



How to Adopt an Adult

1. Basic Information

- File in the county where either the adoptive parent (**Petitioner**) or person seeking to be adopted (**Respondent**) reside.
- Each adoptive parent must file a separate Petition.
- If the Respondent is 18-21 years old, you can request to use the child adoption process instead. That process allows the Court to change the listed parents on the birth certificate. C.R.S. § 19-5-201.
- You must have the Petition and Summons formally delivered (personal service) on the Respondent.
- The Respondent must file a written answer to the Petition; letting the Court know if they consent to the adoption.
- If the Respondent consents to the adoption, the Court will grant the adoption in a document called a Decree.
- The Decree can change the Respondent's last name to match the Petitioner's. For other name changes, read JDF 432 – Name Change Guide.
- The law that directs this process is C.R.S. § 14-1-101.

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2. Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Start the Case

Petitioner

1) Complete the starting paperwork:

☐ JDF 528 – Petition.

☐ JDF 530 – Summons. (Just do the [case caption](#).)

Note: Only needed if the [Respondent](#) doesn't waive service.

☐ JDF 529 – Answer & Consent.

Note: If filing together, the Respondent files this form.
Otherwise, just do the [case caption](#).

☐ JDF 531 – Final Decree. (Just do the [case caption](#).)

2) File the starting paperwork with the District Court.

Note: File in the county where you or the [Respondent](#) reside.

[Web Tool: Court Finder](#)

Step 2: Formal Notification

Petitioner

Note: You can skip this step if the [Respondent](#) waives service and signs *JDF 529 – Answer and Consent* at the start of the case.

1) ☐ Give the starting paperwork to a [process server](#).

- Someone must formally give the forms to the Respondent.
- You cannot be the one who completes service.
- Contact the Sheriff's office in the county where the [Respondent](#) lives or works. Or,
- Hire a professional [process server](#).

2) ☐ The [process server](#) completes the bottom half of the summons.

3) ☐ File the completed *JDF 530 – Summons* with the court.

Step 3: Response

Respondent

- 1) File the Response

☐ JDF 529 – Answer and Consent.

Note: Due by the Return Date found in the Summons.

Step 4: Hearing (*sometimes*)

All Parties

While most courts do not hold a hearing, some may. If so:

- 1) The Court will provide notice of the hearing date and time.
- 2) Be sure to arrive early to find the room and get through security.
- 3) The Judge will review the paperwork, ask any questions they have, and make a final decision about the case.

3. Common Terms

Case Caption

The boxes at the top of the form. It contains the court's address, parties' names, the filer's contact information, and the case number.

Heir at Law

A person who is entitled to inherit from the Petitioner, in this case, the Respondent.

Petitioner

The person filing a Petition; the adoptive parent.

Process Server

Someone (not you) who delivers court paperwork. This service of process lets a person know they are officially part of the case and the next steps they need to take.

Respondent

The person responding to the Petition; the adult to be adopted; Heir at Law.

Return Date

The due date by which a respondent must file their answer; listed on the Summons.

4. Fees

Filing Fee \$197

Certified Copy \$20

For a Fee Waiver

File Forms:

- ☐ JDF 205 - Motion to Waive Fees.
- ☐ JDF 206 - Order. (Just do the [case caption](#).)

Or, if you receive certain public benefits, file:

- ☐ JDF 209 – Notice of Fee Waiver.

5. All Forms (In numerical order)

JDF 528 – Petition.

JDF 529 – Answer and Consent.

JDF 530 – Notice and Summons.

JDF 531 – Final Decree.

6. ADA Information

For reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities act contact the local court's ADA coordinator.

7. Legal Advisory

These are basic instructions for informational purposes only. They do not constitute legal advice. If you choose to represent yourself, you are bound by the same rules and process as a lawyer. If you do not understand this information, please contact a lawyer.