

# Adoption Proceedings - Jurisdiction and Service of Process<sup>1</sup>

By Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLC (Melissa Brown), Abigail Whitmore, and Leslye Orloff – January 29, 2021

## Introduction

This publication was developed under grant number SJI-20-E-005 from the State Justice Institute. States have statutes dictating where a petition for adoption may be filed, under what circumstances the courts have jurisdiction over adoption proceedings, and certain other criteria for adoption. Adoption is a civil procedure, and at the state level, certain civil courts are given authority to hear adoption cases. A person who seeks to adopt must file his or her petition for adoption with the appropriate civil court. Further, petitions for adoption must be filed in the type of court that has the appropriate jurisdiction at the location, or venue, that is convenient to the parties involved in the adoption proceeding.

Most states permit jurisdiction in either the birthplace of the child or the residence of the petitioner. Beyond this, some states expand jurisdiction where other conditions are met, such as where the child-placement agency is operated. Most states also have specific rules for who must be notified when a petition for adoption is filed. The Adoption Proceedings Jurisdiction and Service of Process chart is a powerful tool in determining the specific jurisdictional and service requirements regarding adoption in each of the fifty states. To use the chart most effectively, refer to the state of choice to find the relevant statutes related to jurisdiction and service requirements.

Considering consent of a parent and termination of parental rights is an important factor to consider in many adoption proceedings. For this reason, some states have codified certain enumerated circumstances where parental rights shall be terminated. In all states, the birth mother and birth father who has properly established paternity, hold the primary right of consent to adoption of their minor child. The courts may determine that consent of the parent is not needed under specific circumstances, including when parental rights have been terminated, the child has been abandoned, the parent has been convicted of specific crimes, the parent failed to support or establish a significant relationship with the child, or the parent is mentally incompetent or unfit. The Adoption Proceedings Jurisdiction and Service of Process chart is a powerful tool in determining the specific requirements concerning consent to adoption and relinquishment of parental rights in each of the fifty states.

This chart is particularly useful in circumstances of an adoption that took place in a different state or a foreign country. The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000<sup>2</sup> is the first point of reference in cases of international adoption. Beyond federal regulation, many states have passed additional legislation addressing circumstances of international adoption. Many states give full effect and recognition to an adoption decree that has been issued in full compliance with the laws of the United States and the country that granted the adoption. Many states provide for validation of the foreign adoption or adoption

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<sup>1</sup> **Disclaimer:** The points of view expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State Justice Institute. While the Adoption Proceedings Jurisdiction and Service of Process chart is a useful resource, it does not remove the responsibility to engage in original analysis and research.

<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 14901-14954 (2020).

of the child under state law. Approximately half of the states offer readoption or validation as an option and not a requirement. Some states, however, require adoptive parents to either petition the court for validation or file or register the foreign adoption or foreign adoption decree. A few states require adoptive parents to readopt under certain circumstances.

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
Alabama	<p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-3 – Jurisdiction</b> The probate court shall have original jurisdiction over proceedings brought under the chapter. If any party whose consent is required fails to consent or is unable to consent, the proceeding will be transferred to the court having jurisdiction over juvenile matters for the limited purpose of termination of parental rights. The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable to proceedings in the court having jurisdiction over juvenile matters.</p> <p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-4 – Venue</b> All petitions may be filed in the probate court in the county in which: (1) The minor or adult resides or has a legal residence; (2) A petitioner resides, or is in military service; or (3) An office of any agency or institution operating under the laws of this state having guardianship or custody of a minor or an adult is located.</p> <p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-21 – Related Proceedings</b> If, at any time during the pendency of the adoption proceeding, it is determined that any other custody action concerning the adoptee is pending in the courts of this state or any other state or country, any party to the adoption proceeding, or the court on its own motion, may move to stay</p>	<p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-7 – Persons Whose Consents or Relinquishment are Required</b> (a) Consent to the petitioner's adoption or relinquishment for adoption to the Department of Human Resources or a licensed child placing agency shall be required of the following: (1) The adoptee, if 14 years of age or older, except where the court finds that the adoptee does not have the mental capacity to give consent; (2) The adoptee's mother; (3) The adoptee's presumed father, regardless of paternity, if: a. He and the adoptee's mother are or have been married to each other and the adoptee was born during the marriage, or within 300 days after the marriage was terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce, or after a decree of separation was entered by a court; or b. Before the adoptee's birth, he and the adoptee's mother have attempted to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and, 1. If the attempted marriage could be declared invalid only by a court, the adoptee was born during the attempted marriage, or within 300 days after its termination by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce; or</p>

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	<p>such adoption proceeding until a determination has been made by an appropriate court with jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) [now the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)] or the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA). The adoption may be transferred and consolidated with a custody proceeding pending in any court in this state.</p>	<p>2. If the attempted marriage is invalid without a court order, the adoptee was born within 300 days after the termination of cohabitation; or</p> <p>c. After the adoptee's birth, he and the adoptee's mother have married, or attempted to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and</p> <p>1. With his knowledge or consent, he was named as the adoptee's father on the adoptee's birth certificate; or</p> <p>2. He is obligated to support the adoptee pursuant to a written voluntary promise or agreement or by court order; or</p> <p>d. He received the adoptee into his home and openly held out the adoptee as his own child;</p> <p>(4) The agency to which the adoptee has been relinquished or which holds permanent custody and which has placed the adoptee for adoption, except that the court may grant the adoption without the consent of the agency if the adoption is in the best interests of the adoptee and there is a finding that the agency has unreasonably withheld its consent; and</p> <p>(5) The putative father if made known by the mother or is otherwise made known to the court provided he complies with Section 26-10C-1 and he responds within 30 days to the notice he receives under Section 26-10A-17(a)(10).</p> <p>(b) A petition to adopt an adult may be granted only if written consent to adopt has been executed by the adult seeking to adopt and his or her spouse or by the guardian or conservator of the adult sought to be adopted pursuant to the requirements of Sections 26-10A-6 and 26-10A-11.</p>

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		<p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-8 – Consent or Relinquishment by a Minor Parent</b>            Consent or relinquishment by a minor parent.            (a) Prior to a minor parent giving consent a guardian ad litem must be appointed to represent the interests of a minor parent whose consent is required. Any minor, 14 years of age and beyond, can nominate a guardian ad litem either prior to the birth of the baby or thereafter.            (b) A consent or relinquishment executed by a parent who is a minor shall not be subject to revocation by reason of such minority.            (c) A minor father may give his implied consent by his actions. If a court finds by conclusive evidence that a minor father has given implied consent to the adoption, notice and the appointment of a guardian ad litem shall not be necessary.</p> <p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-11 – Consent or Relinquishment</b>            (a) A consent or relinquishment shall be in writing, signed by the person consenting or relinquishing, and shall state the following:            (1) The date, place, and time of execution.            (2) The date of birth or if prior to birth expected date of birth of the adoptee and any names by which the adoptee has been known.            (3) The relationship of the person consenting or relinquishing to the adoptee.            (4) The name of each petitioner, unless (i) the document is relinquishment of the adoptee to an agency, or (ii) the consent contains a statement that the person executing the consent</p>

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		<p>knows that he or she has a right to know the identity of each petitioner but voluntarily waives this right.</p> <p>(5) That the person executing the document is voluntarily and unequivocally consenting to the adoption of the named adoptee.</p> <p>(6) That by signing the document and subsequent court order to ratify the consent, the person executing the document understands that he or she will forfeit all rights and obligations; that he or she understands the consent or relinquishment and executes it freely and voluntarily.</p> <p>(7) That the person executing the document understands that the consent may be irrevocable, and should not execute it if he or she needs or desires psychological or legal advice, guidance, or counseling.</p> <p>(8) The address of the court in which the petition for adoption has been or will be filed, if known, and if not known, the name and address of the agency, the petitioners or their attorney on whom notice of the withdrawal of consent may be served.</p> <p>(9) In the case of relinquishment, the name and address of the agency to which the adoptee has been relinquished.</p> <p>(10) That the person executing the same has received or been offered a copy of the consent or relinquishment.</p> <p>(11) That the person executing a relinquishment waives further notice of the adoption proceeding.</p> <p>(12) That the person executing a consent waives further notice of the adoption proceedings, unless there is a contest or appeal of the adoption proceeding.</p>

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		<p><b>AL Code § 26-10A-17 – Notice of Petition</b></p> <p>(a) Unless service has been previously waived, notice of pendency of the adoption proceeding shall be served by the petitioner and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Any person, agency, or institution whose consent or relinquishment is required by Section 26-10A-7, unless service has been previously waived or consent has been implied.</li> <li>(2) The legally appointed custodian or guardian of the adoptee.</li> <li>(3) The spouse of any petitioner who has not joined in the petition.</li> <li>(4) The spouse of the adoptee.</li> <li>(5) The surviving parent or parents of a deceased parent of the adoptee.</li> <li>(6) Any person known to the petitioners as having physical custody, excluding licensed foster care or other private licensed agencies or having visitation rights with the adoptee under an existing court order.</li> <li>(7) The agency or individual authorized to investigate the adoption under Section 26-10A-19.</li> <li>(8) Any other person designated by the court.</li> <li>(9) The Department of Human Resources.</li> <li>(10) The father and putative father of the adoptee if made known by the mother or otherwise known by the court unless the court finds that the father or putative father has given implied consent to the adoption, as defined in Section 26-10A-9.</li> </ol> <p>(b) The notice shall specifically state that the person served must respond to the petitioner within 30 days if he or she intends to contest the adoption. A copy of the petition for</p>

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		<p>adoption shall be delivered to those individuals or agencies in subdivisions (a)(2) through (a)(10). Any notice required by this chapter may be served on a natural parent prior to birth.</p> <p>(c) Service of the notice shall be made in the following manner:</p> <p>(1) Service of process shall be made in accordance with the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure except as otherwise provided by the Alabama Rules of Juvenile Procedure. If the identity or whereabouts of the parent is unknown, or if one parent fails or refuses to disclose the identity or whereabouts of the other parent, the court shall then issue an order providing for service by publication, by posting, or by any other substituted service.</p> <p>(2) As to the agency or individual referred to in subdivisions (a)(7) and (a)(9) above, notice shall be by certified mail.</p> <p>(3) As to any other person for whom notice is required under subsection (a) of this section, service by certified mail, return receipt requested, shall be sufficient. If such service cannot be completed after two attempts, the court shall issue an order providing for service by publication, by posting, or by any other substituted service.</p> <p>(d) The notice required by this section may be waived in writing by the person entitled to receive notice.</p> <p>(e) Proof of service of the notice on all persons for whom notice is required by this section must be filed with the court before the adjudicational hearing, provided in Section 26-10A-24.</p>
Alaska	<p><b>AK Stat § 25.23.30 – Venue</b></p> <p>(a) Proceedings for adoption shall be brought in the superior court for the district in which, at the time of filing or granting</p>	<p><b>AK Stat § 25.23.040 – Persons Required to Consent to Adoption</b></p>

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	<p>the petition, the petitioner or the person to be adopted resides or is in military service, or in which the agency having the care, custody, or control of the minor is located.</p> <p>(b) If the court finds in the interest of substantial justice, under AS 22.10.040, that the adoption proceeding should be heard in another judicial district, the court may transfer, stay, or dismiss the proceeding in whole or in part on conditions that are just.</p> <p>(c) Proceedings for the termination of parental rights on the grounds set out in AS 25.23.180(c)(3) shall be brought in the superior court for the district in which the child that is the subject of the action resides.</p> <p>(d) The venue for an adoption proceeding for a child in state custody under AS 47.10 is the</p> <p>(1) superior court where the child-in-need-of-aid proceeding is pending as provided under AS 47.10.111; or</p> <p>(2) judicial district in which the petitioner resides if the petitioner provides notice to all of the parties to the child-in-need-of-aid proceeding and no party objects.</p> <p><b>AK Stat § 25.23.160 – Recognition of Foreign Decree Affecting Adoption</b>            A decree of court terminating the relationship of parent and child or establishing the relationship by adoption issued under due process of law by a court of any other jurisdiction within or outside of the United States shall be recognized in this state and the rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the decree were issued by a court of this state.</p>	<p>(a) Unless consent is not required under AS 25.23.050, a petition to adopt a minor may be granted only if written consent to a particular adoption has been executed by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the mother of the minor;</li> <li>(2) the father of the minor, if the father was married to the mother at the time the minor was conceived or at any time after conception, the minor is the father's child by adoption, or the father has otherwise legitimated the minor under the laws of the state;</li> <li>(3) any person lawfully entitled to custody of the minor or empowered to consent;</li> <li>(4) the court having jurisdiction to determine custody of the minor, if the legal guardian or custodian of the person of the minor is not empowered to consent to the adoption;</li> <li>(5) the minor, if 10 years of age or older, unless the court in the best interest of the minor dispenses with the minor's consent; and</li> <li>(6) the spouse of the minor to be adopted.</li> </ol> <p>(b) A petition to adopt an adult may be granted only if written consent to adoption has been executed by the adult and the adult's spouse or by the guardian or conservator of an incapacitated adult.</p> <p><b>AK Stat § 25.23.100 (a) – (c) – Notice of Petition, Investigation, and Hearing</b></p> <p>(a) After the filing of a petition to adopt a minor, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition. At least 20 days before the date of hearing, the petitioner shall give notice of the filing of the petition and of the time and place of hearing</p>

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		<p>to (1) the department, unless the adoption is by a stepparent of the child; (2) any agency or person whose consent to the adoption is required by this chapter, but who has not consented; and (3) a person whose consent is dispensed with upon any ground mentioned in AS 25.23.050 (a)(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (8) and (9), but who has not consented. The notice to the department shall be accompanied by a copy of the petition.</p> <p>(b) Notice to persons specified in AS 25.23.050 must include a statement of the grounds under which consent to the adoption is not required. Notice given under this section shall be adequate to give actual notice of the proceedings, taking into account education and language differences that are known or reasonably ascertainable by the petitioner or the department. The notice of hearing must contain all names by which the minor has been identified and must state in summary form the effect of a decree of adoption. Notice shall be given in the manner appropriate under rules of civil procedure for the service of process in a civil action in this state or in any manner the court by order directs. Notice by publication may not be given unless, for compelling reasons, the court orders it to be given under the procedure established in Rule 4 of the Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure. Proof of the giving of the notice shall be filed with the court before the petition is heard, subject to the time limitations in (e) of this section.</p> <p>(c) A reasonable investigation shall be made by the department or the petitioner to assure that all persons listed in (a) of this section are located and given notice of the proposed adoption. The investigation shall be conducted so that the rights of all parties are protected, including but not limited to the right to</p>

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		<p>privacy and the right to be notified. An affidavit describing the investigation shall be filed with the court if all persons listed in (a) of this section are not located.</p>
<p>Arizona</p>	<p><b>AZ Rev Stat § 8-102.01 – Jurisdiction</b> If a petition for adoption is filed prior to a child's eighteenth birthday jurisdiction of the superior court continues for purposes of entering an order of adoption of such child even if the child becomes eighteen years of age prior to the final adoption hearing.</p> <p><b>AZ Rev Stat § 8-102.01 – Venue</b> A petitioner may begin adoption proceedings in the court in the county where the prospective adoptive parent resides or, if applicable, in the county where the child is a ward.</p>	<p><b>AZ Rev Stat § 8-106 – Consent to Adoption; Waiver; Consent to the Release of Information; Notification to Potential Fathers</b> A. The court shall not grant an adoption of a child unless consent to adopt has been obtained and filed with the court from the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The child's birth or adoptive mother, if living.</li> <li>2. The child's father if any of the following is true:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The father was married to the child's mother at the time of conception or at any time between conception and the child's birth unless his paternity is excluded or another man's paternity is established pursuant to title 25, chapter 6, article 1.</li> <li>(b) The father has adopted the child.</li> <li>(c) The father's paternity is established under title 25, chapter 6, article 1 or section 36-334.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. A child who is twelve years of age or older and who gives consent in open court.</li> <li>4. Any guardian of the person of the child who is appointed by a court and who is given authority by it to consent to the child's adoption.</li> <li>5. An agency that has been given consent to place the child for adoption by the parent or parents whose consent would be necessary under paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection, or that has been given authority in other legal proceedings to place the child for adoption.</li> </ol>

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		<p>6. The guardian of any adult parent for whom a guardian is currently appointed.</p> <p>7. The division if it has been given consent to place the child for adoption by the parent or parents whose consent would otherwise be necessary pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection or if it has been given authority in other legal proceedings to place the child for adoption. The court may waive the requirement for consent if the court determines, after a hearing on actual notice to all persons who may be adversely affected, that waiving the requirement is clearly in the child's best interest.</p> <p>B. It is not necessary for a person to obtain consent to adopt from the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An adult parent for whom a guardian is currently appointed.</li> <li>2. A parent whose parental rights have been terminated by court order.</li> <li>3. A parent who has previously consented to an agency's or the division's placement of the child for adoption.</li> <li>4. A person whose consent is not required under subsection A of this section.</li> </ol> <p>C. The minority of the child or parent does not affect the child's or parent's competency to give consent in the instances set forth in this section.</p> <p>D. A consent to adopt is irrevocable unless obtained by fraud, duress or undue influence.</p> <p>E. An agency, the division or an attorney participating or assisting in a direct placement adoption pursuant to section 8-130 shall obtain from a birth parent, at the time consent for adoption is obtained, a notarized statement granting</p>

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		<p>permission or withholding permission for the child being adopted, when the child reaches eighteen years of age, to obtain identifying and nonidentifying information about the child and the consenting birth parent. The agency, division or attorney shall inform the birth parent at the time of obtaining the notarized statement that the decision to grant permission or withhold permission may be changed at any time by filing a notarized statement with the court. The most recent notarized statement shall operate as consent for the court to grant or withhold identifying and nonidentifying information.</p> <p>F. A notarized affidavit signed by the mother listing all potential fathers shall be filed with the court. The affidavit shall attest that all of the information contained in the affidavit is complete and accurate.</p> <p>G. Notice shall be served on each potential father as provided for the service of process in civil actions. The notice shall be substantially in the form prescribed in subsection I of this section and shall inform the potential father of all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That adoption is planned.</li> <li>2. The potential father's right to consent or withhold consent to the adoption.</li> <li>3. The potential father's responsibility to initiate paternity proceedings under title 25, chapter 6, article 1, and to serve the mother within thirty days of completion of service.</li> <li>4. The potential father's responsibility to proceed to judgment in the paternity action.</li> <li>5. The potential father's right to seek custody.</li> </ol>

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		<p>6. The potential father's responsibility to begin to provide financial support for the child if paternity is established.</p> <p>7. That the potential father's failure to file a paternity action pursuant to title 25, chapter 6, article 1, and to serve the mother and proceed to judgment in the paternity action as prescribed by this section, bars the potential father from bringing or maintaining any action to assert any interest in the child.</p> <p>H. Service on a mother of a title 25, chapter 6, article 1 paternity action pursuant to this section may be accepted by an attorney or agency that is licensed in this state and that is representing the mother. A mother may omit her address from the affidavit and notice to potential fathers if the address of her attorney or the agency is provided in the affidavit. Service on an attorney or agency pursuant to this subsection is limited to service of the initial verified petition and summons in the paternity action. Service on the attorney does not make the attorney the attorney of record for the mother in the paternity action and does not make the agency the agent for the mother in the paternity action.</p> <p>I. The notice required pursuant to subsection G of this section shall be in substantially the following form:</p> <p>Notice:</p> <p>Notice is given to _____ that you have been identified by _____, the natural mother, as a potential father of a child to be born or, born on _____, in _____.</p> <p>You are informed of the following:</p>

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____, the natural mother, plans to place the child for adoption.</li> <li>2. Under sections 8-106 and 8-107, Arizona Revised Statutes, you have the right to consent or withhold consent to the adoption.</li> <li>3. Your written consent to the adoption is irrevocable once you give it.</li> <li>4. If you withhold consent to the adoption, you must initiate paternity proceedings under title 25, chapter 6, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, and serve the mother within thirty days after completion of service of this notice.</li> <li>5. You have the obligation to proceed to judgment in the paternity action.</li> <li>6. You have the right to seek custody.</li> <li>7. If you are established as the child's father, you must begin to provide financial support for the child.</li> <li>8. If you do not file a paternity action under title 25, chapter 6, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, and do not serve the mother within thirty days after completion of the service of this notice and pursue the action to judgment, you cannot bring or maintain any action to assert any interest in the child.</li> <li>9. The Indian child welfare act may supersede the Arizona Revised Statutes regarding adoption and paternity.</li> <li>10. For the purposes of service of a paternity action under title 25, chapter 6, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, service may be made on the mother at _____ or her agency or attorney at _____.</li> <li>11. You may wish to consult with an attorney to assist you in responding to this notice.</li> </ol>

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		<p>J. A potential father who fails to file a paternity action and who does not serve the mother within thirty days after completion of service on the potential father as prescribed in subsection G of this section waives his right to be notified of any judicial hearing regarding the child's adoption or the termination of parental rights and his consent to the adoption or termination is not required.</p> <p><b>AZ Rev Stat § 8-107 – Time and Contents of Consent</b></p> <p>A. All consents to adoption shall be in writing and signed by the person giving the consent and witnessed by two or more credible witnesses who are at least eighteen years of age and who subscribe their names in the presence of the person giving the consent or shall be acknowledged by the person giving consent before a notary public.</p> <p>B. A consent given before seventy-two hours after the birth of the child is invalid.</p> <p>C. The consent shall be dated, shall sufficiently identify and give the addresses of the party giving the consent and the name and address of the witness or witnesses and shall sufficiently identify the child to whose adoption the consent is given.</p> <p>D. The consent shall designate either of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An agency or the division as authorized by the party giving the consent to place the child for adoption.</li> <li>2. The particular person or persons authorized to adopt the child by the person giving the consent.</li> </ol> <p>E. The true names of the adopting person or persons shall be used, except that fictitious names may be used if the consent also truthfully states that the adopting person or persons are</p>

