

LANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE -- # 1: ADOPTION

Lane County Law Library

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Generally: Adoption proceedings in Oregon are exclusively statutory, meaning that these are not recognized as common law. Adoptions can be either independent or via an agency and can often involve direct relatives (i.e., siblings, grandparents),

Proceedings to commence an adoption begin when a petition is filed in the circuit court which has jurisdiction over adoptions. For Lane County, that would be the Domestic Relations unit of the Lane County Circuit Court. For information on that court, go to:

<http://courts.oregon.gov/Lane/FamilyandChildren/Adoption.page?>

An adoption decree will terminate the legal relationship between the adoptee and the adoptee's birth parents, and transfer that relationship (and liability, etc.) to the adoptive family.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

A. LANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY CATALOG

<http://opac.libraryworld.com/cgi-bin/opac.pl?command=signin&libraryname=lanecountylawlib>

(TIP: Select "All Words" in the drop down menu, and search the word "adoption")

B. BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, BROCHURES

(TIP: You will not find everything on line, so please be prepared to use some of these resources and others to help answer your questions.)

The following titles in the Lane County Law Library contain some information on adoption proceedings. Some of them also contain *examples* of forms.

1. **FAMILY LAW**, by Oregon State Bar, c. 2002, with 2008 supplement. v. 3, ch. 17. Located on reserve at the Lane County Law Library: **KFO 2494.Z9 2002 RES.**
2. **FAMILY LAWS OF OREGON**, by State of Oregon Legislative Counsel Committee, 2008. Located on reserve at the Lane County Law Library: **KFO 2494.A29 O74 2006 RES**



3. **JUVENILE LAW**, by Oregon State Bar, 2007 revision. ch. 22. Located on reserve at the Lane County Law Library: **KFO 2996.J88 2007 RES**
4. **THE ABC'S OF ADOPTION**, by Oregon State Bar Continuing Legal Education, Materials from program held May 15-16, 2003 in Portland, OR: **KFO 2504.5.A75 A2 2003 OR**

The following items contain information on laws and regulations impacting adoptions in Oregon and are available on the Oregon State Government website. Print versions of the Oregon Revised Statutes and the Oregon Administrative Rules are also available in the Lane County Law Library. .

1. **Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (CCJA) :**
ORS 109.700-109.930 (online: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/109.html>)
2. **Relevant Oregon Revised Statutes:**
ORS 109—Parent and Child Rights and Relationships (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/109.html>)
ORS 418—Child Welfare Services; Agencies, Placement (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/418.html>)
ORS 419A-419C—Juvenile Code; Parent/Child Relationships
(<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/419a.html>, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/419b.html>,
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/419c.html>)
3. **Oregon Administrative Rules**
OAR 413-30-000 to 413-30-003, and 413-30-200 to 413-30-225—Case Management; Program Eligibility, Family Support Services (Agencies' adoptions requirements and standards)
(http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_400/OAR_413/413_030.html)

C. OTHER RESOURCES

Government Agencies in Oregon with information about Adoptions

1. **Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS):**
 - **Adoption Services (includes FAQ page)**
(http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/children/adoption/adopt_child.shtml)
 - **Adoption Assistance Handbook**
(<http://dhsforms.hr.state.or.us/Forms/Served/DE9050.pdf>)
 - **Voluntary Pre-Adoption Registry Information**
Created in 1983 to assist adoptees, birth parents, biological siblings, and other eligible persons in learning more about an adoption that was finalized in Oregon. The registry creates a method of communicating information while preserving confidentiality and respecting the right to privacy. The Adoption Services Unit for the State of Oregon is responsible for maintaining records on all adoptions going back to the early 1920's.
(http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/children/adoption/adopt_registry/registry.shtml)
 - **Sources of information for pre-adoption birth records**
(<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/preadopt.shtml#pdf>)
2. **Oregon State Bar**
The OSB has public information pages with information on family law and adoptions on its public information pages at: http://www.osbar.org/public/legalinfo/1136_Adoptions.htm
3. **Legal Aid Services of Oregon**
This website has general legal information on family law and adoption, in both English and Spanish at: www.oregonlawhelp.org



Federal Laws and Resources

1. Child Welfare Information Gateway

A service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which provides access to print and electronic publications, websites, and online databases covering a wide range of topics including adoption, search and reunion: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/index.cfm>

2. Indian Child Welfare Act (CWA) USC Title 25 Ch. 21 Sec 1901-1903; ORS 109.309 (11). <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/25/ch21.html>

Other Internet Resources

(Disclaimer: There are a number of non-profit and other organizations offering information about adoption. Not every site is updated regularly, and information may be out-of-date or incorrect.)

Some keywords to consider when using Search Engines (i.e. Google, Yahoo!) to find information:

Adopt OR adoption, step-parent, grandparent, "agency adoption", "private adoption", adoptive, "agency placement"

1. State of Oregon Law Library: <http://www.oregon.gov/SOLL/>

2. Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) Self-Help Resources: <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/selfhelp/index.page?>

D. Forms

(Disclaimer: Not all forms listed can be used in Oregon courts and not all Oregon circuit court will accept forms from another county. Before using any forms from any source, you should check with the court as well as with an attorney as to whether these forms are appropriate for your situation)

1. Independent Adoption Forms from Oregon DHS:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/adoption/indadoptions/forms.shtml>

2. Examples of forms in books at the Lane County Law Library:

- **FAMILY LAW**, by Oregon State Bar, c. 2002, with 2008 supplement. v. 3, ch. 17. Located on reserve at the Lane County Law Library: **KFO 2494.Z9 2002 RES.**
- **JUVENILE LAW**, by Oregon State Bar, 2007 revision. ch. 22. Located on reserve at the Lane County Law Library: **KFO 2996.J88 2007 RES**
- **AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE LEGAL FORMS**, (2d ed.), 2002. sec 9:1-9:57: **KF170.A52 Vol 1A 2002**

**Disclaimer: the forms in this volume are not specific to Oregon

