



GUIDE TO LOCAL ADOPTION PROCESS

ADOPTION: is the process through which a child is permanently placed with a legal parent or parents.

CHILD- Means an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years.

FORMS OF ADOPTION

1. Local Adoption means an adoption in relation to which; the child is resident in Kenya and the adopting parent or parents are Kenyan nationals' resident in Kenya.
2. Kinship adoption means adoption of a child by a person who is a relative of the child.

PRE REQUISITES

The child must have been declared free for adoption and has attained the age of six weeks.

STEPS.

- Step 1-Contact a registered and licensed adoption society.
- Step 2-Formal application to the Adoption Society expressing the interest to adopt.
- Step 3-Attachments to the application- (applicant's photos, ID, marriage certificates where applicable, medical reports among others)
- Step 4-Appointment for home visit(s) by social worker from the adoption society to assess suitability.
- Step 5-Report of the home visit and application tabled at the case committee of the adoption society for approval, deferment or rejection.

- Step 6-Once approved, the applicant goes through mandatory counselling sessions regardless of the form of adoption.
- Step 7-The applicant is then referred to a children Institution to meet the selected child after matching. Except for Kinship adoption.
- Step 8-When the applicant meets the matched child, they undergo a pre-placement bonding session visit(s) at the Children Institution. The duration of the visits depends on how fast the child bonds/acclimatizes to the PAPs but ordinarily can be a week or two . Whereas for kinship adoption it is presumed that the child is within the family.
- Step 9-Once bonding is successful the applicant(s) makes preparations to receive the child to their home to start the mandatory bonding period.
- Step 10- The Applicant(s) is then placed with the child for a mandatory bonding period of 3 months from the date of placement of the child. For Kinship adoption proof of bonding is required and hence the 3 months period might not be necessary.
- Step 11- During the bonding period follow ups home visits are done by a social worker from the Adoption Society to ascertain the progress of placement after which a progress report is compiled.
- Step 12- If the bonding process is successful the legal process should commence immediately through filing an adoption application in the High Court. The Applicant(s) may have his/her own lawyer or opt for self-representation.
- Step 13-During the Court proceedings, the Judge will order for the assessment of the applicant(s) and the child by, The Secretary Children Services and also appoint a Guardian Ad Litem to oversee the welfare of the child on behalf of the Court during the court process.
- Step 14-The Secretary Children Services will interview the applicant(s), conducts home visit (s) for social inquiry assessment. Ordinarily the visit by the DCS is once but can be more depending on the prevailing circumstances at the home. The Guardian Ad Litem will also conduct home assessment visits.

- Step 15- The reports from Secretary Children Services, Guardian ad litem and Adoption Society are tabled in court before the final judgement.
- Step 16-The judgement is delivered and an adoption order issued. The Court also issues an order appointing a legal guardian selected by the PAPs to care for the child after the adoption orders have been granted and something untoward happens to them. The Court dismisses the Guardian Ad Litem once orders are granted.
- Step 17-The applicant(s) then applies for the adoption certificate from the Registrar General (Attorneys Generals Office). Among documents required by the Registrar is the Adoption Court Order, The Judgement, Declaration Certificates, Copy of the Secretary's Report, Initial Child's birth certificate and committal order where applicable.
- Step 18-Once the adoption certificate has been issued to the adoptive parents, he/she can apply for a birth certificate from the Civil Registration Services at the Headquarters.