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		<p>currently certified as acceptable to adopt the child, that the consenting party knows that the names used are fictitious and does not wish to know the true names and that the consenting party has been furnished with all information which the consenting party wishes to know about the adopting person or persons.</p> <p>F. The consent shall contain a statement which includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The consequences of the consent pursuant to section 8-117.</li> <li>2. The irrevocability of the consent pursuant to section 8-106.</li> <li>3. The prohibition of any direct or indirect compensation for the consent except as provided in section 8-114.</li> </ol> <p>G. A consent other than to any agency or the division which does not designate a particular person or persons, or which purports to permit a third person to locate or nominate an adoptive parent, is invalid.</p> <p><b>AZ Rev Stat § 8-111 – Notice of Hearing on Petition to Adopt; Service</b></p> <p>After a petition to adopt has been filed, the clerk of the superior court shall set a time and place for a hearing by the court. Notice shall be as provided for the service of process in civil actions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The petitioner.</li> <li>2. The agency, if any.</li> <li>3. The person or agency conducting the social study required by § 8-112.</li> <li>4. Any person or agency required to give consent by § 8-106 unless consent with a waiver of notice of hearing has been filed</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		before the hearing. 5. Any person who has initiated a paternity action pursuant to title 25, chapter 6, article 1.
Arkansas	<p><b>AR Code § 9-9-205 – Jurisdiction – Venue – Inconvenient Forum – Disclosure of Name</b></p> <p>(a) Jurisdiction of adoption of minors:</p> <p>(1) The state shall possess jurisdiction over the adoption of a minor if the person seeking to adopt the child, or the child, is a resident of this state.</p> <p>(2) For purposes of this subchapter:</p> <p>(A) A child under the age of six (6) months shall be considered a resident of this state if the:</p> <p>(i) Child's birth mother resided in Arkansas for more than four (4) months immediately preceding the birth of the child;</p> <p>(ii) Child was born in this state or in any border city that adjoins the Arkansas state line or is separated only by a navigable river from an Arkansas city that adjoins the Arkansas state line; and</p> <p>(iii) Child remains in this state until the interlocutory decree has been entered, or in the case of a nonresident adoptive family, upon the receipt of approval pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, 9-29-201 et seq., the child and the prospective adoptive parents may go back to their state of residence and subsequently may return to Arkansas for a hearing on the petition for adoption;</p> <p>(B) A child over the age of six (6) months shall be considered a resident of this state if the child:</p> <p>(i) Has resided in this state for a period of six (6) months;</p> <p>(ii) Currently resides in Arkansas; and</p>	<p><b>AR Code § 9-9-206 – Persons required to Consent to Adoption – Consideration for Relinquishing Minor for Adoption</b></p> <p>(a) Unless consent is not required under § 9-9-207, a petition to adopt a minor may be granted only if written consent to a particular adoption has been executed by:</p> <p>(1) The mother of the minor;</p> <p>(2) The father of the minor if:</p> <p>(A) The father was married to the mother at the time the minor was conceived or at any time thereafter;</p> <p>(B) The minor is his child by adoption;</p> <p>(C) He has physical custody of the minor at the time the petition is filed;</p> <p>(D) He has a written order granting him legal custody of the minor at the time the petition for adoption is filed;</p> <p>(E) A court has adjudicated him to be the legal father prior to the time the petition for adoption is filed;</p> <p>(F) He proves a significant custodial, personal, or financial relationship existed with the minor before the petition for adoption is filed; or</p> <p>(G) He has acknowledged paternity under § 9-10-120(a);</p> <p>(3) Any person lawfully entitled to custody of the minor or empowered to consent;</p> <p>(4) The court having jurisdiction to determine custody of the minor, if the legal guardian or custodian of the person of the minor is not empowered to consent to the adoption;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(iii) Is present in this state at the time the petition for adoption is filed and heard by a court having appropriate jurisdiction; and</p> <p>(C) A person seeking to adopt is a resident of this state if the person:</p> <p>(i) Occupies a dwelling within the state;</p> <p>(ii) Has a present intent to remain within the state for a period of time; and</p> <p>(iii) Manifests the genuineness of that intent by establishing an ongoing physical presence within the state together with indications that the person's presence within the state is something other than merely transitory in nature.</p> <p>(3)(A) If the juvenile is the subject matter of an open case filed under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, 9-27-301 et seq., the adoption petition shall be filed in that case.</p> <p>(B) The circuit court shall retain jurisdiction to issue orders of adoption, interlocutory or final, when a juvenile is placed outside the State of Arkansas.</p> <p>(b) Jurisdiction of adoption of adults: Physical presence of the petitioner or petitioners or the individual to be adopted shall be sufficient to confer subject matter jurisdiction.</p> <p>(c) Venue:</p> <p>(1) Proceedings for adoption must be brought in the county in which, at the time of filing or granting the petition, the petitioner or petitioners, or the individual to be adopted resides or is in military service or in which the agency having the care, custody, or control of the minor is located;</p>	<p>(5) The minor, if more than twelve (12) years of age, unless the court in the best interest of the minor dispenses with the minor's consent; and</p> <p>(6) The spouse of the minor to be adopted.</p> <p>(b) A petition to adopt an adult may be granted only if written consent to adoption has been executed by the adult and the adult's spouse.</p> <p>(c) Under no circumstances may a parent or guardian of a minor receive a fee, compensation, or any other thing of value as a consideration for the relinquishment of a minor for adoption. However, incidental costs for prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care may be assessed, including reasonable housing costs, food, clothing, general maintenance, and medical expenses, if they are reimbursements for expenses incurred or fees for services rendered. Any parent or guardian who unlawfully accepts compensation or any other thing of value as a consideration for the relinquishment of a minor shall be guilty of a Class C felony.</p> <p><b>AR Code § 9-9-208 – How Consent is Executed</b></p> <p>(a) The required consent to adoption shall be executed at any time after the birth of the child and in the manner following:</p> <p>(1) If by the individual to be adopted, in the presence of the court;</p> <p>(2) If by an agency, by the executive head or other authorized representative, in the presence of a person authorized to take acknowledgments;</p> <p>(3) If by any other person, in the presence of the court or in the presence of a person authorized to take acknowledgments;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>AR Code § 9-9-218 – Recognition of Foreign Decrees Affecting Adoption</b>                      A decree of court terminating the relationship of parent and child or establishing the relationship by adoption issued pursuant to due process of law by a court of any other jurisdiction within or without the United States shall be recognized in this state. The rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the decree were issued by a court of this state.</p>	<p>(4) If by a court, by appropriate order or certificate.                      (b) A consent which does not name or otherwise identify the adopting parent is valid if the consent contains a statement by the person whose consent it is that the person consenting voluntarily executed the consent irrespective of disclosure of the name or other identification of the adopting parent.                      (c) If the parent is a minor, the writing shall be signed by a court-ordered guardian ad litem, who has been appointed by a judge of a court of record in this state to appear on behalf of the minor parent for the purpose of executing consent. The signing shall be made in the presence of an authorized representative of the Arkansas licensed placement agency taking custody of the child, or in the presence of a notary public, or in the presence and with the approval of a judge of a court of record of this state or any other state in which the minor was present at the time it was signed.</p> <p><b>AR Code § 9-9-212(a) – Hearing on Petition - Requirements</b>                      (a)(1) Before any hearing on a petition, the period in which the relinquishment may be withdrawn under § 9-9-220 or in which consent may be withdrawn under § 9-9-209, whichever is applicable, must have expired.                      (2) No orders of adoption, interlocutory or final, may be entered prior to the period for withdrawal.                      (3) After the filing of a petition to adopt a minor, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition.                      (4) At least twenty (20) days before the date of hearing, notice of the filing of the petition and of the time and place of hearing shall be given by the petitioner to:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(A) Any agency or person whose consent to the adoption is required by this subchapter but who has not consented;</p> <p>(B) A person whose consent is dispensed with upon any ground mentioned in § 9-9-207(a)(1), (2), (6), (8), and (9); and</p> <p>(C) Any putative father who has signed an acknowledgement of paternity or has registered with the state's Putative Father Registry.</p> <p>(5)(A) When the petitioner alleges that any person entitled to notice cannot be located, the court shall appoint an attorney ad litem who shall make a reasonable effort to locate and serve notice upon the person entitled to notice; and upon failing to so serve actual notice, the attorney ad litem shall publish a notice of the hearing directed to the person entitled to notice in a newspaper having general circulation in the county one (1) time a week for four (4) weeks, the last publication being at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.</p> <p>(B) Before the hearing, the attorney ad litem shall file a proof of publication and an affidavit reciting the efforts made to locate and serve actual notice upon the person entitled to notice.</p>
California	<p><b>CA Fam Code § 200 – Jurisdiction</b> The superior court has jurisdiction in proceedings under this code.</p> <p><b>CA Fam Code § 8609.5 – Venue</b> An adoption request for the adoption of a nondependent minor may be filed with the court in the county in which one of the following applies: (a) The petitioner resides.</p>	<p><b>CA Fam Code § 8604 – Notice Required</b></p> <p>(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a child having a presumed father under Section 7611 may not be adopted without the consent of the child's birth parents, if living.</p> <p>(b) If one birth parent has been awarded custody by judicial order, or has custody by agreement of both parents, and the other birth parent for a period of one year willfully fails to communicate with and to pay for the care, support, and education of the child when able to do so, then the birth</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(b) The child was born or resides at the time of filing.</p> <p>(c) An office of the agency that placed the child for adoption is located.</p> <p>(d) An office of the department or a public adoption agency that is investigating the petition is located.</p> <p>(e) The county in which a placing birth parent or parents resided when the adoptive placement agreement, consent, or relinquishment was signed.</p> <p>(f) The county in which a placing birth parent or parents resided when the petition was filed.</p> <p>(g) The county in which the child was freed for adoption.</p> <p><b>CA Fam Code § 8919 – Foreign Adoptions</b></p> <p>(a) Each state resident who adopts a child through an intercountry adoption that is finalized in a foreign country shall readopt the child in this state if it is required by the Department of Homeland Security.</p>	<p>parent having sole custody may consent to the adoption, but only after the birth parent not having custody has been served with a copy of a citation in the manner provided by law for the service of a summons in a civil action that requires the birth parent not having custody to appear at the time and place set for the appearance in court under Section 8718, 8823, 8913, or 9007.</p> <p>(c) Failure of a birth parent to pay for the care, support, and education of the child for the period of one year or failure of a birth parent to communicate with the child for the period of one year is prima facie evidence that the failure was willful and without lawful excuse.</p> <p><b>CA Fam Code § 8605 – Child without Presumed Father</b></p> <p>A child not having a presumed father under Section 7611 may not be adopted without the consent of the child’s mother, if living.</p> <p><b>CA Fam Code § 8801.3 – Notice Requirements – Independent Adoptions</b></p> <p>A child shall not be considered to have been placed for adoption unless each of the following is true:</p> <p>(a) Each birth parent placing the child for adoption has been advised of their rights, and if desired, has been counseled pursuant to Section 8801.5.</p> <p>(b) The adoption service provider, each prospective adoptive parent, and each birth parent placing the child have signed an adoption placement agreement on a form prescribed by the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>department. The signing of the agreement shall satisfy all of the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Each birth parent shall have been advised of their rights pursuant to Section 8801.5 at least 10 days before signing the agreement, unless the adoption service provider finds exigent circumstances that shall be set forth in the adoption placement agreement.</li> <li>(2) The agreement may not be signed by either the birth parents or the prospective adoptive parents until the time of discharge of the birth mother from the hospital. However, if the birth mother remains hospitalized for a period longer than the hospitalization of the child, the agreement may be signed by all parties at the time of or after the child’s discharge from the hospital but prior to the birth mother’s discharge from the hospital if the birth mother’s competency to sign is verified by the attending physician and surgeon before signing the agreement.</li> <li>(3) The birth parents and prospective adoptive parents shall sign the agreement in the presence of an adoption service provider.</li> <li>(4) The adoption service provider who witnesses the signatures shall keep the original of the adoption placement agreement and immediately forward it and supporting documentation as required by the department to the department or delegated county adoption agency.</li> <li>(5) The child is not deemed to be placed for adoption with the prospective adoptive parents until the adoption placement agreement has been signed and witnessed.</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(6) If the birth parent is not located in this state or country, the adoption placement agreement shall be signed before an adoption service provider or, for purposes of identification of the birth parent only, before a notary or other person authorized to perform notarial acts in the state or country in which the birth parent is located. This paragraph is not applicable to intercountry adoptions, as defined in Section 8527, which shall be governed by Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 8900).</p> <p>(c) The adoption placement agreement form shall include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) A statement that the birth parent received the advisement of rights and the date upon which it was received.</li> <li>(2) A statement that the birth parent understands that the placement is for the purpose of adoption and that if the birth parent takes no further action, on the 31st day after signing the adoption placement agreement, the agreement shall become a permanent and irrevocable consent to the adoption.</li> <li>(3) A statement that the birth parent signs the agreement having personal knowledge of certain facts regarding the prospective adoptive parents as provided in Section 8801.</li> <li>(4) A statement that the adoptive parents have been informed of the basic health and social history of the birth parents.</li> <li>(5) A consent to the adoption that may be revoked as provided by Section 8814.5.</li> </ol> <p>(d) The adoption placement agreement shall also meet the requirements of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children in Section 7901.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>CA Fam Code § 8814 – Relinquishment Requirements – Independent Adoptions</b></p> <p>(a) Except as provided in Section 7662, the consent of the birth parent or parents who did not place the child for adoption, as described in Section 8801.3, to the adoption shall be signed in the presence of an agent of the department or of a delegated county adoption agency on a form prescribed by the department. The consent shall be filed with the clerk of the appropriate superior court.</p> <p>(b) The consent described in subdivision (a), when reciting that the person giving it is entitled to the sole custody of the child and when acknowledged before that agent, is prima facie evidence of the right of the person making it to the sole custody of the child and that person’s sole right to consent.</p> <p>(c) If the birth parent described in subdivision (a) is located outside this state for an extended period of time unrelated to the adoption at the time of signing the consent, the consent may be signed before a notary or other person authorized to perform notarial acts, and in that case the consent of the department or of the delegated county adoption agency is also necessary.</p> <p>(d) A birth parent who is a minor has the right to sign a consent for the adoption of the birth parent’s child and the consent is not subject to revocation by the birth parent by reason of minority, or because the parent or guardian of the consenting minor parent was not served with notice that the minor parent consented to the adoption, unless the minor parent has previously provided written authorization to serve the minor parent’s parent or guardian with that notice.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>CA Fam Code § 8700(a) – (e) – Relinquishment Requirements – Agency Adoptions</b></p> <p>(a) Either birth parent may relinquish a child to the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency for adoption by a written statement signed before two subscribing witnesses and acknowledged before an authorized official of the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency. The relinquishment, when reciting that the person making it is entitled to the sole custody of the child and acknowledged before the officer, is prima facie evidence of the right of the person making it to the sole custody of the child and the person’s sole right to relinquish.</p> <p>(b) A relinquishing parent who is a minor has the right to relinquish a child for adoption to the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency, and the relinquishment is not subject to revocation by the relinquishing parent by reason of the minority, or because the parent or guardian of the relinquishing minor parent was not served with notice that the relinquishing minor parent relinquished the child for adoption, unless the relinquishing minor parent has previously provided written authorization to serve the relinquishing minor’s parent or guardian with that notice.</p> <p>(c) If a parent resides outside this state and the other parent has relinquished the child for adoption pursuant to subdivision (a) or (d), the parent residing out of state may relinquish the child by a written statement signed before a notary on a form prescribed by the department, and previously signed by an authorized official of the department, county adoption agency,</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>or licensed adoption agency that signifies the willingness of the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency to accept the relinquishment.</p> <p>(d) If a parent and child reside outside this state and the other parent has not relinquished the child for adoption to the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency, the parent residing out of state may relinquish the child to the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency by a written statement signed by the relinquishing parent, after the following requirements have been satisfied:</p> <p>(1) Prior to signing the relinquishment, the relinquishing parent shall have received, from a representative of an agency licensed or otherwise approved to provide adoption services under the laws of the relinquishing parent’s state of residence, the same counseling and advisement services as if the relinquishing parent resided in this state.</p> <p>(2) The relinquishment shall be signed before a representative of an agency licensed or otherwise approved to provide adoption services under the laws of the relinquishing parent’s state of residence whenever possible or before a licensed social worker on a form prescribed by the department, and previously signed by an authorized official of the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency, that signifies the willingness of the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency to accept the relinquishment.</p> <p>(e) (1) The relinquishment authorized by this section has no effect until a certified copy is sent to, and filed with, the department. The county adoption agency or licensed adoption</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>agency shall send that copy by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by overnight courier or messenger, with proof of delivery, to the department no earlier than the end of the business day following the signing thereof. The agency shall inform the birth parent that during this time period the birth parent may request that the relinquishment be withdrawn and that, if the birth parent makes the request, the relinquishment shall be withdrawn. The relinquishment shall be final 10 business days after receipt of the filing by the department, unless any of the following applies:</p> <p>(A) The department sends written acknowledgment of receipt of the relinquishment prior to the expiration of that 10-day period, at which time the relinquishment shall be final.</p> <p>(B) A longer period of time is necessary due to a pending court action or some other cause beyond control of the department.</p> <p>(C) The birth parent signs a waiver of right to revoke relinquishment pursuant to Section 8700.5, in which case the relinquishment shall become final as provided in that section.</p> <p>(2) After the relinquishment is final, it may be rescinded only by the mutual consent of the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency to which the child was relinquished and the birth parent or parents relinquishing the child.</p>
Colorado	<p><b>CO Rev Stat § 19-1-104 – Jurisdiction</b></p> <p>(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the juvenile court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings:</p> <p>(g) For the adoption of a person of any age;</p>	<p><b>CO Rev Stat § 19-5-207 – Written Consent and Home Study Reports for Public Adoptions</b></p> <p>(1) When a child is placed for adoption by the county department of human or social services, a licensed child placement agency, or an individual, the department, agency, or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>CO Rev Stat § 19-5-204 - Venue</b>                      A petition for adoption shall be filed in the county of residence of the petitioner or in the county in which the placement agency is located.</p> <p><b>CO Rev Stat § 19-5-205 – Adoption Decree of Foreign Country Approved</b>                      (1)(a) A petition seeking a decree declaring valid an adoption granted by a court of any country other than the United States of America may be filed at any time by residents of the state of Colorado.</p>	<p>individual shall file, with the petition to adopt, its written and verified consent to such adoption in addition to any notices received or sent pursuant to the terms of the "Interstate Compact on Placement of Children" set forth in part 18 of article 60 of title 24.</p> <p><b>CO Rev Stat § 19-5-103 – Relinquishment Procedure – Petition-Hearings</b>                      (1) Any parent desiring to relinquish his or her child shall:                      (a) Obtain counseling for himself or herself and the child to be relinquished as the court deems appropriate from the county department of human or social services in the county where the parent resides or from a licensed child placement agency, and, if the petitioner has not received the counseling required by the court, the petition must be continued until counseling is obtained, and the court shall refer the petitioner to counseling;                      (b)(I) Petition the juvenile court upon a standardized form prescribed by the judicial department giving the following information: The name of both natural parents, if known; the name of the child, if named; the ages of all parties concerned; and the reasons for which relinquishment is desired.                      (II) The petition shall be accompanied by a standardized affidavit of relinquishment counseling prescribed by the judicial department that includes:                      (A) A statement indicating the nature and extent of counseling furnished to the petitioner, if any, and the recommendations of the counselor;                      (B) A copy of the original birth certificate or a copy of the application therefor; and</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(C) A statement disclosing any and all payments, gifts, assistance, goods, or services received, promised, or offered to the relinquishing parent in connection with the pregnancy, birth, or proposed relinquishment of the child and the source or sources of such payments, gifts, assistance, goods, or services.</p>
