILD

understand and agree to the statements I have initialed above.

SIGNATURE OF CONSENTING PARENT	DATE
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**SECTION A:
Complete SECTION A if signed in California**

I, _____, an authorized official of _____, have witnessed the signing of this Statement of Understanding by _____ on _____
NAME AND TITLE NAME OF AGENCY NAME OF CONSENTING PARENT DATE

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

**SECTION B:
Complete SECTION B if signed outside of California***

***** COMPLETED BY NOTARY PUBLIC *****

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

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY	DATE
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****If signing outside the United States this section must meet with the requirements of California Civil Code Section 1183***

SECTION C:
Complete SECTION C 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 of 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 or she executed the same. And the
undersigned does further certify that he or she 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 AND SERIAL NUMBER
BRANCH OF SERVICE	CAPACITY IN WHICH SIGNED