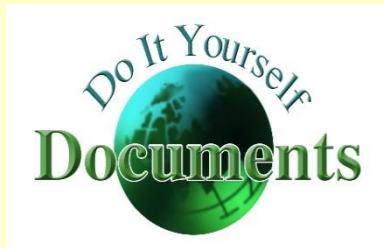


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We at Do It Yourself Documents are dedicated to offering you the best forms, books and kits on the market at the lowest prices possible. We carry top name brands from every leading national, regional and state-by state publisher. Additionally, we offer online divorce, legal separation and annulment services for Florida, Oregon & Washington State. We are working to expand our services to as many states as possible.

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Toll-Free: (866) 946-0325

Fax: (888) 377-2397

[federalway@doityourselfdocuments.com](mailto:federalway@doityourselfdocuments.com)

### Business Hours:

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**\*\*Appointments are available before  
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## Tacoma Office/Store

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# Adoption

## DO IT YOURSELF DOCUMENTS

*An Independent Paralegal Service*

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### Service Fees:

Adult Adoption

- \$209.95

Stepparent Adoption

- Consenting - \$174.00
- Non-Consenting - \$239.00

Non-Stepparent Adoption

- Consenting - \$239.00
- Non-Consenting - \$274.00

### Filing Fees:

Adoption - \$260.00

Friend of the Court - \$300 - \$500



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## ADOPTION

Adoption is the permanent legal transfer of all parental rights from one person/couple to another person/couple. Adoptive parents have all the same rights and responsibilities that parents whose children were born to them do. This includes every and all emotional, social, legal and kinship benefits.

## FRIEND OF THE COURT

An Adoption Investigator or social worker will be assigned to your adoption to docket, review, make recommendations and keep statistics. In Pierce County this person is referred to as the "Friend of the Court". The exact terminology may differ depending on the county in which you file for your stepparent adoption. Keep in mind, there will be an additional fee required for the Friend of the Court which is not included in our service fee.

## RCW 26.33 & WAC 388-27

The above code sections govern adoption for the state of Washington. The following code section explains where a petition may be filed, for example:

### **RCW 26.33.030 Petitions - Place of filing - Consolidation of petitions and hearings.**

(1) A petition under this chapter may be filed in the superior court of the county in which the petitioner is a resident or of the county in which the adoptee is domiciled.



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## STEPPARENT ADOPTION

Stepparent adoption is the most common type of adoption and is generally a much simpler process than adoption by a non-relative. To adopt a stepchild, one needs the consent of the child's other birth parent, unless that parent's rights to the child have been terminated.

**To begin the process**, the stepparent will file a petition with the court of the county in which he or she lives, and then the parent married to the stepparent will join in that petition. Keep in mind that the other biological parent must consent to the adoption and if he/she does not consent, they will be given notice of the pending adoption.

Once a petition is filed, a report will need to be done by a social worker (i.e. "Friend of the Court"). This report will tell the court whether or not the proposed stepparent adoption is in the child's best interest.

After the initial petition and report are filed, a hearing date will be set. If the court approves of the adoption, a judge will sign the Decree of Adoption, making the stepparent the legal father/mother of the stepchild.

At this point, the Decree of Adoption will be issued and certain forms will be submitted to the Vital Records office in the state in which the child was born. A new Birth Certificate will then be issued, removing the biological parent's name and replacing it with the stepparent's (adoptive parent's) name.

## REQUIREMENTS

According to Washington State Bar Association:

"Most counties require a marriage of at least a year - sometimes two years - before approving a stepparent adoption. Check local court rules in your county."

## ADOPTION (NON STEPPARENT)

Just as with the stepparent adoption process, you will need the consent of the biological parents of the child(ren) being adopted, unless those parents' rights have already been terminated.

The process begins with the adopting parent(s) filing a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship of the biological parents. The biological parents must consent to the adoption. If they do not consent, they will be given notice of the pending adoption.

Once a petition is filed, a report will need to be done by a social worker (i.e. "Friend of the Court"). This report will tell the court whether or not the proposed adoption is in the child's best interest.

After the initial petition and report are filed, a hearing date will be set. If the court approves of the adoption, a judge will sign the Decree of Adoption, making the non-stepparent the legal father/mother of the stepchild.

At this point, the Decree of Adoption will be issued and certain forms will be submitted to the Vital Records office in the state in which the child was born. A new Birth Certificate will then be issued, removing the biological parent's name and replacing it with the adoptive parent's name.

## OUR GUARANTEE

Do It Yourself Documents prepares every document you'll need to adopt your step child, relative or any other person. To get started just fill out a questionnaire, which can be found online at [www.doityourselfdocuments.com](http://www.doityourselfdocuments.com) or at one of our offices in Federal Way or Tacoma.