<p>Connecticut</p>	<p><b>CT Gen Stat § 45a-727 – Jurisdiction</b>                      (a)(1) Except as provided in section 46b-129b, each adoption matter shall be instituted by filing an application in a Court of Probate, together with the written agreement of adoption, in duplicate. One of the duplicates shall be sent immediately to the Commissioner of Children and Families.</p> <p><b>CT Gen Stat § 45a-727 – Venue</b>                      (a)(4) The application and the agreement of adoption shall be filed in the Court of Probate for the district where the adoptive parent resides or in the district where the main office or any local office of the statutory parent is located.</p> <p><b>CT Gen Stat § 45a-730 – Validation of Foreign Adoption</b>                      (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 45a-727, when the adoption of a minor child born outside the United States or its territories has been finalized in a jurisdiction other than the United States or its territories, and such minor is unable to obtain citizenship in the United States because the adoptive parents did not personally see and observe the child prior to or during the adoption proceedings, a petition for validation of such adoption may be filed with a court of probate.</p>	<p><b>CT Gen Stat § 45a-715 – Petition to Terminate Parental Rights</b>                      (d) If a petition indicates that either or both parents consent to the termination of their parental rights, or if at any time following the filing of a petition and before the entry of a decree a parent consents to the termination of his parental rights, each consenting parent shall acknowledge such consent on a form promulgated by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator evidencing to the satisfaction of the court that the parent has voluntarily and knowingly consented to the termination of his parental rights. No consent to termination by a mother shall be executed within forty-eight hours immediately after the birth of her child. A parent who is a minor shall have the right to consent to termination of parental rights and such consent shall not be voidable by reason of such minority. A guardian ad litem shall be appointed by the court to assure that such minor parent is giving an informed and voluntary consent.</p> <p>(e) A petition under this section shall be filed in the Probate Court for the district in which (1) the petitioner resides, (2) the child resides, is domiciled or is located at the time of the filing of the petition, or (3) in the case of a minor who is under the guardianship of any child care facility or child-placing agency,</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(b) The petition may be made by an adoptive parent or a duly authorized officer of any child-placing agency.</p> <p>(c) The petition shall be filed in the court of probate in which the petitioner resides or in the district in which the main office or any local office of the child-placing agency is located.</p>	<p>in the Probate Court for the district in which any office of the agency is located. If the petition is filed with respect to a child born out of wedlock, the petition shall state whether there is a putative father to whom notice shall be given under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 45a-716.</p> <p>(f) If any petitioner under subsection (a) is a minor or incompetent, the guardian ad litem, appointed by the court in accordance with section 45a-708, must approve the petition in writing, before action by the court.</p>
Delaware	<p><b>Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 902 - Jurisdiction and Venue; Removal of Petitioner from County</b></p> <p>(a) Family Court shall have jurisdiction of proceedings under this chapter.</p> <p>(b) A petition for adoption shall be filed either in the Family Court of the county in which the licensed or authorized agency placing the child is located, or the Family Court of the county in which the petitioner resides.</p> <p>(c) In any case in which, before the proposed adoption has been finally approved or disapproved, the petitioner or petitioners move into a county other than the county in which the original petition was filed, or into another jurisdiction, the Family Court of the county in which the petition was originally filed may continue to exercise jurisdiction over the proceeding until a final decision has been rendered on the petition.</p> <p>(d) Whenever the Family Court shall assume jurisdiction for the purposes of terminating parental rights over a child, it shall be deemed to have retained jurisdiction for the purposes of proceeding under this chapter for the adoption.</p>	<p><b>Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 907 – Consent Requirements</b></p> <p>(a) A petition for adoption shall contain a consent to the proposed adoption. The consent shall be in writing, notarized and attached to the petition as an exhibit. If consent is obtained or given outside this State, it must be executed in accordance with this section and § 908 of this title.</p> <p>(b) A written consent to adoption, duly acknowledged, must be given by any child 14 years of age or over unless the Court, upon further investigation or inquiry, deems it to be in the best interest of the child that such consent be waived. Such consent, when obtained, shall be attached to the petition as an exhibit thereto.</p> <p><b>Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 908 – Right to Consent</b></p> <p>(a) Except in the case of an adoption by a stepparent or blood relative, no petition for adoption shall be filed unless the child to be adopted is legally free for adoption. The consent to the adoption shall be granted by the Department or by the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 1102 – Termination of Parental Rights – Jurisdiction and Venue</b>                      (a) The Family Court shall have jurisdiction of proceedings under this chapter to terminate parental rights.                      (b) A petition for termination of parental rights may be filed in the Family Court of any of the following counties:                      (1) The county in which at least 1 parent resides;                      (2) The county in which the organization having legal or physical care, custody or control of the child is located;                      (3) The county in which the child is located.                      (c) Whenever the Family Court shall assume jurisdiction for the purposes of this chapter, it shall be deemed to have retained jurisdiction for the purpose of proceeding under Chapter 9 of this title relating to adoption.</p> <p><b>Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 927 – Foreign Adoptions; Validity</b>                      (c) Adoptive parents seeking an order certifying the validity of their foreign adoption decree shall file the decree with the Family Court in the county in which they reside. [. . .]</p>	<p>licensed or authorized agency in whom the parental rights are vested.                      (b) In the case of an adoption by a stepparent or blood relative, the consent to the adoption shall be granted as follows:                      (1) By mother of a child; and                      (2) The biological father and any presumed father of a child; provided, however, that the consent of the alleged biological father or presumed father need not contain an admission that he is the father. In the event that the named biological or presumed father disclaims paternity, an affidavit signed by him to that effect shall be attached to the petition in lieu of a consent from the natural or presumed father. It is further provided that in the event of a petition containing statements described in § 906(7)b.1., 3. or 4. of this title, after a hearing in which it is established on the record that the mother and father of the child are not living together as husband and wife openly and that they have not done so nor married since the birth of the child, the Court may, following consideration of the social report, dispense with the requirement of the father's consent in compliance with § 932 of this title.                      (3) If, in the case of an adoption by a stepparent or blood relative, any person from whom consent is required is deceased, a certified copy of the death certificate of such person shall be filed with the petition in lieu of consent.                      (c) If the individual in whom the right to consent exists is under the age of 18 years, this fact shall not be a bar to the giving of consent nor render the consent when given invalid.</p> <p><b>Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 927 – Foreign Adoptions; Validity</b></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(c) [ . . . ] An affidavit shall be filed with the decree indicating that the decree was issued in accordance with the laws of the issuing jurisdiction and that the adopted child was not brought into Delaware until the adoption was finalized. Also included in the affidavit shall be the name by which the child is henceforth to be known. The Court shall review the affidavit, decree and other documents, and if the adoption meets the requirements of this section, the Court shall issue an order certifying the validity of the adoption including the child’s American name.</p>
<p>Florida</p>	<p><b>Fla. Stat. § 63.102 – Filing of Petition for Adoption or Declaratory Statement; Venue; Proceeding for Approval of Fees and Costs.</b>            (1) PETITION FOR ADOPTION. A petition for adoption may not be filed until after the entry of the judgment or decree terminating parental rights unless the adoptee is an adult or the petitioner is a stepparent or a relative. After a judgment terminating parental rights has been entered, a proceeding for adoption may be commenced by filing a petition entitled, “In the Matter of the Adoption of “...” in the circuit court. The person to be adopted shall be designated in the caption in the name by which he or she is to be known if the petition is granted. Except for a joint petition for the adoption of a stepchild, a relative, or an adult, any name by which the minor was previously known may not be disclosed in the petition, the notice of hearing, the judgment of adoption, or the court docket as provided in s. 63.162(3).            (2) VENUE. A petition for adoption or for a declaratory statement as to the adoption contract must be filed in the</p>	<p><b>Fla. Stat. § 63.088 – Proceeding to Terminate Parental Rights Pending Adoption; Notice and Service; Diligent Search.</b>            (1) NOTICE REQUIRED. An unmarried biological father, by virtue of the fact that he has engaged in a sexual relationship with a woman, is deemed to be on notice that a pregnancy and an adoption proceeding regarding that child may occur and that he has a duty to protect his own rights and interest. He is, therefore, entitled to notice of a birth or adoption proceeding with regard to that child only as provided in this chapter. If a mother fails to identify an unmarried biological father to the adoption entity by the date she signs her consent for adoption, the unmarried biological father’s claim that he did not receive actual notice of the adoption proceeding is not a defense to the termination of his parental rights.            (2) INITIATE LOCATION PROCEDURES. When the location of a person whose consent to an adoption is required but is not known, the adoption entity must begin the inquiry and diligent search process required by this section within a reasonable time period after the date on which the person seeking to</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>county where the petition for termination of parental rights was filed or granted or where the adoption entity is located. The circuit court in this state shall retain jurisdiction over the matter until a final judgment is entered on the adoption, either within or outside the state. The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act does not apply until a final judgment is entered on the adoption.</p> <p><b>Fla. Stat. § 63.192 – Recognition of Foreign Judgment or Decree Affecting Adoption</b>                      A judgment terminating the relationship of parent and child or establishing the relationship by adoption, or a decree granting legal guardianship for purposes of adoption, issued pursuant to due process of law by a court or authorized body of any other jurisdiction within or without the United States shall be recognized in this state, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be determined as though the judgment or decree were issued by a court of this state. A judgment or decree of a court or authorized body terminating the relationship of a parent and child, whether independent, incorporated in an adoption decree, or incorporated in a legal guardianship order issued pursuant to due process of law of any other jurisdiction within or without the United States, shall be deemed to effectively terminate parental rights for purposes of a proceeding on a petition for adoption in this state. If a minor child has been made available for adoption in a foreign state or foreign country and the parental rights of the minor child’s parent have been terminated or the child has been declared to be abandoned or orphaned, no additional termination of</p>	<p>place a minor for adoption has evidenced in writing to the adoption entity a desire to place the minor for adoption with that entity, or not later than 30 days after the date any money is provided as permitted under this chapter by the adoption entity for the benefit of the person seeking to place a minor for adoption.</p> <p>(3) LOCATION AND IDENTITY KNOWN. Before the court may determine that a minor is available for adoption, each person whose consent is required under s. 63.062, who has not executed a consent for adoption or an affidavit of nonpaternity, and whose location and identity have been determined by compliance with the procedures in this section must be personally served, pursuant to chapter 48, at least 20 days before the hearing with a copy of the petition to terminate parental rights pending adoption and with notice in substantially the following form:                      NOTICE OF PETITION AND HEARING TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS PENDING ADOPTION                      A petition to terminate parental rights pending adoption has been filed. A copy of the petition is being served with this notice. There will be a hearing on the petition to terminate parental rights pending adoption on <u>(date)</u> at <u>(time)</u> before <u>(judge)</u> at <u>(location, including complete name and street address of the courthouse)</u>. The court has set aside <u>(amount of time)</u> for this hearing.                      UNDER SECTION 63.089, FLORIDA STATUTES, FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE AND THE PETITION WITH THE COURT AND TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>parental rights proceeding need occur, and the adoption may be finalized according to the procedures set forth in this chapter.</p>	<p>CONSTITUTES GROUNDS UPON WHICH THE COURT SHALL END ANY PARENTAL RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE OR ASSERT REGARDING THE MINOR CHILD.</p> <p>(4) REQUIRED INQUIRY. In proceedings initiated under s. 63.087, the court shall conduct an inquiry of the person who is placing the minor for adoption and of any relative or person having legal custody of the minor who is present at the hearing and likely to have the following information regarding the identity of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Any man to whom the mother of the minor was married at any time when conception of the minor may have occurred or at the time of the birth of the minor;</li> <li>(b) Any man who has filed an affidavit of paternity pursuant to s. 382.013(2)(c) before the date that a petition for termination of parental rights is filed with the court;</li> <li>(c) Any man who has adopted the minor;</li> <li>(d) Any man who has been adjudicated by a court as the father of the minor child before the date a petition for termination of parental rights is filed with the court; and</li> <li>(e) Any man whom the mother identified to the adoption entity as a potential biological father before the date she signed the consent for adoption.</li> </ul> <p>The information sought under this subsection may be provided to the court in the form of a sworn affidavit by a person having personal knowledge of the facts, addressing each inquiry enumerated in this subsection, except that, if the inquiry identifies a father under paragraph (a), paragraph (b), paragraph (c), or paragraph (d), the inquiry may not continue</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>further. The inquiry required under this subsection may be conducted before the birth of the minor.</p> <p>(5) LOCATION UNKNOWN; IDENTITY KNOWN. If the inquiry by the court under subsection (4) identifies any person who has not executed a consent to adoption or an affidavit of nonpaternity, and the location of the person is unknown, the adoption entity must conduct a diligent search for that person which must include inquiries concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The person’s current address, or any previous address, through an inquiry of the United States Postal Service through the Freedom of Information Act;</li> <li>(b) The last known employment of the person, including the name and address of the person’s employer;</li> <li>(c) Names and addresses of relatives to the extent they can be reasonably obtained from the petitioner or other sources, contacts with those relatives, and inquiry as to the person’s last known address. The petitioner must pursue any leads to any addresses where the person may have moved;</li> <li>(d) Information as to whether or not the person may have died and, if so, the date and location;</li> <li>(e) Telephone listings in the area where the person last resided;</li> <li>(f) Inquiries of law enforcement agencies in the area where the person last resided;</li> <li>(g) Highway patrol records in the state where the person last resided;</li> <li>(h) Department of Corrections records in the state where the person last resided;</li> <li>(i) Hospitals in the area where the person last resided;</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(j) Records of utility companies, including water, sewer, cable television, and electric companies, in the area where the person last resided;</p> <p>(k) Records of the Armed Forces of the United States as to whether there is any information as to the person;</p> <p>(l) Records of the tax assessor and tax collector in the area where the person last resided; and</p> <p>(m) Search of one Internet databank locator service.</p> <p>A person contacted by a petitioner or adoption entity requesting records under this subsection must release the requested records to the petitioner or adoption entity without the necessity of a subpoena or a court order, except when prohibited by law. An affidavit of diligent search conducted in accordance with this section must be filed with the court. The diligent search may be conducted before the birth of the minor. A judgment terminating parental rights and approving a diligent search that fails to locate a person is valid and is not subject to direct or collateral attack because the mother failed or refused to provide the adoption entity with sufficient information to locate the person.</p> <p>(6) CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE. This subsection only applies if, as to any person whose consent is required under s. 63.062 and who has not executed a consent to adoption or an affidavit of nonpaternity, the location of the person is unknown and the inquiry under subsection (4) fails to locate the person. The unlocated person must be served notice under subsection (3) by constructive service in the manner provided in chapter 49. The notice shall be published in the county where the person was last known to have resided. The notice, in addition to all</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>information required under chapter 49, must include a physical description, including, but not limited to, age, race, hair and eye color, and approximate height and weight of the person, the minor’s date of birth, and the place of birth of the minor. Constructive service by publication shall not be required to provide notice to an identified birth father whose consent is not required pursuant to ss. 63.062 and 63.064.</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p><b>GA Code § 19-8-2 – Jurisdiction and Venue of Adoption Proceedings</b>                      (a) The superior courts of the several counties shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters of adoption.                      (b) All petitions for adoption under this article shall be filed in the county in which any petitioner resides, except that:                      (1) Upon good cause being shown, the court may, in its discretion, allow such petition to be filed in the court of the county:                      (A) Of the child's domicile;                      (B) In which is located any child-placing agency having legal custody of the child;                      (C) Where the child was born if such petition is filed within one year of the child's birth; or                      (D) In which is located the office of the department having legal custody of the child;                      (2) Any individual who is a resident of any United States army post or military reservation within this state may file such petition in any county adjacent to the United States army post or military reservation; and</p>	<p><b>GA Code § 19-8-9 – Revocation of Surrender of Rights; Time Limit; Effect of Voluntary Surrender of Rights by Legal Mother</b>                      (a) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Code Section 9-10-12 which authorizes the use of certified mail, an individual signing a surrender of rights pursuant to Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7 shall have the right to revoke such surrender by written notice delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery within four days after signing such surrender; and such surrender document shall not be valid unless it so states. The four-day revocation period shall be counted consecutively beginning with the day immediately following the date the surrender of rights is executed; provided, however, that, if the fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the last day on which such surrender may be revoked shall be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. After the four-day period, a surrender of rights cannot be revoked. Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Code Section 9-10-12 which authorizes the use of certified mail, the notice of revocation of a surrender of rights shall be delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery to the address designated in the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(3) When a child has been placed for adoption with an individual who is a resident of another state in compliance with Chapter 4 of Title 39, relating to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, such petition shall be filed in:</p> <p>(A) The court of the county where the child was born;</p> <p>(B) The court of the county in which is located any child-placing agency having legal custody of the child; or</p> <p>(C) Superior Court of Fulton County.</p>	<p>surrender document. If delivered in person, it shall be delivered to the address shown in the surrender document not later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day.</p> <p>(b) If a legal mother has voluntarily and in writing surrendered all of her parental rights pursuant to Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7 and has not revoked her surrender within the four-day period after signing as permitted by subsection (a) of this Code section, she shall have no right or authority to sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to Code Section 19-7-46.1 or consent to the granting of a petition for legitimation filed pursuant to Code Section 19-7-22 regarding the same child.</p>
Hawaii	<p><b>HI Rev Stat §578-1 – Who May Adopt; Jurisdiction; Venue.</b></p> <p>Any proper adult person, not married, or any person married to the legal father or mother of a minor child, or a husband and wife jointly, may petition the family court of the circuit in which the person or persons reside or are in military service or the family court of the circuit in which the individual to be adopted resides or was born or in which a child placing organization approved by the department of human services under the provisions of section 346-17 having legal custody (as defined in section 571-2) of the child is located, for leave to adopt an individual toward whom the person or persons do not sustain the legal relationship of parent and child and for a change of the name of the individual. When adoption is the goal of a permanent plan recommended by the department of human services and ordered pursuant to section 587A-31, the</p>	<p><b>HI Rev Stat §578-2 – Consent to Adoption</b></p> <p>(a) Persons required to consent to adoption. Unless consent is not required or is dispensed with under subsection (c) hereof, a petition to adopt a child may be granted only if written consent to the proposed adoption has been executed by:</p> <p>(1) The mother of the child;</p> <p>(2) A legal father as to whom the child is a legitimate child;</p> <p>(3) An adjudicated father whose relationship to the child has been determined by a court;</p> <p>(4) A presumed father under section 578-2(d);</p> <p>(5) A concerned natural father who is not the legal, adjudicated, or presumed father but who has demonstrated a reasonable degree of interest, concern or responsibility as to the welfare of a child, either:</p> <p>(A) During the first thirty days after such child's birth; or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>department may petition for adoption on behalf of the proposed adoptive parents. The petition shall be in such form and shall include such information and exhibits as may be prescribed by the family court.</p>	<p>(B) Prior to the execution of a valid consent by the mother of the child; or            (C) Prior to the placement of the child with adoptive parents; whichever period of time is greater;            (6) Any person or agency having legal custody of the child or legally empowered to consent;            (7) The court having jurisdiction of the custody of the child, if the legal guardian or legal custodian of the person of the child is not empowered to consent to adoption;            (8) The child to be adopted if more than ten years of age, unless the court in the best interest of the child dispenses with the child's consent.            (b) A petition to adopt an adult may be granted only if written consent to adoption has been executed by the adult and the adult's spouse, if the adult is married.            (c) Persons as to whom consent not required or whose consent may be dispensed with by order of the court.            (1) Persons as to whom consent not required:            (A) A parent who has deserted a child without affording means of identification for a period of ninety days;            (B) A parent who has voluntarily surrendered the care and custody of the child to another for a period of two years;            (C) A parent of the child in the custody of another, if the parent for a period of at least one year has failed to communicate with the child when able to do so;            (D) A parent of a child in the custody of another, if the parent for a period of at least one year has failed to provide for the care and support of the child when able to do so;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(E) A natural father who was not married to the child's mother at the time of the child's conception or birth and who does not fall within the provisions of subsection (a)(3), (4), or (5);</p> <p>(F) A parent whose parental rights have been judicially terminated under the provisions of sections 571-61 to 571-63, or under the provisions of any other state or other law by a court or other agency having jurisdiction to take the action;</p> <p>(G) A parent judicially declared mentally ill or intellectually disabled and who is found by the court to be incapacitated from giving consent to the adoption of the child;</p> <p>(H) Any legal guardian or legal custodian of the child sought to be adopted, other than a parent, who has failed to respond in writing to a request for consent for a period of sixty days or who, after examination of the person's written reasons for withholding consent, is found by the court to be withholding the person's consent unreasonably;</p> <p>(I) A parent of a child who has been in the custody of a petitioner under this chapter for a period of at least one year and who entered the United States of America as a consequence of extraordinary circumstances in the child's country of origin, by reason of which extraordinary circumstances the existence, identity, or whereabouts of the child's parents is not reasonably ascertainable or there is no reasonable means of obtaining suitable evidence of the child's identity or availability for adoption;</p> <p>(J) Any parent of the individual to be adopted, if the individual is an adult eligible for adoption under subsection (b); and</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(K) A parent whose parental and custodial duties and rights have been divested by an award of permanent custody pursuant to section 587A-33;</p> <p>(2) Persons whose consent may be dispensed with by order of the court. The court may dispense with the consent of a parent who comes within subsection (a)(3), (4), or (5) herein, upon finding that:</p> <p>(A) The petitioner is the stepfather of the child and the child has lived with the child's legal mother and the petitioning stepfather for a period of at least one year;</p> <p>(B) The father is a concerned father as provided by subsection (a)(5), herein, and has not filed a petition to adopt the child, or the petition to adopt the child filed by the father has been denied; or</p> <p>(C) The father is an adjudicated, presumed, or concerned father as provided by subsections (a)(3), (4), or (5), herein, and is not a fit and proper person or is not financially or otherwise able to give the child a proper home and education.