

PACKET #16

JOINT PETITION FOR STEPPARENT ADOPTION

This packet is used when a stepparent is adopting his or her spouse's biological child.

1. Both the stepparent and his or her spouse must sign this petition.
2. The law requires the other natural parent be given legal notice of these proceedings. This may be achieved by any of the following. [The method MOST LIKELY to give actual notice is required]:
 - A. Written consent, or
 - B. Completion of an Affidavit of Non Paternity (if a stepfather is adopting his wife's minor child and paternity has not been established by a valid acknowledgment or court order; or
 - C. Service of process; *OR*
 - D. Constructive Service of Process
3. You must also obtain written consent of the child if he or she is 12 years of age or older.
4. The law also requires that, in every adoption, the litigant must make a Search of the Putative Fathers Registry **IN ADDITION** to notices as listed above.

This packet has been designed to provide forms and instructions approved by the Florida Supreme Court to individuals who have chosen to represent themselves. This packet contains most, but possibly not all of the forms and instructions you may need to represent yourself. You may find all Supreme Court approved forms on the Internet at www.flcourts.org, or at your local law library. If you do not understand the forms or your legal rights or obligations, you should consult with an attorney.

It is **your responsibility to read and understand this entire packet before proceeding further**. After you have read and understand the instructions, and after you have filed the appropriate forms, contact the Family Division Self-Help Office by filing a **FORM A** to obtain a court date. Use of these forms does not constitute representation by courthouse personnel. Courthouse personnel **cannot** give you legal advice nor can they help you complete these forms. The forms contained in this packet and the directions provided are simplified to meet the general needs of the majority of pro se litigants. This packet may not have the forms necessary for every case, and this information booklet may not address every party's particular situation. The directions given are only basic guidance for completing the forms. They are not explanations of all rights and duties associated with family law practice.

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NO REFUNDS