

LOC.R. 75.2 ADOPTIONS

When proceedings for adoptions are filed with the Court, the following shall apply:

- (A) All petitioners for adoption are required to be represented by an attorney, *except* for proceedings for the recognition of foreign adoptions, adult adoptions, grandparent and step-parent adoptions.
- (B) An original and a copy of all filings shall be filed in every adoption case. Sufficient additional copies of the petition shall be submitted as required for service of notice, with an additional copy for the court assessor.
- (C) In private placement adoptions, the proposed adopting parents shall file a pre-placement application not less than thirty (30) days prior to placement. This pre-placement application shall be in a form prescribed or approved by the Court.
- (D) Once the pre-placement application has been approved by the Court, and the child is born, a hearing shall be held not less than seventy-two (72) hours after the birth or after the birth parent(s) have met with the adoption assessor, whichever occurs later, for the placement and consent by the birth parents. Prior to the placement hearing, the child's physician shall provide the Court with a statement as to the medical condition of the child being placed. If the placement is approved, the adoption petition must be filed before the Court will issue a Hospital Release for the release of the child to the petitioners or the attorney for the petitioners.
- (E) When the petitioner is the guardian or custodian of the minor to be adopted, the Court shall require a placement hearing. The adoption petition shall not be set for hearing until after the placement is complete.

- (F) In all adoption cases, Court cost deposit is required to be paid at the time of the initial filing. The Court should be consulted in advance for current deposit information.
- (G) The criminal background checks pursuant to R.C. 2151.86 (E) shall be filed in all adoption cases.
- (H) Petitioner's accounts shall be filed in all adoption cases, *except* for stepparent adoptions and adult adoptions.
- (I) In all adoptions, married petitioner(s) must be married for not less than one (1) year prior to the final approval of the adoption.
- (J) In all placement hearings, the birth mother must be represented at the hearing by counsel. Attorney fees for the birth mother will be assessed as costs to the petitioner(s).
- (K) The adoption assessor meeting with the birth parent(s) in the course of preparing a report for an adoption proceeding in this Court, shall provide the birth parent(s) with a copy of the materials/brochure prepared pursuant to R.C. 3107.082 and 3107.083. The adoption assessor providing the birth parent(s) with a copy of this brochure shall file a certificate of compliance with R.C. 3107.082 in a format satisfactory to the Court prior to the first hearing that involves the birth parent(s) who received the brochure.
- (L) The status of pending pre-placement applications and adoption proceedings shall be reviewed annually and the Court may order further action as necessary.
- (M) The Court Assessor's Report shall be filed with the Court not later than ten (10) days prior to the adoption hearing. The report shall be made available to counsel for the

petitioner(s) to read prior to the hearing, upon request to the deputy clerk, however copies may be obtained only after the hearing and only with the approval of the Judge.