</p> <p>(d) Presumption of paternity. A man is presumed to be the natural father of a child if:</p> <p>(1) He and the child's natural mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage, or within three hundred days after the marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce, or after a decree of separation is entered by a court;</p> <p>(2) Before the child's birth, he and the child's natural mother have attempted to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(A) If the attempted marriage could be declared invalid only by a court, the child is born during the attempted marriage, or within three hundred days after its termination by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce; or</p> <p>(B) If the attempted marriage is invalid without a court order, the child is born within three hundred days after the termination of cohabitation;</p> <p>(3) After the child's birth, he and the child's natural mother have married, or attempted to marry, each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid; and</p> <p>(A) He has acknowledged his paternity of the child in writing filed with the department of health;</p> <p>(B) With his consent he is named as the child's father on the child's birth certificate; or</p> <p>(C) He is obligated to support the child under a written voluntary promise or by court order;</p> <p>(4) While the child is under the age of majority, he receives the child into his home and openly holds out the child as his natural child; or</p> <p>(5) He acknowledges his paternity of the child in writing filed with the department of health, which shall promptly inform the mother of the filing of the acknowledgment, and she does not dispute the acknowledgment within a reasonable time after being informed thereof, in a writing filed with the department of health. If another man is presumed under this section to be the child's father, acknowledgment may be effected only with the written consent of the presumed father or after the presumption has been rebutted. If the acknowledgment is filed</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>and not disputed by the mother and if another man is not presumed under this section to be the child's father, the department of health shall prepare a new certificate of birth in accordance with chapter 338.</p> <p>(e) Notice of hearing; minor parent; consent authorizing selection of adoptive parents. No hearing of a petition for adoption shall be had unless each of the living parents of the child who falls within the provisions of subsection (a) and who has not consented to the proposed adoption, but who is alleged to come within the provisions of subsection (c)(1)(A), (B), (C) and (D) or (c)(2) of this section, and any man whose name appears as father on the child's birth certificate, shall have had due notice, actual or constructive, of the allegations of the petition and of the time and place of the hearing thereof. Such notice need not be given to any parent whose parental rights have been legally terminated as hereinabove provided or whose consent has been filed with the court. The minority of a child's parent shall not be a bar to the right of such parent to execute a valid and binding consent to the adoption of such child.</p> <p>Any parental consent required hereunder shall be valid and binding even though it does not designate any specific adoptive parent or parents, if it clearly authorizes the department of human services, or a child placing organization approved by the department under the provisions of section 346-17 or some proper person not forbidden by law to place a child for adoption, to select and approve an adoptive parent or parents for the child.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>HI Rev Stat §578-4</b> – <i>Notice to Resident Nonconsenting Legal Parent Whose Rights Have Not Been Terminated.</i>                      If a legal parent to whom notice must be given as aforesaid is within the State, a summons issuing under the seal of the court and containing a notification as to the time and place of hearing, shall be served by the sheriff or the sheriff's deputy, any police officer, or any person authorized by court rule, upon such parent by the delivery to the parent of a certified copy thereof, and of the petition for adoption; or in case the parent cannot be found, by leaving copies of the summons and petition with some agent or person transacting the business of the parent, or by leaving such copies at the parent's last known place of residence. When service is made pursuant to this section, the time appointed for the hearing of the petition shall be not less than ten days subsequent to the date of service as herein provided.</p> <p><b>HI Rev Stat §578-6</b> – <i>Notice to Nonresident or Unlocated Nonconsenting Legal Parent Whose Rights Have Not Been Terminated.</i>                      If a legal parent to whom notice must be given as aforesaid was never an inhabitant of the State, or has removed therefrom, or if, after due diligence, the parent cannot be found within the State, and the fact appears by affidavit to the satisfaction of the court, it may be ordered by the court that the service be made under section 578-7.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
Idaho	<p><b>Idaho Ann. Code § 16-1506 – Proceedings on Adoption</b>                      (1) Proceedings to adopt a child shall be commenced by the filing of a petition together with a copy thereof. The petition shall be initiated by the person or persons proposing to adopt the child and shall be filed with the district court of the county in which said person or persons reside. If the adoption arises from a child protective act case, the petition shall be filed in the court having jurisdiction over the child protective act case unless that court relinquishes jurisdiction over the adoption proceeding. The petitioners shall have resided and maintained a dwelling within the state of Idaho for at least six (6) consecutive months prior to the filing of a petition. The petition shall set forth the name and address of the petitioner or petitioners, the name of the child proposed to be adopted and the name by which the person to be adopted shall be known if and when adopted, the degree of relationship of the child, if any, to the petitioner or petitioners and the names of any person or agency whose consent to said adoption is necessary. At the time fixed for hearing such petition, the person adopting a child and the child adopted, and the spouse of the petitioner if a natural parent of the child, must appear before the court of the county wherein the petition was filed. The petitioner shall at such time execute an agreement to the effect that the child shall be adopted and treated in all respects as his own lawful child should be treated.</p> <p><b>Idaho Ann. Code § 16-1514A – International Adoption</b>                      (1) When an Idaho resident adopts a child in a foreign country in accordance with the laws of the foreign country, and such</p>	<p><b>Idaho Ann. Code § 16-2005 – Conditions Under Which a Termination May Be Granted</b>                      (4) The court may grant an order terminating the relationship where a consent to termination in the manner and form prescribed by this chapter has been filed by the parent(s) of the child in conjunction with a petition for adoption initiated by the person or persons proposing to adopt the child, or where the consent to termination has been filed by a licensed adoption agency, no subsequent hearing on the merits of the petition shall be held. Consents required by this chapter must be witnessed by a district judge or magistrate of a district court, or equivalent judicial officer of the state, where a person consenting resides or is present, whether within or without the county, and shall be substantially in the following form:                      IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE.... JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF....                      In the Matter of the termination )                      of the parental rights of )                      ..... )                      ..... )                      I (we), the undersigned, being the.... of...., do hereby give my (our) full and free consent to the complete and absolute termination of my (our) parental right(s), to the said...., who was born....., unto...., hereby relinquishing completely and forever, all legal rights, privileges, duties and obligations, including all rights of inheritance to and from the said...., and I (we) do hereby expressly waive my (our) right(s) to hearing on the petition to terminate my (our) parental relationship with the said...., and respectfully request the petition be granted.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>adoption is recognized as full and final by the United States government, such resident may file with a petition a copy of the decree, order or certificate of adoption which evidences finalization of the adoption in the foreign country, together with a certified translation thereof if it is not in English, and proof of full and final adoption from the United States government with the clerk of the court of any county in this state having jurisdiction over the person or persons filing such documents.</p>	<p>STATE OF IDAHO )                  ) ss.                  COUNTY OF.... )                  On this.... day of...., 20.., before me, the undersigned.....                  (Judge or Magistrate) of the District Court of the.... Judicial                  District of the state of Idaho, in and for the county of....,                  personally appeared...., known to me (or proved to me on the                  oath of....) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is (are)                  subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me                  that he (she, they) executed the same.                  IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and                  affixed my official seal the day and year in this certificate first                  above written.</p> <p><b>Idaho Ann. Code § 16-1505 –Notice of Adoption Proceedings</b>                  (1) Notice of an adoption proceeding shall be served on each                  of the following persons:                  (a) Any person or agency whose consent or relinquishment is                  required under section 16-1504, Idaho Code, unless that right                  has been terminated by waiver, relinquishment, consent or                  judicial action, or the person's parental rights have been                  previously terminated;                  (b) Any person who has registered notice of the                  commencement of paternity proceedings pursuant to section                  16-1513, Idaho Code;                  (c) The petitioner's spouse, if any, only if he or she has not                  joined in the petition;                  (d) Any person who is recorded on the birth certificate as the                  child's father, with the knowledge and consent of the mother,</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>unless such right to notice or parental rights have been previously terminated;</p> <p>(e) Any person who is openly living in the same household with the child at the time the mother's consent is executed or relinquishment made, and who is holding himself out to be the child's father, unless such rights to notice or parental rights have been previously terminated; and</p> <p>(f) Any person who is married to the child's mother at the time she executes her consent to the adoption or relinquishes the child for adoption.</p> <p>(2) An unmarried biological father, by virtue of the fact that he has engaged in a sexual relationship with a woman, is deemed to be on notice that a pregnancy and an adoption proceeding regarding that child may occur, and that he has a duty to protect his own rights and interests. He is therefore entitled to actual notice of a birth or an adoption proceeding with regard to that child only as provided in this section.</p> <p>(3) Notice provided in accordance with this section need not disclose the name of the mother of the child who is the subject of an adoption proceeding.</p> <p>(4) The notice required by this section may be served immediately after commencement of proceedings to adopt a child but shall be served at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the final dispositional hearing. The notice shall specifically state that the person served must respond to the petition for adoption within twenty-one (21) days of service if he intends to intervene in or contest the adoption.</p> <p>(5)(a) Any person who has been served with notice of an adoption proceeding and who wishes to contest the adoption</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>shall file a written objection to the adoption in the adoption proceeding within twenty-one (21) days after service. The written objection shall set forth specific relief sought and be accompanied by a memorandum specifying the factual and legal grounds upon which the written objection is based.</p> <p>(b) Any person who fails to file a written objection to the adoption within twenty-one (21) days after service of notice waives any right to further notice in connection with the adoption, forfeits all rights in relation to the adoptee, and is barred from thereafter bringing or maintaining any action to assert any interest in the adoptee.</p> <p>(6) Service of notice under this section shall be made as follows:</p> <p>(a) With regard to a person whose consent is necessary under section 16-1504, Idaho Code, notice shall be given by personal service. Where reasonable efforts to effect personal service have been unsuccessful, the court shall order service by registered or certified mail to the last known address of the person to be notified and by publication once a week for three (3) successive weeks in a newspaper or newspapers to be designated by the court as most likely to give notice to the person to be served. The hearing shall take place no sooner than twenty-one (21) days after service of notice or, where service is by registered or certified mail and publication, the hearing shall take place no sooner than twenty-one (21) days after the date of last publication. Notice and appearance may be waived by any person in writing before the court or in the presence of, and witnessed by, a clerk of court or a representative of an authorized agency, provided that such parent has been apprised by the court or by such person of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>meaning and consequences of the adoption proceeding. Where the person entitled to notice resides outside the state, the waiver shall be acknowledged before a notary of the state and shall contain the current address of said person. The person who has executed such a waiver shall not be required to appear. If service is by publication, the court shall designate the content of the notice regarding the identity of the parties. The notice may not include the name of the person or persons seeking to adopt the adoptee.</p> <p>(b) As to any other person for whom notice is required under this section, service by certified mail, return receipt requested, is sufficient. If that service cannot be completed after two (2) attempts, the court may issue an order providing for service by publication, posting, or by any other manner of service.</p> <p>(c) Notice to a person who has registered a notice of his commencement of paternity proceedings with the vital statistics unit of the department of health and welfare in accordance with the requirements of section 16-1513, Idaho Code, shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the last address filed with the department.</p> <p>(7) Proof of service of notice on all persons for whom notice is required by this section shall be filed with the court before the final dispositional hearing on the adoption.</p> <p>(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the notice of an adoption proceeding nor any process in that proceeding is required to contain the name of the person or persons seeking to adopt the adoptee.</p> <p>(9) Except as to those persons whose consent to an adoption is required under section 16-1504, Idaho Code, the sole purpose</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>of notice under this section is to enable the person served to present evidence to the court relevant to the best interest of the child.</p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p><b>750 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 50/4 – Venue and jurisdiction</b>                      An adoption proceeding may be commenced in any county in this State. The circuit court in the relevant county has jurisdiction over adoption petitions.</p> <p><b>750 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 50/4.1 – Adoption Between Multiple Jurisdictions</b>  <i>(b) Interstate adoptions.</i>                      (1) All interstate adoption placements under this Act shall comply with the Child Care Act of 1969 and the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. The placement of children with relatives by the Department of Children and Family Services shall also comply with subsection (b) of Section 7 of the Children and Family Services Act. The Department may promulgate rules to implement interstate adoption placements, including those requirements set forth in this Section.</p> <p><i>(c) Intercountry adoptions.</i> The adoption of a child, if the child is a habitual resident of a country other than the United States and the petitioner is a habitual resident of the United States, or, if the child is a habitual resident of the United States and the petitioner is a habitual resident of a country other than the United States, shall comply with the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, as amended, and the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. In the case of an intercountry adoption that</p>	<p><b>750 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 50/7 - Process</b>                      A. All persons named in the petition for adoption or standby adoption, other than the petitioners and any party who has previously either denied being a parent pursuant to Section 12a of this Act or whose rights have been terminated pursuant to Section 12a of this Act, but including the person sought to be adopted, shall be made parties defendant by name, and if the name or names of any such persons are alleged in the petition to be unknown such persons shall be made parties defendant under the name and style of “All whom it may concern”. In all such actions petitioner or his attorney shall file, at the office of the clerk of the court in which the action is pending, an affidavit showing that the defendant resides or has gone out of this State, or on due inquiry cannot be found, or is concealed within this State, so that process cannot be served upon him, and stating the place of residence of the defendant, if known, or that upon diligent inquiry his place of residence cannot be ascertained, the clerk shall cause publication to be made in some newspaper published in the county in which the action is pending. If there is no newspaper published in that county, then the publication shall be in a newspaper published in an adjoining county in this State, having a circulation in the county in which such action is pending. In the event there is service on any of the parties by publication, the publication shall contain notice of pendency of the action, the name of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>requires oversight by the adoption services governed by the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012, this State shall not impose any additional preadoption requirements.</p>	<p>person to be adopted and the name of the parties to be served by publication, and the date on or after which default may be entered against such parties. Neither the name of petitioners nor the name of any party who has either surrendered said child, has given their consent to the adoption of the child, or whose parental rights have been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be included in the notice of publication. The Clerk shall also, within ten (10) days of the first publication of the notice, send a copy thereof by mail, addressed to each defendant whose place of residence is stated in such affidavit. The certificate of the Clerk that he sent the copies pursuant to this section is evidence that he has done so. Except as provided in this section pertaining to service by publication, all parties defendant shall be notified of the proceedings in the same manner as is now or may hereafter be required in other civil cases or proceedings, except that service of process need not be directed to a minor defendant under 14 years of age for whom a guardian ad litem has been or will be appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection B of Section 13 of this Act. Nothing in the provisions of the preceding sentence stating that service of process need not be directed to a minor defendant under 14 years of age for whom a guardian ad litem has been or will be appointed is intended to override any provision of this Act which relates to information to which an adopted person is entitled under Section 18.1 of this Act. Any party defendant who is of age of 14 years or upward may waive service of process by entering an appearance in writing. The form to be used for publication shall be substantially as follows: "ADOPTION NOTICE--STATE OF ILLINOIS, County of ...,</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>ss. - Circuit Court of .... County. In the matter of the Petition for the Adoption of ...., a ..male child. Adoption No. .... To--.... (whom it may concern or the named parent) Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of .... County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named .... Now, therefore, unless you ...., and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of ...., County, Room ...., ...., in the City of ...., Illinois, on or before the .... day of ...., a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition. Dated, ...., Illinois, .... .., Clerk. (Name and address of attorney for petitioners.)</p> <p>B. A minor defendant who has been served in accordance with this Section may be defaulted in the same manner as any other defendant.</p> <p>C. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of this or any other law, and in addition to the notice requirements of any law pertaining to persons other than those specified in this subsection, the persons entitled to notice that a petition has been filed under Section 5 of this Act shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) any person adjudicated by a court in this State to be the father of the child;</li> <li>(b) any person adjudicated by a court of another state or territory of the United States to be the father of the child, when a certified copy of the court order has been filed with the Putative Father Registry under Section 12.1 of this Act;</li> <li>(c) any person who at the time of the filing of the petition is registered in the Putative Father Registry under Section 12.1 of</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>this Act as the putative father of the child;</p> <p>(d) any person who is recorded on the child's birth certificate as the child's father;</p> <p>(e) any person who is openly living with the child or the child's mother at the time the proceeding is initiated and who is holding himself out to be the child's father;</p> <p>(f) any person who has been identified as the child's father by the mother in a written, sworn statement, including an Affidavit of Identification as specified under Section 11 of this Act;</p> <p>(g) any person who was married to the child's mother on the date of the child's birth or within 300 days prior to the child's birth.</p> <p>The sole purpose of notice under this Section shall be to enable the person receiving notice to appear in the adoption proceedings to present evidence to the court relevant to whether the consent or surrender of the person to the adoption is required pursuant to Section 8 of this Act. If the court determines that the consent or surrender of the person is not required pursuant to Section 8, then the person shall not be entitled to participate in the proceedings or to any further notice of the proceedings.</p> <p><b>750 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 50/4.1 – Adoption Between Multiple Jurisdictions</b></p> <p>(e) <i>Re-adoption after an intercountry adoption.</i></p> <p>(1) Any time after a minor child has been adopted in a foreign country and has immigrated to the United States, the adoptive parent or parents of the child may petition the court for a</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>judgment of adoption to re-adopt the child and confirm the foreign adoption decree.</p> <p>(2) The petitioner must submit to the court one or more of the following to verify the foreign adoption:</p> <p>(i) an immigrant visa for the child issued by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that was valid at the time of the child's immigration;</p> <p>(ii) a decree, judgment, certificate of adoption, adoption registration, or equivalent court order, entered or issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or administrative body outside the United States, establishing the relationship of parent and child by adoption; or</p> <p>(iii) such other evidence deemed satisfactory by the court.</p>
<p>Indiana</p>	<p><b>IN Code § 31-19-1-1 – Adoptions Subject to Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children</b>                      Sec. 1. Except as provided in IC 31-28-4, the adoption of a child who is born in one (1) state by a person in another state is subject to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children under IC 31-28-4.</p> <p><b>IN Code § 31-19-1-2 – Exclusive Jurisdiction of Probate Court</b>                      Sec. 2. (a) This section applies to each Indiana county that has a separate probate court.                      (b) The probate court has exclusive jurisdiction in all adoption matters.</p>	<p><b>IN Code § 31-19-2.5-2 – Notice of Adoption</b>                      Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), IC 31-19-4 applies to notice given to a putative father and IC 31-19-4.5 applies to notice given to other persons.                      (b) If a petition for adoption alleges the consent of a putative father or a parent to the adoption has not been obtained and is unnecessary under:</p> <p>(1) IC 31-19-9-8(a)(1);                      (2) IC 31-19-9-8(a)(2);                      (3) IC 31-19-9-8(a)(4)(B);                      (4) IC 31-19-9-8(a)(4)(C);                      (5) IC 31-19-9-8(a)(9); or                      (6) IC 31-19-9-8(a)(11);                      notice must be given under IC 31-19-4.5.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>IN Code § 31-19-28-1 – Adoption Decrees in Foreign Jurisdictions</b>                      Whenever a person is adopted outside Indiana, under the laws of the state, territory, or country where the adoption took place:                      (1) the adoption decree:                      (A) when filed with the clerk of the court of any county in Indiana; and                      (B) when entered upon the order book of the court in open session; has the same force and effect as if the adoption decree were made in accordance with this article.</p>	<p><b>IN Code § 31-19-2.5-3 – Required Notice</b>                      Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in section 4 of this chapter, notice must be given to a:                      (1) person whose consent to adoption is required under IC 31-19-9-1;                      (2) putative father who is entitled to notice under IC 31-19-4; and                      (3) grandparent described in IC 31-19-4.5-1(3) of a child sought to be adopted.                      (b) If the parent-child relationship has been terminated under IC 31-35 (or IC 31-6-5 before its repeal), notice of the pendency of the adoption proceedings shall be given to the:                      (1) licensed child placing agency; or                      (2) local office of which the child is a ward.</p> <p><b>IN Code § 31-19-9-1 – Consents Required</b>                      Sec. 1. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a petition to adopt a child who is less than eighteen (18) years of age may be granted only if written consent to adoption has been executed by the following:                      (1) Each living parent of a child born in wedlock, including a man who is presumed to be the child's biological father under IC 31-14-7-1(1) if the man is the biological or adoptive parent of the child.                      (2) The mother of a child born out of wedlock and the father of a child whose paternity has been established by:                      (A) a court proceeding other than the adoption proceeding, except as provided in IC 31-14-20-2; or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(B) a paternity affidavit executed under IC 16-37-2-2.1; unless the putative father gives implied consent to the adoption under section 15 of this chapter.</p> <p>(3) Each person, agency, or local office having lawful custody of the child whose adoption is being sought.</p> <p>(4) The court having jurisdiction of the custody of the child if the legal guardian or custodian of the person of the child is not empowered to consent to the adoption.</p> <p>(5) The child to be adopted if the child is more than fourteen (14) years of age.</p> <p>(6) The spouse of the child to be adopted if the child is married.</p> <p>(b) A parent who is less than eighteen (18) years of age may consent to an adoption without the concurrence of:</p> <p>(1) the individual's parent or parents; or</p> <p>(2) the guardian of the individual's person;</p> <p>unless the court, in the court's discretion, determines that it is in the best interest of the child to be adopted to require the concurrence.</p>
Iowa	<p><b>I.C.A. § 600.3 – Commencement of Adoption Action-- Jurisdiction--Forum Non Conveniens</b></p> <p>1. An action for the adoption of any natural person shall be commenced by the filing of an adoption petition, as prescribed in section 600.5, in the juvenile court or court of the county in which an adult person to be adopted is domiciled or resides, or in the juvenile court or court of the county in which the guardian of a minor person to be adopted or the petitioner is domiciled or resides.</p> <p>2.a. An adoption petition shall not be filed until a termination</p>	<p><b>I.C.A. § 600.11 – Notice of Adoption Hearing</b></p> <p>1. The juvenile court or court shall set the time and place of the adoption hearing prescribed in section 600.12 upon application of the petitioner. The juvenile court or court may continue the adoption hearing if the notice prescribed in subsections 2 and 3 is given, except that such notice shall only be given at least ten days prior to the date which has been set for the continuation of the adoption hearing.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>of parental rights has been accomplished except in the following cases:</p> <p>(1) No termination of parental rights is required if the person to be adopted is an adult.</p> <p>(2) If the stepparent of the child to be adopted is the adoption petitioner, the parent-child relationship between the child and the parent who is not the spouse of the petitioner may be terminated as part of the adoption proceeding by the filing of that parent's consent to the adoption.</p> <p>(3) A termination of parental rights order is not required prior to the filing of an adoption petition if the adoption is a standby adoption as defined in section 600.14A.</p> <p>b. For the purposes of this subsection, a consent to adopt recognized by the juvenile courts or courts of another jurisdiction in the United States and obtained from a resident of that jurisdiction shall be accepted in this state in lieu of a termination of parental rights proceeding.</p> <p>c. Any adoption proceeding pending on or completed prior to July 1, 1978, is hereby legalized and validated to the extent that it is consistent with this subsection.</p> <p>3. If upon filing of the adoption petition or at any later time in the adoption action the juvenile court or court finds that in the interest of substantial justice the adoption action should be conducted in another juvenile court or court, it may transfer, stay, or dismiss the adoption action on any conditions that are just.</p> <p>4. An adoption petition shall be limited to the adoption of one natural person.</p>	<p>2. a. At least twenty days before the adoption hearing, a copy of the petition and its attachments and a notice of the adoption hearing shall be given by the adoption petitioner to:</p> <p>(1) A guardian, guardian ad litem if appointed for the adoption proceedings, and custodian of, and a person in a parent-child relationship with the person to be adopted. This subparagraph does not require notice to be given to a person whose parental rights have been terminated with regard to the person to be adopted.</p> <p>(2) The person to be adopted who is an adult.</p> <p>(3) Any person who is designated to make an investigation and report under section 600.8.</p> <p>(4) Any other person who is required to consent under section 600.7.</p> <p>(5) A person who has been granted visitation rights with the child to be adopted pursuant to section 600C.1.</p> <p>(6) A person who is ordered to pay support or a postsecondary education subsidy pursuant to section 598.21F, or chapter 234, 252A, 252C, 252F, 598, 600B, or any other chapter of the Code, for a person eighteen years of age or older who is being adopted by a stepparent, and the support order or order requires payment of support or postsecondary education subsidy for any period of time after the child reaches eighteen years of age.</p> <p>b. Nothing in this subsection shall require the petitioner to give notice to self or to petitioner's spouse. A duplicate copy of the petition and its attachments shall be mailed to the department by the clerk of court at the time the petition is filed.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>I.C.A. § 600.15 – Foreign and International Adoptions</b></p> <p>1. A decree establishing a parent-child relationship by adoption which is issued pursuant to due process of law by a juvenile court or court of any other jurisdiction within or outside the United States shall be recognized in this state.</p> <p>2. For an adoption based on a decree issued by a foreign jurisdiction within the United States, an investigator shall conduct a postplacement investigation and issue a postplacement report as provided in section 600.8.</p>	<p>3. A notice of the adoption hearing shall state the time, place, and purpose of the hearing and shall be served in accordance with rule of civil procedure 1.305. Proof of the giving of notice shall be filed with the juvenile court or court prior to the adoption hearing. Acceptance of service by the party being given notice shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.</p>
Kansas	<p><b>KS Ann. Stat. § 59-2127 – Jurisdiction</b> Jurisdiction over proceedings under the Kansas adoption and relinquishment act including a proceeding to terminate parental rights pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2136, and amendments thereto, is governed by the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act, K.S.A. 23-37,101 through 23-37,405, and amendments thereto, except that in adoption proceedings, the notice provisions of K.S.A. 59-2133 and 59-2136, and amendments thereto, shall control.</p> <p><b>KS Ann. Stat. § 59-2126 – Venue</b></p> <p>(a) Except as provided in subsection (f), in an independent adoption, venue shall be in the county in which the petitioner resides or in the county in which the child to be adopted resides.</p> <p>(b) Except as provided in subsection (f), in an agency adoption, venue shall be in the county:</p> <p>(1) In which the petitioner resides;</p>	<p><b>KS Ann. Stat. § 59-2129 – Consent</b></p> <p>(a) Consent to an independent adoption shall be given by: (1) The living parents of the child; or (2) one of the parents of the child, if the other's consent is found unnecessary under K.S.A. 59-2136, and amendments thereto; or (3) the legal guardian of the child, if both parents are dead or if their consent is found to be unnecessary under K.S.A. 59-2136, and amendments thereto; or (4) the court entering an order under K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2270, and amendments thereto; and (5) the judge of any court having jurisdiction over the child pursuant to the revised Kansas code for care of children, if parental rights have not been terminated; and (6) the child sought to be adopted, if over 14 years of age and of sound intellect.</p> <p>(b) Consent to an agency adoption shall be given by:</p> <p>(1) The authorized representative of the agency having authority to consent to the adoption of the child; and</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(2) in which the child to be adopted resided prior to receipt of custody by the agency; or</p> <p>(3) where the principal place of business for the child placing agency is located.</p> <p>(c) Except as provided in subsection (f), in a stepparent adoption, venue shall be in the county in which the petitioner resides or where the child resides.</p> <p>(d) If the petitioner resides upon or is stationed at a United States military post or reservation within this state, and the child to be adopted is then residing with the petitioner, venue may be in the district court of the county in which the post or reservation is located, or in the district court of any county located immediately adjacent to such county.</p> <p>(e) Where the residence of the child, as defined in K.S.A. 59-2112, and amendments thereto, serves as the basis for venue, a sworn affidavit shall be filed with the petition setting forth the factual basis for the child's residency.</p> <p>(f) In all adoptions, venue may be established in any county in Kansas, if all parties in interest agree in writing to venue in that county.</p> <p><b>KS Ann. Stat. § 59-2144 – Effect and Recognition of a Foreign Adoption Decree</b></p> <p>(a) When a Kansas resident adopts a child in a foreign country in accordance with the laws of the foreign country pertaining to relinquishment, termination of parental rights and consent to the adoption, the decree of adoption or a similar document or documents which evidences finalization of the adoption in the foreign country, and evidence of lawful admission into the</p>	<p>(2) the child sought to be adopted, if over 14 years of age and of sound intellect.</p> <p>(c) The provisions of subsection (a) shall apply to consent in a stepparent adoption, except that subsections (a)(3) and (4) shall not apply.</p> <p>(d) A consent given by a parent, legal guardian or agency shall be deemed sufficient if in substantial compliance with the form for consent set forth by the judicial council.</p> <p>(e) A consent given by a legal guardian, judge or agency shall set forth the authority to execute the consent and shall be accompanied by documents supporting that authority.</p> <p><b>KS Ann. Stat. § 59-2114 – Written Consent Required; Acknowledgment; Revocability of Consent, When</b></p> <p>(a) Consent shall be in writing and shall be acknowledged before a judge of a court of record or before an officer authorized by law to take acknowledgments. If consent is acknowledged before a judge of a court of record, it shall be the duty of the court to inform the consenting person of the legal consequences of the consent. A consent is final when executed, unless the consenting party, prior to final decree of adoption, alleges and proves by clear and convincing evidence that the consent was not freely and voluntarily given. The burden of proving the consent was not freely and voluntarily given shall rest with the consenting party.</p> <p>(b) Consent in all cases shall have been executed not more than six months prior to the date the petition for adoption is filed.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>United States, when filed with and entered in the records of the clerk of the district court of any county in this state, has the same force and effect as if the decree of adoption, or a similar document or documents which evidences finalization of the adoption in the foreign country, was granted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas adoption and relinquishment act.</p>	<p><b>KS Ann. Stat. § 59-2115 – Consent or Relinquishment; Minor Parent</b>                      Minority of a parent shall not invalidate a parent's consent or relinquishment, except that a minor parent shall have the advice of independent legal counsel as to the consequences of the consent or relinquishment prior to its execution. The attorney providing independent legal advice to the minor parent shall be present at the execution of the consent or relinquishment. Unless the minor parent is otherwise represented by independent legal counsel, the petitioner or child placing agency shall provide independent legal counsel to the minor parent at such petitioner's or child placing agency's sole expense.</p>
Kentucky	<p><b>KY Ann. Stat. § 199.470 - Petition for Adoption of Child -- Parties -- Residence Requirement -- Approval of Secretary -- Exceptions</b>                      (1) Any person who is eighteen (18) years of age and who is a resident of this state or who has resided in this state for twelve (12) months next before filing may file a petition for leave to adopt a child in the Circuit Court of the county in which the petitioner resides.</p> <p><b>KY Ann. Stat. § 199.585 – Recognition of Foreign Adoptions</b>                      (1) The Commonwealth of Kentucky shall recognize a decree, judgment, or final order of adoption issued by a court or other governmental authority with appropriate jurisdiction in a foreign country when the child to be adopted has been</p>	<p><b>KY Ann. Stat. § 199.500 – Consent to Adoption</b>                      (1) An adoption shall not be granted without the voluntary and informed consent, as defined in KRS 199.011, of the living parent or parents of a child born in lawful wedlock or the mother of the child born out of wedlock, or the father of the child born out of wedlock if paternity is established in a legal action or if an affidavit is filed stating that the affiant is the father of the child, except that the consent of the living parent or parents shall not be required if:                      (a) The parent or parents have been adjudged mentally disabled and the judgment shall have been in effect for not less than one (1) year prior to the filing of the petition for adoption;                      (b) The parental rights of the parents have been terminated under KRS Chapter 625;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>approved for United States citizenship, or as otherwise provided by federal law.</p> <p>(2) Upon presentation of an original decree, judgment, or final order of adoption issued by a court or other governmental authority with appropriate jurisdiction in a foreign country, the secretary or his or her designee shall issue, within thirty (30) days, a certified notice that the foreign adoption is registered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The secretary or his or her designee may require a translated copy if the original decree, judgment, or final order is not in English. The cabinet shall maintain all records and notices of foreign adoptions in a manner similar to other adoption records.</p>	<p>(c) The living parents are divorced and the parental rights of one (1) parent have been terminated under KRS Chapter 625 and consent has been given by the parent having custody and control of the child; or</p> <p>(d) The biological parent has not established parental rights as required by KRS 625.065.</p> <p>(2) A minor parent who is a party defendant may consent to an adoption but a guardian ad litem for the parent shall be appointed.</p> <p>(3) In the case of a child twelve (12) years of age or older, the consent of the child shall be given in court. The court in its discretion may waive this requirement.</p> <p>(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, an adoption may be granted without the consent of the biological living parents of a child if it is pleaded and proved as a part of the adoption proceedings that any of the provisions of KRS 625.090 exist with respect to the child.</p> <p>(5) An adoption shall not be granted or a consent for adoption be held valid if the consent for adoption is given prior to seventy-two (72) hours after the birth of the child. A voluntary and informed consent may be taken at seventy-two (72) hours after the birth of the child and shall become final and irrevocable seventy-two (72) hours after it is signed.</p> <p><b>KY Ann. Stat. § 625.040 – Petition</b></p> <p>(1) A petition for the voluntary termination of parental rights shall be entitled "In the interest of., a child." The petition may be filed by a parent or counsel when the appearance-waiver and consent-to-adopt forms are signed by the parent, counsel,</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>and cabinet representative under the conditions described in KRS 625.041(3) and (4).</p> <p>(2) The petition for the voluntary termination of parental rights shall be filed in the Circuit Court of the judicial circuit where the petitioner or child resides or in the Circuit Court in the county in which juvenile court actions, if any, concerning the child have commenced, and shall be verified and contain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Name and place of residence of each petitioner;</li> <li>(b) Name, sex, date of birth, and place of residence of the child;</li> <li>(c) Name and relationship of each petitioner to the child;</li> <li>(d) A concise statement of the factual basis for the termination of parental rights;</li> <li>(e) Name and address of the person or of the cabinet or authorized agency to which parental rights are sought to be transferred; and</li> <li>(f) A statement that the person, cabinet, or authorized agency to whom custody is to be given has facilities available, is willing to receive the custody of the child, and the person, if not excepted by KRS 199.470(4), has applied for the written permission of the secretary or the secretary's designee for the child's placement. This provision shall not affect the right of a court to grant temporary custody under KRS 199.473.</li> </ul> <p>(3) No petition may be filed under this chapter prior to three (3) days after the birth of the child.</p> <p>(4) Any petition filed pursuant to this section shall be fully adjudicated and a final judgment shall be entered by the court within six (6) months of the filing of the petition.</p> <p><b>KY Ann. Stat. § 199.470 – Petition for Adoption</b></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(1) Any person who is eighteen (18) years of age and who is a resident of this state or who has resided in this state for twelve (12) months next before filing may file a petition for leave to adopt a child in the Circuit Court of the county in which the petitioner resides.</p> <p>(2) If the petitioner is married, the husband or wife shall join in a petition for leave to adopt a child unless the petitioner is married to a biological parent of the child to be adopted, except that if the court finds the requirement of a joint petition would serve to deny the child a suitable home, the requirement may be waived.</p> <p>(3) If a child is placed for adoption by the cabinet, by an agency licensed by the cabinet, or with written approval by the secretary of the cabinet, the petition may be filed at the time of placement. In all other adoptions, the petition shall not be filed until the child has resided continuously in the home of the petitioner for at least ninety (90) days immediately prior to the filing of the adoption petition.</p> <p>(4) No petition for adoption shall be filed unless prior to the filing of the petition the child sought to be adopted has been placed for adoption by a child-placing institution or agency, or by the cabinet, or the child has been placed with written approval of the secretary; but no approval shall be necessary in the case of:</p> <p>(a) A child sought to be adopted by a blood relative, including a relative of half-blood, first cousin, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, and a person of a preceding generation as denoted by prefixes of grand, great, or great-great; stepparent; step-sibling; or fictive kin; however, the court in its discretion may order a</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>report in accordance with KRS 199.510 and a background check as provided in KRS 199.473(8);</p> <p>(b) A child received by the proposed adopting parent or parents from an agency without this state with the written consent of the secretary;</p> <p>(c) A child adopted under the provisions of KRS 199.585(1); or</p> <p>(d) A child who has been approved under KRS Chapter 615.</p> <p><b>KY Ann. Stat. § 199.585 – Recognition of Foreign Adoptions – When KRS 199.470 Petition Required</b></p> <p>(3) A petition for adoption under KRS 199.470 shall be required for a child born outside the United States without a decree, judgment, or final order of adoption issued by a court or other governmental authority with appropriate jurisdiction in a foreign country, or for any child born outside of the United States who does not qualify for United States citizenship upon entry into the United States.</p>
Louisiana	<p><b>LA Children’s Code Art. 1180 – Venue and Jurisdiction in Adoption</b></p> <p>A. A proceeding for the adoption of a child may be commenced in either:</p> <p>(1) The juvenile court in the parish of the domicile of the petitioner.</p> <p>(2) The juvenile court in the parish of the domicile of the custodian of the child.</p> <p>(3) The juvenile court in the parish in which a voluntary act of surrender has been executed with respect to the child to be adopted.</p>	<p><b>LA Children’s Code Art. 1193 – Persons Whose Consent or Relinquishment is Required</b></p> <p>Unless rights have been terminated in accordance with Title X or XI, consent to the adoption of a child or relinquishment of parental rights shall be required of the following:</p> <p>(1) The mother of the child.</p> <p>(2) The father of the child, regardless of the child's actual paternity, if any of the following apply:</p> <p>(a) The child is a child born of the marriage in accordance with the Louisiana Civil Code or its legal equivalent in another state.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(4) The juvenile court in which the child has been adjudicated a child in need of care or in which the child in need of care proceeding is pending.</p> <p>(5) The juvenile court which previously terminated parental rights of a parent with respect to the child to be adopted.</p> <p>B. An attorney at law named as representative of the prospective adoptive parent shall not be deemed the legal custodian of the child for purposes of proper jurisdiction or venue.</p> <p>C. Upon filing of the act of voluntary surrender approved by the court according to Article 1131(C), the court of competent venue and jurisdiction wherein the surrender is filed shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction over all issues of custody and adoption of the child during the pendency of the proceedings, unless the child is in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.</p> <p><b>LA Children’s Code Art. 1281.6 – Venue in Intercountry Adoption</b></p> <p>A. A proceeding for an intercountry adoption may be commenced in either:</p> <p>(1) The juvenile court in the parish of the domicile of the petitioner.</p> <p>(2) The juvenile court in the parish of the domicile of the custodian of the child.</p> <p>B. An attorney at law named as representative of the prospective adoptive parent shall not be deemed the legal custodian of the child for purposes of proper jurisdiction or venue.</p>	<p>(b) The father is presumed to be the father of the child in accordance with the Louisiana Civil Code or its legal equivalent in another state.</p> <p>(3) The alleged father of the child who has established his parental rights in accordance with Chapter 10 of Title XI.</p> <p>(4) The biological father of the child whose paternity has been determined by a judgment of filiation and who has established his parental rights in accordance with Chapter 10 of Title XI.</p> <p>(5) The custodial agency which has placed the child for adoption, except that the court may grant the adoption without the consent of the agency if the adoption is in the best interest of the child and there is a finding that the agency has unreasonably withheld its consent.</p> <p><b>LA Children’s Code Art. 1202 – Service of Process</b></p> <p>A. A copy of the petition for an agency adoption together with all exhibits shall be served by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or by commercial courier as defined in R.S. 13:3204(D), when the person to be served is located outside of this state, and properly addressed to the department and on any agency having legal custody of the child. Two copies of the same petition need not be served on the department.</p> <p>B. Except when waived, notice of the filing of the petition shall be served on any parent whose parental rights have not been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction.</p> <p>C. If the adoption petition names an alleged or adjudicated father and his parental rights have not been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction, he shall be served with notice</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		of the filing of the petition in accordance with Articles 1133, 1134, and 1136 and thereafter, his rights shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Articles 1137 through 1143.
Maine	<p><b>18-C M.R.S. § 1-302 – Subject Matter Jurisdiction</b> To the fullest extent permitted by law, the probate court has jurisdiction over all subject matter relating to the protection of minors and incapacitated persons, and has jurisdiction over protective proceedings and guardianship proceedings.</p> <p><b>18-C M.R.S. § 9-103 – Jurisdiction</b> 1. <i>Probate Court Jurisdiction.</i> The Probate Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the following: A. Petitions for adoption; B. Consents and reviews of withholdings of consent by persons other than a parent; C. Surrenders and releases; D. Termination of parental rights brought pursuant to section 9-204; E. Proceedings to determine the rights of putative parents of children whose adoptions or surrenders and releases are pending before the Probate Court; and F. Reviews conducted pursuant to section 9-205. 2. <i>District Court jurisdiction.</i> The District Court has jurisdiction to conduct hearings pursuant to section 9-205. The District Court has jurisdiction over any matter described in subsection 1 if the proceeding concerns a child over whom the District Court has exclusive jurisdiction pursuant to Title 4, section 152, subsection 5-A.</p>	<p><b>18-C M.R.S. § 9-204 – Termination of Parental Rights</b> 1. Petition for termination; adoption petition brought solely by parent. A petition for termination of parental rights may be brought in the court in which a petition for adoption is properly filed as part of that petition for adoption. A petition for termination of parental rights may not be included as part of a petition for adoption brought solely by another parent of the child unless the adoption is sought to confirm the parentage status of the petitioning parent. 2. Title 22, chapter 1071, subchapter 6 applies. Except as otherwise provided by this section, a termination of parental rights petition is subject to the provisions of Title 22, chapter 1071, subchapter 6. 3. Grounds for termination. The court may order termination of parental rights if: A. The parent consents to the termination after a judge has fully explained the effects of a termination order and the consent is written and voluntarily and knowingly executed in court before a judge; or B. The court finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, that: (1) Termination is in the best interest of the child; and (2) Either: (a) The parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child from jeopardy, as defined by Title 22, section 4002, subsection 6, and</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>18-C M.R.S. § 9-104 – Venue, Transfer</b></p> <p>1. <i>Venue if adoptee placed by agency or department.</i> If an adoptee is placed by a licensed child-placing agency or the department, the petition for adoption must be filed in the court in the county or division where:</p> <p>A. The petitioner resides;</p> <p>B. The adoptee resides or was born;</p> <p>C. An office of the agency that placed the adoptee for adoption is located; or</p> <p>D. Parental rights of the minor adoptee’s parents have been terminated.</p> <p>2. <i>Venue if agency or department not involved in placement.</i> If an adoptee is not placed by a licensed child-placing agency or the department, the petition for adoption must be filed in the county or division where the adoptee resides or where the petitioners reside.</p> <p>3. <i>Transfer.</i> If, in the interests of justice or for the convenience of the parties, the court finds that the matter should be heard in another court, the court may transfer, stay or dismiss the proceeding, subject to any further conditions imposed by the court.</p> <p><b>4 M.R.S. § 152 (5-A).5-A – Actions Involving Minors under Title 18-C</b></p> <p>Exclusive jurisdiction of actions for guardianship, adoption, change of name or other matters involving custody or other parental rights brought under Title 18-C if proceedings involving custody or other parental rights with respect to a</p>	<p>these circumstances are unlikely to change within a time that is reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs;</p> <p>(b) The parent has been unwilling or unable to take responsibility for the child within a time that is reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs; or</p> <p>(c) The parent has abandoned the child, as described in Title 22, section 4002, subsection 1-A.</p> <p>3-A. Required findings. The court shall make specific written findings addressing the standards in subsection 3, paragraph B and the court shall consider the following:</p> <p>A. With respect to subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph (1), the background and qualities of a prospective adoptive parent who is not already the parent of the child; and</p> <p>B. With respect to subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph (2), the extent to which the parent who is the subject of the petition had opportunities to rehabilitate and to reunify with the child or to maintain a relationship with the child, including actions by the child's other parent to foster or to interfere with a relationship between the parent and the child or services provided by public or nonprofit entities.</p> <p>4. Guardian ad litem for child. The court may appoint a guardian ad litem for a child who is the subject of a petition for termination of parental rights under subsection 1. The appointment must be made as soon as possible after the petition for termination of parental rights is initiated.</p> <p>A. The court shall pay reasonable costs and expenses for the guardian ad litem.</p> <p>B. In general, the guardian ad litem shall act in pursuit of the best interest of the child. The guardian ad litem must be given</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>minor child, including but not limited to adoption, divorce, parental rights and responsibilities, grandparents' rights, protective custody, change of name, guardianship, paternity, termination of parental rights and protection from abuse or harassment, are pending in the District Court.</p> <p><b>18-C M.R.S. § 9-311 – Foreign Adoptions</b>                      If an adoption in a foreign country has been finalized and the adopting parents are seeking an adoption under the laws of this State to give recognition to the foreign adoption, a court may enter a decree of adoption based solely upon a judgment of adoption in a foreign country and may order a change of name if requested by the adopting parents.</p>	<p>access to all reports and records relevant to the case and investigate to ascertain the facts. The investigation must include, when possible and appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Reviewing records of psychiatric, psychological or physical examinations of the child, parents or other persons having or seeking care or custody of the child;</li> <li>(2) Review of relevant school records and other pertinent materials;</li> <li>(3) Interviewing the child with or without other persons present; and</li> <li>(4) Interviews with parents, guardians, teachers and other persons who have been involved in caring for or treating the child.</li> </ol> <p>The guardian ad litem may subpoena, examine and cross-examine witnesses and shall make recommendations to the court.</p> <p><b>18-C M.R.S. § 9-302 – Consent for Adoption</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Written consent. Before an adoption is granted, written consent to the adoption must be given by:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The adoptee, if the adoptee is 12 years of age or older;</li> <li>B. Each of the adoptee's living parents, except as provided in subsection 2;</li> <li>C. A person or agency having legal custody or guardianship of the adoptee if the adoptee is a child or to whom the child has been surrendered and released, except that the person's or agency's lack of consent, if adjudged unreasonable by a court, may be overruled by the court. In order for the court to find that the person or agency acted unreasonably in withholding</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>consent, the petitioner must prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the person or agency acted unreasonably. The court shall determine whether the person or agency acted unreasonably in withholding consent prior to any hearing on whether to grant the adoption. The court may hold a pretrial conference to determine who will proceed. The court may determine that even though the burden of proof remains on the petitioner, the person or agency should present its reasons for withholding consent and the facts supporting the decision before the petitioner presents its evidence.</p>
<p>Maryland</p>	<p><b>Md. Code Ann., Family Law § 1-201 – Jurisdiction of Equity Court</b>                      (b) An equity court has jurisdiction over: (1) adoption of a child, except for a child who is under the jurisdiction of any juvenile court and who previously has been adjudicated to be a child in need of assistance[.]</p> <p><b>Md. Code Ann., Cts. &amp; Jud. Pro. § 6-203 – Venue: Real Estate, Liens, Adoption, and Guardianship Actions</b>                      (e)(1) Venue for an adoption proceeding of an individual physically in the state or subject to the jurisdiction of an equity court is in a county where:                      (i) The petitioner is domiciled;                      (ii) The petitioner has resided for at least 90 days next preceding the filing of the petition;                      (iii) A licensed child placement agency having legal or physical custody of the individual is located;                      (iv) The individual is domiciled, if the individual is related to the</p>	<p><b>Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-333 – Notice of filing – Adoption Without Prior Termination of Parental Rights</b>                      (a) Within 5 days after a petition for adoption of a child is filed under this Part III of this subtitle with a juvenile court, the clerk shall send a copy of the petition, with the notice of filing that was attached to the petition, to:                      (1) the local department with custody of the child;                      (2) each of the child's living parents who has not waived the right to notice;                      (3) each living parent's last attorney of record in the CINA case; and                      (4) the child's last attorney of record in the CINA case.                      (b) Notice under this section shall be by first-class mail.                      (c) Notice to a parent under this section shall be sent to the parent's last address known to the juvenile court.</p> <p><b>Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-346 – Notice of Filing – Adoption After Termination of Parental Rights</b></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>petitioner by blood or marriage or is an adult; or                      (v) An equity court has continuing jurisdiction over the custody of the individual.                      (2) The venue in an adoption of an individual under Title 5, Subtitle 3, Part III of the Family Law Article is in the court with jurisdiction over the individual under Title 3, Subtitle 8 of this article.                      (3) The venue in an adoption of an individual under Title 5, Subtitle 3, Part IV of the Family Law Article is in the court where the individual's guardianship case is pending.</p> <p><b>Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-335 – Hearing on Adoption Petition</b>                      (a) A juvenile court shall hold a hearing before entering an order for adoption under this Part III of this subtitle.                      (b) Before a hearing under this section, a juvenile court shall give notice to all of the parties.</p> <p><b>Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-3B-04 – Foreign Orders</b>                      (a) In this section, "order" includes any action that, under the laws of another jurisdiction, has the force and effect of a comparable judicial order under this subtitle.                      (b) In accordance with the United States Constitution, this State shall accord full faith and credit to:                      (1) an order of another state as to adoption or guardianship in compliance with the other state's laws; and                      (2) termination of parental rights in compliance with the other state's laws.                      (c) As to a jurisdiction other than a state:</p>	<p>(a) Within 5 days after a petition for adoption of a child is filed under this Part IV of this subtitle with a juvenile court, the clerk shall send a copy of the petition, with the notice of filing that was attached to the petition, to: (1) the local department; and (2) the child's last attorney of record in the guardianship case.                      (b) Notice under this section shall be by first-class mail.</p> <p><b>Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-338 –Consent</b>                      (a) A juvenile court may enter an order for a child's adoption under this Part III of this subtitle only if:                      (1)(i) both the child's parents are dead;                      (ii) an administrative, executive, or judicial body of a state or other jurisdiction has granted a governmental unit or person other than a parent the power to consent to adoption, and the unit or person consents;                      (iii) parental rights have been terminated in compliance with the laws of a state or other jurisdiction, as described in § 5-305 of this subtitle; or                      (iv) 1. at least one of the child's parents:                      A. is represented by an attorney;                      B. has had an opportunity to receive adoption counseling and guidance services; and                      C. consents to the adoption:                      I. in writing;                      II. knowingly and voluntarily, on the record before the juvenile court; and                      2. the parent who does not consent:                      A. is dead; or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(1) an order for adoption or guardianship entered in compliance with the jurisdiction's laws shall have the same legal effect as an order for adoption or guardianship entered in this State; and</p> <p>(2) termination of parental rights in compliance with the jurisdiction's laws shall have the same legal effect as termination of parental rights in this State.</p> <p>(d) This section may not be construed to require an individual to petition a court in this State for adoption of an adoptee if:</p> <p>(1) the individual adopted the adoptee in compliance with the laws of a jurisdiction other than a state; and</p> <p>(2) the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services verifies the validity of that adoption by granting, under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, 1 an IR-3 visa for the adoptee.</p>	<p>B. I. despite reasonable efforts as provided in § 5-316 of this subtitle, cannot be located;</p> <p>II. has not contacted the local department with custody of the child or the child for at least 180 days immediately before the filing of the petition; and</p> <p>III. fails to respond to a show-cause order served under § 5-334 of this subtitle;</p> <p>(2) the director of the local department with custody of the child consents; and</p> <p>(3) the child:</p> <p>(i) is represented by an attorney; and</p> <p>(ii) 1. if at least 10 years old, consents; or</p> <p>2. if under the age of 10 years, does not object.</p> <p>(b)(1)(i) In this subsection, "disability" means:</p> <p>1. a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities;</p> <p>2. a record of having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities; or</p> <p>3. being regarded as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities.</p> <p>(ii) "Disability" shall be construed in accordance with the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110-325.</p> <p>(2) A local department may not withhold consent for the sole reason that:</p> <p>(i) the race, religion, color, or national origin of a prospective adoptive parent differs from that of the child or parent; or</p> <p>(ii) a prospective adoptive parent has a disability.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-339 –Consent Procedures</b></p> <p>(a)(1) Consent of a parent to an adoption under this Part III of this subtitle may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a provision barring a petitioner from learning identifying information about the parent; and</li> <li>(ii) a waiver of the right to notice of further proceedings under this Part III of this subtitle.</li> </ul> <p>(2) Consent to adoption entered into before a judge on the record shall include a waiver of the revocation period.</p> <p>(3) Consent of a party to an adoption under this Part III of this subtitle is not valid unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the consent is given in a language that the party understands;</li> <li>(ii) if given in a language other than English, the consent:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. is given before a judge on the record; or</li> <li>2. is accompanied by the affidavit of a translator stating that the translation of the document of consent is accurate;</li> </ol> </li> <li>(iii) the consent names the child;</li> <li>(iv) the consent contains enough information to identify the prospective adoptive parent;</li> <li>(v) the party has received written notice or on-the-record notice of:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the revocation provisions in subsections (a)(2) and (b)(1) of this section;</li> <li>2. the search rights of adoptees and parents under § 5-359 of this subtitle and the search rights of adoptees, parents, and siblings under Subtitle 4B of this title; and</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>3. the right to file a disclosure veto under § 5-359 of this subtitle; and</p> <p>(vi) the consent is accompanied by an affidavit of counsel appointed under § 5-307(a) of this subtitle, stating that a parent who is a minor or has a disability consents knowingly and voluntarily.</p> <p>(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a parent may revoke consent to adoption under this Part III of this subtitle at any time within the later of:</p> <p>(i) 30 days after the parent signs the consent; or</p> <p>(ii) 30 days after the adoption petition is filed.</p> <p>(2) Consent to adoption under subsection (a)(2) of this section is irrevocable.</p> <p>(c) A local department may revoke consent to an adoption under this Part III of this subtitle at any time before a juvenile court enters an order of adoption under this Part III of this subtitle.</p> <p>(d) A child may revoke consent or object to an adoption under this Part III of this subtitle at any time before a juvenile court enters an order of adoption under this Part III of this subtitle.</p>
Massachusetts	<p><b>Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 210, § 1 – Nature of Adoption; District or Juvenile Court</b></p> <p>Section 1. A person of full age may petition the probate court in the county where he resides for leave to adopt as his child another person younger than himself, unless such other person is his or her wife or husband, or brother, sister, uncle or aunt, of the whole or half blood. A minor may likewise petition, or join in the petition of his or her wife or husband, for the adoption</p>	<p><b>Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 210, § 2 – Written Consent of Certain Persons; Form of Consent: Identification of Father</b></p> <p>Section 2. A decree of adoption shall not be made, except as provided in this chapter, without the written consent of the child to be adopted, if above the age of twelve; of the child's spouse, if any; of the lawful parents, who may be previous adoptive parents, or surviving parent; or of the mother only if the child was born out of wedlock and not previously adopted.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>of a natural child of one of the parties. If the petitioner has a husband or wife living, competent to join in the petition, such husband or wife shall join therein, and upon adoption the child shall in law be the child of both; provided, however, that the prayer of the petition may be granted although the spouse of the petitioner is not a party to the petition if the court finds: (i) the failure of the spouse to join in the petition or to consent to the adoption is excused by reason of prolonged unexplained absence, legal separation, prolonged separation, incapacity or circumstances constituting an unreasonable withholding of consent; (ii) the husband and wife are not in the process of an ongoing divorce; and (iii) the granting of the petition is in the best interests of the child. If a person not an inhabitant of this commonwealth desires to adopt a child residing here, the petition may be made to the probate court in the county where the child resides.</p> <p>The district or juvenile court may, if it appears necessary or convenient, exercise the powers authorized by this chapter, but only in respect to a pending proceeding before such district or juvenile court.</p> <p><b>Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 210, § 9 – Right of Child Adopted in Foreign State</b>  A person adopted in another state or country, in accordance with the laws thereof, shall upon proof of such fact be entitled in this commonwealth to the same rights of succession to property by grant, trust settlement, entail, devise, bequest, or by intestacy as he would have had if he had been adopted in the commonwealth.</p>	<p>A person whose consent is hereby required shall not be prevented from being the adoptive parent.</p> <p>Such written consent shall be executed no sooner than the fourth calendar day after the date of birth of the child to be adopted. It shall be attested and subscribed before a notary public in the presence of two competent witnesses, one of whom shall be selected by said person. The agency or person receiving custody shall act as guardian of the child until such time as a court of competent jurisdiction appoints a guardian or grants a petition for adoption. Execution of such consent shall be carried out in a manner which shall preserve privacy and confidentiality. A copy of said consent shall be filed with the department of children and families. A consent executed in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be final and irrevocable from date of execution.</p> <p>The form of such consent shall be as follows:  I, as the (relationship) of (name of child), age, of the sex, born in (place of birth), on (date of birth), do hereby voluntarily and unconditionally surrender (child) to the care and custody of (agency or person receiving custody) for the purpose of adoption or such other disposition as may be made by a court of competent jurisdiction. I waive notice of any legal proceeding affecting the custody, guardianship, adoption or other disposition of (child).  I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS SURRENDER IS FINAL AND CANNOT BE REVOKED.  /s/ (person giving consent)  On this day of (insert year), before me personally came and appeared and in my presence duly executed the foregoing</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>instrument, and (he, she) acknowledged to me that (he, she) executed the same as (his, her) free act and deed, fully cognizant of its irrevocability.</p> <p>Date</p> <p>State of</p> <p>Notary Public</p> <p>County of</p> <p>Signed by (name of person giving consent) as (his, her) freely executed consent in the presence of each of us, and of each other, who thereafter have hereunto signed our names as witnesses.</p> <p>/s/</p> <p>Address</p> <p>/s/</p> <p>Address</p> <p>Any surrender given outside of the commonwealth shall be valid for the purpose of this section if it was taken in accordance with laws of the state or the country where it was executed.</p> <p>If an agency or person receiving a child born out of wedlock for purposes of a subsequent adoption receives from the child's mother an executed consent form as prescribed by this chapter, and no person has acknowledged paternity of the child in accordance with chapter two hundred and nine C or has been adjudicated the father of the child by any court of competent jurisdiction, then the person or agency shall request that the mother voluntarily provide a sworn written statement, executed before a notary and in the presence of two competent witnesses, one of whom shall be selected by the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>mother, that identifies the child's father and his current or last known address. Any such statement shall be used solely for the purpose of notifying the person named as the father of the status of the child.</p> <p><b>Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 210, § 4 – Notice</b> Section 4. If the written consent required by section two is not submitted to the court with the petition, the court shall, except where the court under section three has determined that such consent and notice is not required, order notice by personal service upon the parties of an order of notice, in such form as shall be prescribed under section thirty of chapter two hundred and fifteen, or, if the parties are not found within this commonwealth, by publication of said order of notice once in each of three successive weeks in such newspaper as the court orders, the last publication to be seven days at least before the time appointed for the hearing, and the court may require additional notice and consent. But if such child is of unknown parentage and is a foundling, publication as herein set forth shall not be required; but notice of the petition shall be given to the department of children and families.</p>
Michigan	<p><b>Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.22 – Jurisdiction</b> The family division of the circuit court or, if the context requires, the court having jurisdiction over adoption in another state or county, has jurisdiction over adoption proceedings.</p> <p><b>Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.24 – Venue</b></p>	<p><b>Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.36 – Filing Proof of Service of Notice</b> (1) If a child is claimed to be born out of wedlock and the mother executes or proposes to execute a release or consent relinquishing her rights to the child or joins in a petition for adoption filed by her spouse, and the release or consent of the natural father cannot be obtained, the judge shall hold a hearing as soon as practical to determine whether the child was</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>An adoption petition shall be filed with the court of the county in which the petitioner resides, where the adoptee is found, or where the parent's parental rights were terminated or are pending termination. If both parents' parental rights were terminated at different times and in different courts, the petition shall be filed in the court of the county where parental rights were first terminated. If there has been a temporary placement of the child, the petition for adoption shall be filed with the court that received the report described in § 710.23d(2).</p> <p><b>Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.21b – Court Order or Decree Issued in Another Country</b>            A court order or decree establishing the relationship of parent and child by adoption and issued by a court in another country is presumed to be issued in accordance with the laws of that country and shall be recognized in this state. The rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the order or decree were issued by a court of this state.</p>	<p>born out of wedlock, to determine the identity of the father, and to determine or terminate the rights of the father as provided in this section and sections 37 and 39 of this chapter.</p> <p>(2) Proof of service of a notice of intent to release or consent or the putative father's verified acknowledgment of notice of intent to release or consent shall be filed with the court, if the notice was given to the putative father. The court shall request the vital records division of the department to send to the court a copy of any notice of intent to claim paternity of the particular child that the division has received.</p> <p>(3) Notice of the hearing shall be served upon the following:</p> <p>(a) A putative father who has timely filed a notice of intent to claim paternity as provided in section 33 or 34 of this chapter.</p> <p>(b) A putative father who was not served a notice of intent to release or consent at least 30 days before the expected date of confinement specified in the notice of intent to release or consent.</p> <p>(c) Any other male who was not served according to section 34(1) of this chapter with a notice of intent to release or consent and who the court has reason to believe may be the child's father.</p> <p>(4) The notice of hearing shall inform the putative father that his failure to appear at the hearing constitutes a denial of his interest in custody of the child, which denial shall result in the court's termination of his rights to the child.</p> <p>(5) Proof of service of the notice of hearing required by subsection (3) shall be filed with the court. A verified acknowledgment of service by the party to be served is proof of personal service. Notice of the hearing shall not be required</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>if the putative father is present at the hearing. A waiver of notice of hearing by a person entitled to receive it is sufficient.</p> <p>(6) The court shall receive evidence as to the identity of the father of the child. In lieu of the mother's live testimony, the court shall receive an affidavit or a verified written declaration from the mother as evidence of the identity and whereabouts of the child's father. If the court determines that the affidavit or verified written declaration is insufficient, the court shall allow amendment of the affidavit or verified written declaration. If the court determines that the amendment of the affidavit or verified written declaration is insufficient, the court may receive live testimony from the mother. Based upon the evidence received, the court shall enter a finding identifying the father or declaring that the identity of the father cannot be determined.</p> <p>(7) If the court finds that the child's father is a person who did not receive either a timely notice of intent to release or consent according to section 34(1) of this chapter or a notice required under subsection (3), and who has neither waived his right to notice of hearing nor is present at the hearing, the court shall adjourn further proceedings until that person is served with a notice of hearing.</p> <p><b>Mich. Comp. Laws § 710.43 – Consent to Adoption; Persons Authorized to Execute</b></p> <p>(1) Subject to this section and sections 44 and 51 of this chapter, consent to adoption of a child shall be executed:</p> <p>(a) By each parent of a child to be adopted or the surviving parent, except under the following circumstances:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(i) The rights of the parent have been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction.</p> <p>(ii) The child has been released for the purpose of adoption to a child placing agency or to the department.</p> <p>(iii) A guardian of the child has been appointed.</p> <p>(iv) A guardian of a parent has been appointed.</p> <p>(v) A parent having legal custody of the child is married to the petitioner.</p> <p>(b) By the authorized representative of the department or his or her designee or of a child placing agency to whom the child has been permanently committed by an order of the court.</p> <p>(c) By the court or by a tribal court having permanent custody of the child.</p> <p>(d) By the authorized representative of the department or his or her designee or of a child placing agency to whom the child has been released.</p> <p>(e) By the guardian of the child, subject to subsection (5), if a guardian has been appointed.</p> <p>(f) By the guardian of a parent, subject to subsection (6), if a guardian has been appointed.</p> <p>(g) By the authorized representative of a court or child placing agency of another state or country that has authority to consent to adoption.</p> <p>(2) If the child to be adopted is over 14 years of age, that child's consent is necessary before the court may enter an order of adoption.</p> <p>(3) If the individual to be adopted is an adult, the individual's consent is necessary before the court may enter an order of adoption, but consent by any other individual is not required.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(4) If the parent of the child to be adopted is an unemancipated minor, that parent's consent is not valid unless a parent, guardian, or guardian ad litem of that minor parent has also executed the consent.</p> <p>(5) The guardian of the child to be adopted shall not execute a consent to that child's adoption according to subsection (1) unless the guardian has first obtained authority to execute the consent from the court that appointed the guardian.</p> <p>(6) The guardian of a parent shall not execute a consent to the adoption of the parent's child according to subsection (1) unless the guardian has first obtained authority to execute the consent from the court that appointed the guardian. The consent shall have the same effect as if the consent were executed by the parent.</p> <p>(7) If the petitioner for adoption is married to the parent having legal custody of the child and that parent has joined the petitioner in filing the petition for adoption, that parent shall not execute a consent to the adoption. The consent of the parent who does not have legal custody of the child and whose parental rights have not been terminated shall be executed before the court may enter an order of adoption under section 56 of this chapter.</p>
Minnesota	<p><b>Minn. Ann. Stat. § 259.23</b> – <i>Juvenile Court, Jurisdiction</i>            Subdivision 1. <i>Venue.</i> (a) The juvenile court shall have original jurisdiction in all adoption proceedings. The proper venue for an adoption proceeding shall be the county of the petitioner's residence, except as provided in section 260C.621, subdivision 2, for the adoption of children under the guardianship of the</p>	<p><b>Minn. Ann. Stat. § 259.24</b> – <i>Consents</i>            Subdivision 1. <i>Exceptions.</i>            (a) No child shall be adopted without the consent of the child's parents and the child's guardian, if there is one, except consent is not required of a parent:            (1) who is not entitled to notice of the proceedings;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>commissioner. Transfer of venue under this paragraph shall be according to the rules of adoption court procedure.</p> <p>(b) In all adoptions under this chapter, if the petitioner has acquired a new residence in another county and requests a transfer of the adoption proceeding, the court in which an adoption is initiated may transfer the proceeding to the appropriate court in the new county of residence if the transfer is in the best interests of the person to be adopted. The court transfers the proceeding by ordering a continuance and by forwarding to the court administrator of the appropriate court a certified copy of all papers filed, together with an order of transfer.</p> <p><b>Minn. Ann. Stat. § 260C.621 – Jurisdiction and Venue</b>            Subdivision 1. <i>Jurisdiction.</i> (a) The juvenile court has original jurisdiction for all adoption proceedings involving the adoption of a child under the guardianship of the commissioner, including when the commissioner approves the placement of the child through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children under section 260.851 for adoption outside the state of Minnesota and an adoption petition is filed in Minnesota.            (b) The receiving state also has jurisdiction to conduct an adoption proceeding for a child under the guardianship of the commissioner when the adopting home was approved by the receiving state through the interstate compact.            Subd. 2. <i>Venue.</i> (a) Venue for the adoption of a child committed to the guardianship of the commissioner of human services shall be the court conducting reviews in the matter according to section 260C.607.</p>	<p>(2) who has abandoned the child and upon whom notice has been served as required by section 259.49; or            (3) whose parental rights to the child have been terminated by a juvenile court or who has lost custody of a child through a final commitment of the juvenile court or through a decree in a prior adoption proceeding.</p> <p>(b) If there is no parent or guardian qualified to consent to the adoption, the agency having authority to place a child for adoption pursuant to section 259.25, subdivision 1, shall have the exclusive right to consent to the adoption of the child. The agency shall make every effort to place siblings together for adoption.</p> <p>Subd. 2. <i>Parents, guardian.</i>            If an unmarried parent who consents to the adoption of a child is under 18 years of age, the consent of the minor parent's parents or guardian, if any, also shall be required; if either or both the parents are disqualified for any of the reasons enumerated in subdivision 1, the consent of such parent shall be waived, and the consent of the guardian only shall be sufficient; and, if there be neither parent nor guardian qualified to give such consent, the consent may be given by the commissioner. The agency overseeing the adoption proceedings shall ensure that the minor parent is offered the opportunity to consult with an attorney, a member of the clergy, a physician, or an advanced practice registered nurse before consenting to adoption of the child. The advice or opinion of the attorney, clergy member, physician, or advanced practice registered nurse shall not be binding on the minor parent. If the minor parent cannot afford the cost of consulting</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>Minn. Ann. Stat. § 259.60 – Intercountry Adoptions</b>                      Subd. 1. <i>Validity of intercountry adoption.</i> The adoption of a child by a resident of this state under the laws of a foreign country is valid and binding under the laws of this state if the validity of the foreign adoption has been verified by the granting of an IR-3 visa for the child by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.                      Subd. 2. <i>Amended birth record; procedure and order; decree recognizing adoption.</i>                      (a) Under the procedures in paragraph (b), a person, whose adoption of a child under the laws of a foreign country is valid in this state under subdivision 1, may petition the district court in the county where the adoptive parent resides for a decree confirming and recognizing the adoption, changing the child's legal name, if requested in the petition, and authorizing the commissioner of health to issue a new birth record for the child under section 144.218, subdivision 2.                      Subd. 3. <i>Postadoption report.</i> If a child is adopted by a resident of this state under the laws of a foreign country or if a resident of this state brings a child into the state under an IR-3 or IR-4 visa issued for the child by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the postadoption reporting requirements of the country in which the child was adopted, applicable at the time of the child's adoption, must be given full faith and credit by the courts of this state and apply to the adoptive placement of that child.</p>	<p>with an attorney, a member of the clergy, a physician, or an advanced practice registered nurse, the county shall bear that cost.                      Subd. 2a. <i>Time of consent; notice of intent to consent to adoption.</i>                      (a) Not sooner than 72 hours after the birth of a child and not later than 60 days after the child's placement in a prospective adoptive home, a person whose consent is required under this section shall execute a consent.                      (b) Unless all birth parents from whom consent is required under this section are involved in making the adoptive placement and intend to consent to the adoption, a birth parent who intends to execute a consent to an adoption must give notice to the child's other birth parent of the intent to consent to the adoption prior to or within 72 hours following the placement of the child, if the other birth parent's consent to the adoption is required under subdivision 1. The birth parent who receives notice shall have 60 days after the placement of the child to either consent or refuse to consent to the adoption. If the birth parent who receives notice fails to take either of these actions, that parent shall be deemed to have irrevocably consented to the child's adoption. The notice provisions of chapter 260C and the rules of juvenile protection procedure shall apply to both parents when the consent to adopt is executed under section 260C.515, subdivision 3.                      (c) When notice is required under this subdivision, it shall be provided to the other birth parent according to the Rules of Civil Procedure for service of a summons and complaint.                      Subd. 3. <i>Child.</i></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>When the child to be adopted is over 14 years of age, the child's written consent to adoption by a particular person is also necessary.</p> <p>Subd. 4. <i>Adult adoptee.</i> In the adoption of an adult, the adult's written consent only shall be required.</p> <p>Subd. 5. <i>Execution.</i> All consents to an adoption shall be in writing, executed before two competent witnesses, and acknowledged by the consenting party. All consents by a parent to adoption under this chapter:</p> <p>(1) shall contain notice to the parent of the substance of subdivision 6a, providing for the right to withdraw consent unless the parent will not have the right to withdraw consent; and</p> <p>(2) shall contain the following written notice in all capital letters at least one-eighth inch high: "The agency responsible for supervising the adoptive placement of the child will submit your consent to adoption to the court. If you are consenting to adoption by the child's stepparent, the consent will be submitted to the court by the petitioner in your child's adoption. The consent itself does not terminate your parental rights. Parental rights to a child may be terminated only by an adoption decree or by a court order terminating parental rights. Unless the child is adopted or your parental rights are terminated, you may be asked to support the child."</p> <p>Consents shall be filed in the adoption proceedings at any time before the matter is heard provided, however, that a consent</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>executed and acknowledged outside of this state, either in accordance with the law of this state or in accordance with the law of the place where executed, is valid.</p> <p><b>Minn. Ann. Stat. § 259.49 – Notice, Hearing on Petition</b>            Subdivision 1. <i>To whom given.</i> Except as provided in subdivision 3, and subject to section 259.52, notice of the hearing upon a petition to adopt a child must be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the guardian, if any, of a child;</li> <li>(b) the parent of a child if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the person's name appears on the child's birth record, as a parent;</li> <li>(2) the person has substantially supported the child;</li> <li>(3) the person either was married to the person designated on the birth record as the natural mother within the 325 days before the child's birth or married that person within the ten days after the child's birth;</li> <li>(4) the person is openly living with the child or the person designated on the birth record as the natural mother of the child, or both;</li> <li>(5) the person has been adjudicated the child's parent;</li> <li>(6) the person has filed a paternity action within 30 days after the child's birth and the action is still pending;</li> <li>(7) the person and the mother of the child have signed a declaration of parentage under section 257.34 before August 1, 1995, which has not been revoked or a recognition of parentage under section 257.75, which has not been revoked or vacated; or</li> <li>(8) the person:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(i) is not entitled to notice under clauses (1) to (7);</p> <p>(ii) has registered with the fathers' adoption registry;</p> <p>(iii) after receiving a fathers' adoption registry notice, has timely filed an intent to retain parental rights with entry of appearance form under section 259.52; and</p> <p>(iv) within 30 days of receipt of the fathers' adoption registry notice has initiated a paternity action, unless, for good cause shown, he is unable to do so within the 30 days; a paternity action must be initiated by the putative father in district court; application to the public authority for paternity establishment services does not constitute initiation of an action; and</p> <p>(c) the child's tribe pursuant to section 260.761, subdivision 3, if the child is an Indian child.</p> <p>Notice under this section need not be given to a person listed in this subdivision whose parental rights have been terminated. The notice of the hearing may be waived by a parent, guardian, or other interested party by a writing executed before two competent witnesses and duly acknowledged. The waiver must be filed in the adoption proceedings before the matter is heard.</p> <p>Subd. 2. <i>Service.</i> Such notice shall be served, within or without the state, at least 14 days before the date of the hearing, in the manner provided by law for the service of a summons in a civil action. If personal service cannot be made, the court may order service by publication. The petitioner or petitioner's attorneys shall make an affidavit setting forth the effort that was made to locate the parents, and the names and addresses of the known kin of the child. If satisfied that the parents cannot be served personally, the court shall order three weeks published notice</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>to be given, the last publication to be at least ten days before the time set for the hearing. Where service is made by publication the court may cause such further notice to be given as it deems just. If, in the course of the proceedings, the court shall consider that the interests of justice will be promoted it may continue the proceeding and require that such notice as it deems proper shall be served on any person. In the course of proceedings the court may enter reasonable orders for the protection of the child if the court determines that the best interests of the child require such an order.</p> <p>Subd. 3. <i>Service, guardian only.</i> Where a child is adjudicated a dependent or neglected child and a court of competent jurisdiction has appointed a permanent guardian, or where a juvenile court has appointed a guardian after terminating parental rights, no notice of hearing need be given to the parents.</p>
Mississippi	<p><b>MS Code § 93-17-3 – Jurisdiction</b>            (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a court of this state has jurisdiction over a proceeding for the adoption or readoption of a minor commenced under this chapter if:            (a) Immediately before commencement of the proceeding, the minor lived in this state with a parent, a guardian, a prospective adoptive parent or another person acting as parent, for at least six (6) consecutive months, excluding periods of temporary absence, or, in the case of a minor under six (6) months of age, lived in this state from soon after birth with any of those individuals and there is available in this state substantial evidence concerning the minor’s present or future care;</p>	<p><b>MS Code § 93-17-5 – Parties to Adoption Proceeding; Consent of Child</b>            (1) There shall be made parties to the proceeding by process or by the filing therein of a consent to the adoption proposed in the petition, which consent shall be duly sworn to or acknowledged and executed only by the following persons, but not before seventy-two (72) hours after the birth of the child:            (a) The parents, or parent, if only one (1) parent, though either be under the age of twenty-one (21) years;            (b) If both parents are dead, then any two (2) adult kin of the child within the third degree computed according to the civil law; if one of such kin is in possession of the child, he or she</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(b) Immediately before commencement of the proceeding, the prospective adoptive parent lived in this state for at least six (6) consecutive months, excluding periods of temporary absence, and there is available in this state substantial evidence concerning the minor’s present or future care;</p> <p>(c) The agency that placed the minor for adoption is licensed in this state and it is in the best interest of the minor that a court of this state assume jurisdiction because:</p> <p>(i) The minor and the minor’s parents, or the minor and the prospective adoptive parent, have a significant connection with this state; and</p> <p>(ii) There is available in this state substantial evidence concerning the minor’s present or future care;</p> <p>(d) The minor and the prospective adoptive parent are physically present in this state and the minor has been abandoned or it is necessary in an emergency to protect the minor because the minor has been subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse or is otherwise neglected;</p> <p>(e) It appears that no other state would have jurisdiction under prerequisites substantially in accordance with paragraphs (a) through (d), or another state has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the ground that this state is the more appropriate forum to hear a petition for adoption of the minor, and it is in the best interest of the minor that a court of this state assume jurisdiction; or</p> <p>(f) The child has been adopted in a foreign country, the agency that placed the minor for adoption is licensed in this state, and it is in the best interest of the child to be readopted in a court of this state having jurisdiction.</p>	<p>shall join in the petition or be made a party to the suit; or</p> <p>(c) The guardian ad litem of an abandoned child, upon petition showing that the names of the parents of the child are unknown after diligent search and inquiry by the petitioners. In addition to the above, there shall be made parties to any proceeding to adopt a child, either by process or by the filing of a consent to the adoption proposed in the petition, the following:</p> <p>(i) Those persons having physical custody of the child, except persons who are acting as foster parents as a result of placement with them by the Department of Human Services of the State of Mississippi.</p> <p>(ii) Any person to whom custody of the child may have been awarded by a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi.</p> <p>(iii) The agent of the county Department of Human Services of the State of Mississippi that has placed a child in foster care, either by agreement or by court order.</p> <p>(2) The consent may also be executed and filed by the duly authorized officer or representative of a home to whose care the child has been delivered. The child shall join the petition by the child’s next friend.</p> <p>(3) If consent is not filed, process shall be had upon the parties as provided by law for process in person or by publication, if they are nonresidents of the state or are not found therein after diligent search and inquiry, the court or chancellor in vacation may fix a date in termtime or in vacation to which process may be returnable and shall have power to proceed in termtime or vacation. In any event, if the child is more than fourteen (14)</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(2) A court of this state may not exercise jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption of a minor if, at the time the petition for adoption is filed, a proceeding concerning the custody or adoption of the minor is pending in a court of another state exercising jurisdiction substantially in conformity with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act or this section unless the proceeding is stayed by the court of the other state.</p> <p>(3) If a court of another state has issued a decree or order concerning the custody of a minor who may be the subject of a proceeding for adoption in this state, a court of this state may not exercise jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption of the minor unless:</p> <p>(a) The court of this state finds that the court of the state which issued the decree or order:</p> <p>(i) Does not have continuing jurisdiction to modify the decree or order under jurisdictional prerequisites substantially in accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act or has declined to assume jurisdiction to modify the decree or order; or</p> <p>(ii) Does not have jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption substantially in conformity with subsection (1)(a) through (d) or has declined to assume jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption; and</p> <p>(b) The court of this state has jurisdiction over the proceeding.</p> <p>(4) Any person may be adopted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter in termtime or in vacation by an unmarried adult or by a married person whose spouse joins in the petition. The adoption shall be by sworn petition filed in the chancery court of the county in which the adopting</p>	<p>years of age, a consent to the adoption, sworn to or acknowledged by the child, shall also be required or personal service of process shall be had upon the child in the same manner and in the same effect as if the child were an adult.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>petitioner or petitioners reside or in which the child to be adopted resides or was born, or was found when it was abandoned or deserted, or in which the home is located to which the child has been surrendered by a person authorized to so do. The petition shall be accompanied by a doctor’s or nurse practitioner’s certificate showing the physical and mental condition of the child to be adopted and a sworn statement of all property, if any, owned by the child. In addition, the petition shall be accompanied by affidavits of the petitioner or petitioners stating the amount of the service fees charged by any adoption agencies or adoption facilitators used by the petitioner or petitioners and any other expenses paid by the petitioner or petitioners in the adoption process as of the time of filing the petition. If the doctor’s or nurse practitioner’s certificate indicates any abnormal mental or physical condition or defect, the condition or defect shall not, in the discretion of the chancellor, bar the adoption of the child if the adopting parent or parents file an affidavit stating full and complete knowledge of the condition or defect and stating a desire to adopt the child, notwithstanding the condition or defect. The court shall have the power to change the name of the child as a part of the adoption proceedings. The word “child” in this section shall be construed to refer to the person to be adopted, though an adult.</p> <p>(5) Adoption by couples of the same gender is prohibited.</p> <p>(6) No person may be placed in the home of or adopted by the prospective adopting parties before a court-ordered or voluntary home study is satisfactorily completed by a licensed adoption agency, a licensed, experienced social worker</p>	

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>approved by the chancery court or by the Department of Human Services on the prospective adoptive parties if required by Section 93-17-11.</p> <p>(7) No person may be adopted by a person or persons who reside outside the State of Mississippi unless the provisions of the Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (Section 43-18-1 et seq.) have been complied with. In such cases Forms 100A, 100B (if applicable) and evidence of Interstate Compact for Placement of Children approval shall be added to the permanent adoption record file within one (1) month of the placement, and a minimum of two (2) post-placement reports conducted by a licensed child-placing agency shall be provided to the Mississippi Department of Human Services Interstate Compact for Placement of Children office.</p> <p>(8) No person may be adopted unless the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) have been complied with, if applicable. When applicable, proof of compliance shall be included in the court adoption file prior to finalization of the adoption. If not applicable, a written statement or paragraph in the petition for adoption shall be included in the adoption petition stating that the provisions of ICWA do not apply before finalization.</p> <p>(9) The readoption of a child who has automatically acquired United States citizenship following an adoption in a foreign country and who possesses a Certificate of Citizenship in accordance with the Child Citizenship Act, CAA, Public Law 106-395, may be given full force and effect in a readoption proceeding conducted by a court of competent jurisdiction in</p>	

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>this state by compliance with the Mississippi Registration of Foreign Adoptions Act, Article 9 of this chapter.</p>	
<p>Missouri</p>	<p><b>MO Rev Stat § 453.010</b> – <i>Petition for Permission to Adopt, Venue, Jurisdiction – No Denial or Delay in Placement of Child Based on Residence or Domicile –Expedited Placement, When</i></p> <p>1. Any person desiring to adopt another person as his or her child shall petition the juvenile division of the circuit court of the county in which:</p> <p>(1) The person seeking to adopt resides;</p> <p>(2) The child sought to be adopted was born;</p> <p>(3) The child is located at the time of the filing of the petition; or</p> <p>(4) Either birth person resides.</p> <p>2. A petition to adopt shall not be dismissed or denied on the grounds that the petitioner is not domiciled or does not reside in any of the venues set forth in subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of subsection 1 of this section.</p> <p>3. If the person sought to be adopted is a child who is under the prior and continuing jurisdiction of a court pursuant to the provision of chapter 211, any person desiring to adopt such person as his or her child shall petition the juvenile division of the circuit court which has jurisdiction over the child for permission to adopt such person as his or her child. Upon receipt of a motion from the petitioner and consent of the receiving court, the juvenile division of the circuit court which has jurisdiction over the child may transfer jurisdiction to the juvenile division of a circuit court within any of the alternative venues set forth in subsection 1 of this section.</p>	<p><b>MO Rev Stat § 453.030</b> – <i>Approval of Court Required — How Obtained, consent of child and parent required, when — validity of consent — forms, developed by department, contents — court appointment of attorney, when.</i></p> <p>1. In all cases the approval of the court of the adoption shall be required and such approval shall be given or withheld as the welfare of the person sought to be adopted may, in the opinion of the court, demand.</p> <p>2. The written consent of the person to be adopted shall be required in all cases where the person sought to be adopted is fourteen years of age or older, except where the court finds that such child has not sufficient mental capacity to give the same. In a case involving a child under fourteen years of age, the guardian ad litem shall ascertain the child's wishes and feelings about his or her adoption by conducting an interview or interviews with the child, if appropriate based on the child's age and maturity level, which shall be considered by the court as a factor in determining if the adoption is in the child's best interests.</p> <p>3. With the exceptions specifically enumerated in section 453.040, when the person sought to be adopted is under the age of eighteen years, the written consent of the following persons shall be required and filed in and made a part of the files and record of the proceeding:</p> <p>(1) The mother of the child;</p> <p>(2) Any man who:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>4. If the petitioner has a spouse living and competent to join in the petition, such spouse may join therein, and in such case the adoption shall be by them jointly. If such a spouse does not join the petition the court in its discretion may, after a hearing, order such joinder, and if such order is not complied with may dismiss the petition.</p> <p><b>MO Rev Stat § 453.170 – Adoption Under Laws of Other State or Countries, Requirements, Effect</b></p> <p>1. When an adoption occurs pursuant to the laws of other states of the United States, Missouri shall, from the date of adoption hold the adopted person to be for every purpose the lawful child of its parent or parents by adoption as fully as though born to them in lawful wedlock, and such adoption shall have the same force and effect as adoption pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, including all inheritance rights.</p> <p>2. When an adoption occurs in a foreign country and the adopted child has migrated to the United States with the permission of the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services, this state shall recognize the adoption. The department of health and senior services, upon receipt of proof of adoption as required in subsection 7 of section 193.125, shall issue a birth certificate for the adopted child upon request on forms prescribed and furnished by the state registrar pursuant to section 193.125.</p>	<p>(a) Is presumed to be the father pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 1 of section 210.822; or</p> <p>(b) Has filed an action to establish his paternity in a court of competent jurisdiction no later than fifteen days after the birth of the child and has served a copy of the petition on the mother in accordance with section 506.100; or</p> <p>(c) Filed with the putative father registry pursuant to section 192.016 a notice of intent to claim paternity or an acknowledgment of paternity either prior to or within fifteen days after the child's birth, and has filed an action to establish his paternity in a court of competent jurisdiction no later than fifteen days after the birth of the child; and</p> <p>(3) The child's current adoptive parents or other legally recognized mother and father.</p> <p>Upon request by the petitioner and within one business day of such request, the clerk of the local court shall verify whether such written consents have been filed with the court.</p> <p>4. The written consent required in subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection 3 of this section may be executed before or after the birth of the child or before or after the commencement of the adoption proceedings, and shall be executed in front of a judge or acknowledged before a notary public. If consent is executed in front of a judge, it shall be the duty of the judge to advise the consenting birth parent of the consequences of the consent. In lieu of such acknowledgment, the signature of the person giving such written consent shall be witnessed by the signatures of at least two adult persons whose signatures and addresses shall be plainly written thereon. The two adult witnesses shall not be the prospective adoptive parents or any</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>attorney representing a party to the adoption proceeding other than the attorney representing the party signing the consent. The notary public or witnesses shall verify the identity of the party signing the consent. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a properly executed written consent under this subsection shall be considered irrevocable.</p> <p>5. The written consent required in subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section by the birth mother shall not be executed anytime before the child is forty-eight hours old. Such written consent shall be executed in front of a judge or acknowledged before a notary public. If consent is executed in front of a judge, it shall be the duty of the judge to advise the consenting party of the consequences of the consent. In lieu of acknowledgment before a notary public, the signature of the person giving such written consent shall be witnessed by the signatures of at least two adult persons who are present at the execution whose signatures and addresses shall be plainly written thereon and who determine and certify that the consent is knowingly and freely given. The two adult witnesses shall not be the prospective adoptive parents or any attorney representing a party to the adoption proceeding other than the attorney representing the party signing the consent. The notary public or witnesses shall verify the identity of the party signing the consent.</p> <p>6. A consent is final when executed, unless the consenting party, prior to a final decree of adoption, alleges and proves by clear and convincing evidence that the consent was not freely and voluntarily given. The burden of proving the consent was not freely and voluntarily given shall rest with the consenting</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>party. Consents in all cases shall have been executed not more than six months prior to the date the petition for adoption is filed.</p> <p>7. A consent form shall be developed through rules and regulations promulgated by the department of social services. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536. If a written consent is obtained after August 28, 1997, but prior to the development of a consent form by the department and the written consent complies with the provisions of subsection 8 of this section, such written consent shall be deemed valid.</p> <p>8. However, the consent form must specify that:</p> <p>(1) The birth parent understands the importance of identifying all possible fathers of the child and may provide the names of all such persons; and</p> <p>(2) The birth parent understands that if he denies paternity, but consents to the adoption, he waives any future interest in the child.</p> <p>9. The written consent to adoption required by subsection 3 and executed through procedures set forth in subsection 5 of this section shall be valid and effective even though the parent consenting was under eighteen years of age, if such parent was represented by a guardian ad litem, at the time of the execution thereof.</p> <p>10. Where the person sought to be adopted is eighteen years of age or older, his or her written consent alone to his or her adoption shall be sufficient.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>11. A birth parent, including a birth parent less than eighteen years of age, shall have the right to legal representation and payment of any reasonable legal fees incurred throughout the adoption process. In addition, the court may appoint an attorney to represent a birth parent if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) A birth parent requests representation;</li> <li>(2) The court finds that hiring an attorney to represent such birth parent would cause a financial hardship for the birth parent; and</li> <li>(3) The birth parent is not already represented by counsel.</li> </ul> <p>12. Except in cases where the court determines that the adoptive parents are unable to pay reasonable attorney fees and appoints pro bono counsel for the birth parents, the court shall order the costs of the attorney fees incurred pursuant to subsection 11 of this section to be paid by the prospective adoptive parents or the child-placing agency.</p> <p>13. The court shall receive and acknowledge a written consent to adoption properly executed by a birth parent under this section when such consent is in the best interests of the child.</p> <p><b>MO Rev Stat § 453.060 – Service on Parties, How Accomplished — Petitioners' Names Not to Appear on Copy of Petition Served with Summons, When — Right of Appeal — Waiver of Service — Putative Father Unknown, Procedure</b></p> <p>1. A writ of summons and a copy of the petition shall be served on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Any person, agency, organization or institution whose consent to the adoption is required by law unless such consent is filed in court;</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(2) Any person whose consent to the adoption, according to the allegation of the petition for adoption, is not required for the reasons set forth in subdivision (6) or (7) of section 453.040;</p> <p>(3) Any person, agency, organization or institution, within or without the state, having custody of the child sought to be adopted under a decree of a court of competent jurisdiction even though its consent to the adoption is not required by law;</p> <p>(4) The legally appointed guardian of the child;</p> <p>(5) Any person adjudicated by a court of this state or another state, a territory of the United States or another country to be the father of the child;</p> <p>(6) Any person who has timely filed a notice of intent to claim paternity of the child pursuant to section 192.016 or an acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to section 193.087.</p> <p>2. Except as provided in this section and section 453.014, it is not necessary to serve any person, agency, organization or institution whose consent is not required pursuant to the provisions of sections 453.030 to 453.050.</p> <p>3. If service of summons cannot be made in the manner prescribed in section 506.150, then the service shall be made by mail or publication as provided in section 506.160.</p> <p>4. Upon service, whether personal or constructive, the court may act upon the petition without the consent of any party, except that of a parent whose consent is required by sections 453.030 to 453.050, and the judgment is binding on all parties so served. Any such party has the right to appeal from the judgment in the manner and form provided by the civil code of Missouri.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>5. In all cases where the putative father is unknown, a search of the Missouri putative father registry shall be conducted to determine if a man has filed or been registered with the registry. If such a man is discovered, service shall be carried out according to the provisions of this section.</p> <p>6. Upon request, the court may order that the writ of summons and copy of the petition required by this section may be served without the names and addresses of the petitioners when the court deems it to be in the best interests of the child.</p>
<p>Montana</p>	<p><b>MT ST 42-1-104 – Venue</b>            (1) Proceedings for adoption must be brought in the district court of the county where the petitioners reside.            (2) Petitions for appointment of a confidential intermediary may be filed:            (a) in the county where the decree of adoption was issued;            (b) in the county of residence of the petitioner; or            (c) if the petitioner resides out of state, in any county.</p> <p><b>MT ST 42-2-101 – Recognition of Adoption in Another Jurisdiction</b>            Recognition of adoption in another jurisdiction. (1) A decree or order of adoption has the same effect as a decree or order of adoption issued by a court of this state if the decree or order is:            (a) issued by a court of any other state that is entitled to full faith and credit in this state; or            (b) entered by a court or administrative entity in another country acting pursuant to:            (i) that country's law; or</p>	<p><b>MT ST 42-2-301 – Consent Required</b>            An adoption of a child may be decreed when written consents to adoption have been executed by:            (1) the birth mother;            (2) the husband of the birth mother if the husband is the presumed father of the child under 40-6-105;            (3) any other person whose parental rights have been established by a court;            (4) the department or an agency that has custody of the child and the authority to place the child for adoption;            (5) the legal guardian of the child if both parents are dead or their rights have been judicially terminated and the guardian has authority by order of the court appointing the guardian to consent to the adoption;            (6) the child, either in writing or in court, if the child is 12 years of age or older unless the child does not have the mental capacity to consent</p> <p><b>MT ST 42-2-303 – Form of Consent</b></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(ii) to any convention or treaty on intercountry adoption that the United States has ratified.</p> <p>(2) The rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state must be determined as though the decree or order were issued by a court of this state.</p> <p><b>MT ST 42-5-204 – Foreign Adoption Decrees</b> When the relationship of parent and child has been created by a decree of adoption of a court of any other state or country, the rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state must be determined pursuant to this title.</p>	<p>The consents required by 42-2-301 must be acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments or witnessed by a representative of the department, an agency, or the court</p> <p><b>MT ST 42-2-405 – Relinquishment by Minor Parent</b> (1) A parent who is a minor has the right to relinquish all rights to that minor parent's child and to consent to the child's adoption. The relinquishment is not subject to revocation by reason of minority. (2) In a direct parental placement adoption, a relinquishment and consent to adopt executed by a parent who is a minor is not valid unless the minor parent has been advised by an attorney who does not represent the prospective adoptive parent. Legal fees charged by the minor parent's attorney are an allowable expense that may be paid by prospective adoptive parents under 42-7-101, subject to the limitations in 42-7-102. (3) If in the court's discretion it is in the best interest of justice, the court may order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel to represent the minor parent.</p> <p><b>MT ST 42-2-408 – Time and Prerequisites for Execution of Relinquishment and Consents to Adoption</b> (1) A parent whose consent to the adoption of a child is required may execute a relinquishment and consent to adoption only after the following criteria have been met: (a) the child has been born;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(b) not less than 72 hours have elapsed since the birth of the child;</p> <p>(c) the parent has received counseling in accordance with 42-2-409; and</p> <p>(d) in a direct parental placement adoption:</p> <p>(i) the parent has been informed that fees for any required counseling and legal fees are allowable expenses that may be paid by a prospective adoptive parent under 42-7-101, subject to the limitations set in 42-7-102;</p> <p>(ii) if the parent is a minor, the parent has been represented by separate legal counsel; and</p> <p>(iii) prior to the execution of the relinquishment, the parent has been provided a copy of the preplacement evaluation prepared pursuant to 42-3-204 pertaining to the prospective adoptive parent.</p> <p>(2) A guardian may execute a relinquishment and consent to adopt at any time after being authorized by a court.</p> <p>(3) The department or a licensed child-placing agency may execute a consent for the adoption at any time before or during the hearing on the petition for adoption.</p> <p>(4) A child whose consent is required may execute a consent at any time before or during the hearing on the petition to adopt.</p> <p>(5) Except as provided in this section, a relinquishment and consent to adopt must be a separate instrument executed before a notary public.</p> <p>(6) If the person from whom a relinquishment and consent to adopt is required is a member of the armed services or is in</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>prison, the relinquishment may be executed and acknowledged before any person authorized by law to administer oaths.</p> <p><b>MT ST 42-5-103 – Notice of Hearing</b></p> <p>(1) Upon the filing of a petition for adoption, notice of hearing must be served on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a person whose consent to adoption is required under 42-2-301;</li> <li>(b) the department or agency whose consent to adoption is required;</li> <li>(c) the spouse of the petitioner if the spouse has not joined in the petition;</li> <li>(d) a person who has revoked a consent or relinquishment or is attempting to have a consent or relinquishment set aside;</li> <li>(e) the child's guardian ad litem if the child has one; and</li> <li>(f) any other person named by the court to receive notice.</li> </ul> <p>(2) The notice must direct the person to appear in court at the time specified and to show cause why the petition should not be granted.</p> <p>(3) A notice of hearing is not required to be served on any party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) whose parental rights have been terminated in prior proceedings;</li> <li>(b) who waives notice in a relinquishment, consent, or other document signed by the party;</li> <li>(c) who has consented in writing to an adoption; or</li> <li>(d) whose consent to adoption is not required under 42-2-302.</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
Nebraska	<p><b>NE ST § 43-102</b> – <i>Petition Required; Decree; Adoptive Home Study, When Required; Jurisdiction; Filings</i></p> <p>Except as otherwise provided in the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, any person or persons desiring to adopt a minor child or an adult child shall file a petition for adoption signed and sworn to by the person or persons desiring to adopt. The consent or consents required by sections 43-104 and 43-105 or section 43-104.07, the documents required by section 43-104.07 or the documents required by sections 43-104.08 to 43-104.25, and a completed preplacement adoptive home study if required by section 43-107 shall be filed prior to the hearing required in section 43-103.</p> <p>The county court of the county in which the person or persons desiring to adopt a child reside has jurisdiction of adoption proceedings, except that if a separate juvenile court already has jurisdiction over the child to be adopted under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, such separate juvenile court has concurrent jurisdiction with the county court in such adoption proceeding. If a child to be adopted is a ward of any court or a ward of the state at the time of placement and at the time of filing an adoption petition, the person or persons desiring to adopt shall not be required to be residents of Nebraska. The petition and all other court filings for an adoption proceeding shall be filed with the clerk of the county court. The party shall state in the petition whether such party requests that the proceeding be heard by the county court or, in cases in which a separate juvenile court already has jurisdiction over the child to be adopted under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, such separate juvenile court. Such proceeding is considered a county court</p>	<p><b>NE ST § 43-103</b> – <i>Petition; Hearing; Notice</i></p> <p>Except as otherwise provided in the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, upon the filing of a petition for adoption the court shall fix a time for hearing the same. The hearing shall be held not less than four weeks nor more than eight weeks after the filing of such petition unless any party for good cause shown requests a continuance of the hearing or all parties agree to a continuance. The court may require notice of the hearing to be given to the child, if over fourteen years of age, to the natural parent or parents of the child, and to such other interested persons as the judge may, in the exercise of discretion, deem advisable, in the manner provided for service of a summons in a civil action. If the judge directs notice by publication, such notice shall be published three successive weeks in a legal newspaper of general circulation in such county.</p> <p><b>NE ST § 43-104</b> – <i>Adoption; Consent Required; Exceptions</i></p> <p>(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, no adoption shall be decreed unless written consents thereto are filed in the county court of the county in which the person or persons desiring to adopt reside or in the county court in which the separate juvenile court having jurisdiction over the custody of the child is located and the written consents are executed by (a) the minor child, if over fourteen years of age, or the adult child, (b) any district court, county court, or separate juvenile court in the State of Nebraska having jurisdiction of the custody of a minor child by virtue of proceedings had in any district court, county court, or separate juvenile court in the State of Nebraska or by</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>proceeding even if heard by a separate juvenile court judge and an order of the separate juvenile court in such adoption proceeding has the force and effect of a county court order. The testimony in an adoption proceeding heard before a separate juvenile court judge shall be preserved as in any other separate juvenile court proceeding.</p> <p>Except as set out in subdivisions (1)(b)(ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) of section 43-107, an adoption decree shall not be issued until at least six months after an adoptive home study has been completed by the Department of Health and Human Services or a licensed child placement agency.</p> <p><b>NE ST § 43-293 – Termination of Parental Rights; Effect; Adoption; Consent</b></p> <p>When the parental rights have been terminated under section 43-292 and the care of the juvenile is awarded to the Department of Health and Human Services, the department shall have authority to consent to the legal adoption of such juvenile and no other consent shall be required to authorize any court having jurisdiction to enter a legal decree of adoption of such juvenile. When the care of such juvenile is awarded to an individual or association and the parental rights have been terminated by the juvenile court, such individual or association may consent, only when authorized by order of such juvenile court, to the legal adoption of such juvenile and no other consent shall be required to authorize any court having jurisdiction to enter a legal decree of adoption of such juvenile. An order terminating the parent-juvenile relationship shall divest the parent and juvenile of all legal rights, privileges,</p>	<p>virtue of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, and (c) both parents of a child born in lawful wedlock if living, the surviving parent of a child born in lawful wedlock, the mother of a child born out of wedlock, or both the mother and father of a child born out of wedlock as determined pursuant to sections 43-104.08 to 43-104.25. On and after April 20, 2002, a written consent or relinquishment for adoption under this section shall not be valid unless signed at least forty-eight hours after the birth of the child.</p> <p>(2) Consent shall not be required of any parent who (a) has relinquished the child for adoption by a written instrument, (b) has abandoned the child for at least six months next preceding the filing of the adoption petition, (c) has been deprived of his or her parental rights to such child by the order of any court of competent jurisdiction, or (d) is incapable of consenting.</p> <p>(3) Consent shall not be required of a putative father who has failed to timely file (a) a Notice of Objection to Adoption and Intent to Obtain Custody pursuant to section 43-104.02 and, with respect to the absence of such filing, a certificate has been filed pursuant to section 43-104.04 or (b) a petition pursuant to section 43-104.05 for the adjudication of such notice and a determination of whether his consent to the adoption is required and the mother of the child has timely executed a valid relinquishment and consent to the adoption pursuant to such section.</p> <p>(4) Consent shall not be required of an adjudicated or putative father who is not required to consent to the adoption pursuant to section 43-104.22.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>duties, and obligations with respect to each other and the parents shall have no rights of inheritance with respect to such juvenile. The order terminating parental rights shall be final and may be appealed in the same manner as other final judgments of a juvenile court.</p>	<p><b>NE ST § 43-106</b> – <i>Consents; Signature; Witness; Acknowledgment; Certified Copy of Orders</i>                      Consents required to be given under sections 43-104 and 43-105, except under subdivision (1)(b) of section 43-104, must be acknowledged before an officer authorized to acknowledge deeds in this state and signed in the presence of at least one witness, in addition to the officer. Consents under subdivision (1)(b) of section 43-104 shall be shown by a duly certified copy of order of the court required to grant such consent.</p>
<p>Nevada</p>	<p><b>NV Rev Stat § 127.010</b> – <i>Jurisdiction of District Courts</i>                      Except if the child involved is subject to the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act, the district courts of the State have original jurisdiction in adoption proceedings.</p> <p><b>NV Rev Stat § 127.030</b> – <i>Who May Petition; Consent of Spouse Required Under Certain Circumstances</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any adult person or any two persons married to each other may petition the district court of any county in this state for leave to adopt a child.</li> <li>2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, a married person not lawfully separated from his or her spouse may not adopt a child without the consent of his or her spouse, if such spouse is capable of giving such consent.</li> <li>3. If a spouse consents to an adoption as described in subsection 2, such consent does not establish any parental rights or responsibilities on the part of the spouse unless he or she:</li> </ol>	<p><b>NV Rev Stat § 127.040</b> – <i>Written Consent to Adoption or for Relinquishment to Authorized Agency: Acknowledgement; When Consent Required</i></p> <p>(1) Except as provided in NRS 127.090, written consent to the specific adoption proposed by the petition or for relinquishment to an agency authorized to accept relinquishments acknowledged by the person or persons consenting, is required from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Both parents if both are living;</li> <li>(b) One parent if the other is dead; or</li> <li>(c) The guardian of the person of a child appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.</li> </ol> <p>2. Consent is not required of a parent who has been adjudged insane for 2 years if the court is satisfied by proof that such insanity is incurable.</p> <p><b>NV Rev Stat § 127.053</b> – <i>Consent to Adoption Requisites</i>                      No consent to a specific adoption executed in this State, or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(a) Has, in a writing filed with the court, specifically consented to:</p> <p>(1) Adopting the child; and</p> <p>(2) Establishing parental rights and responsibilities; and</p> <p>(b) Is named as an adoptive parent in the order or decree of adoption.</p> <p>4. The court shall not name a spouse who consents to an adoption as described in subsection 2 as an adoptive parent in an order or decree of adoption unless:</p> <p>(a) The spouse has filed a writing with the court as described in paragraph (a) of subsection 3; and</p> <p>(b) The home of the spouse is suitable for the child as determined by an investigation conducted pursuant to NRS 127.120 or 127.2805.</p> <p>5. The court may dispense with the requirement for the consent of a spouse who cannot be located after a diligent search or who is determined by the court to lack the capacity to consent. A spouse for whom the requirement was dispensed pursuant to this subsection must not be named as an adoptive parent in an order or decree of adoption.</p>	<p>executed outside this State for use in this State, is valid unless it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identifies the child to be adopted by name, if any, sex and date of birth.</li> <li>2. Is in writing and signed by the person consenting to the adoption as required in this chapter.</li> <li>3. Is acknowledged by the person consenting and signing the consent to adoption in the manner and form required for conveyances of real property.</li> <li>4. Contains, at the time of execution, the name of the person or persons to whom consent to adopt the child is given.</li> <li>5. Is attested by at least two competent, disinterested witnesses who subscribe their names to the consent in the presence of the person consenting. If neither the petitioner nor the spouse of a petitioner is related to the child within the third degree of consanguinity, then one of the witnesses must be a social worker employed by:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) An agency which provides child welfare services;</li> <li>(b) An agency licensed in this state to place children for adoption;</li> <li>(c) A comparable state or county agency of another state; or</li> <li>(d) An agency authorized under the laws of another state to place children for adoption, if the natural parent resides in that state.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>NV Rev Stat § 127.090 – When Consent Necessary</b>            Consent of a parent to an adoption shall not be necessary where parental rights have been terminated by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>NV Rev Stat § 127.123 – Notice of Filing of Petition to be Provided Legal Custodian or Guardian of Child</b>                      Notice of the filing of a petition for the adoption of a child must be provided to the legal custodian or guardian of the child if that custodian or guardian is a person other than the natural parent of the child.</p>
<p>New Hampshire</p>	<p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:15 – Jurisdiction, Venue, and Inconvenient Forum</b>                      I. The probate court has exclusive jurisdiction to grant a petition for adoption if the adoptee is present in the state or is in the legal custody or legal guardianship of an authorized agency located in the state at the time of filing of the petition. All of the requirements of RSA 170-A, if applicable, shall be met.                      II. The petition for adoption shall be filed in the probate court of the county in which the surrender has taken place, or in the probate court of the county where a guardianship under RSA 463 or a termination of parental rights under RSA 170-C proceeding has occurred related to the same adoptee.                      III. If the court finds that in the interest of substantial justice the matter should be heard in another court, the court may transfer the proceeding in whole or in part to another court within the state or other foreign jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:29 – Recognition of Foreign Decree Affecting Adoption</b></p>	<p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:5 – Persons Required to Execute a Surrender of Parental Rights</b>                      I. Unless excused pursuant to RSA 170-B:7, a surrender of parental rights shall be obtained from:                      (a) The birth mother, provided that if the birth mother is under 18 years, the court may require the assent of her parents or legal guardian;                      (b) The legal father, provided that if the legal father is under 18 years, the court may require the assent of his parents or legal guardian;                      (c) The birth father, provided that he was found to be entitled to notice and found to be entitled to the right to surrender his parental rights under RSA 170-B:6, and provided that if the birth father is under 18 years, the court may require the assent of his parents or legal guardian;                      (d) The legal guardian of the adoptee, if both birth parents are deceased, or if parental rights of the birth parent or parents have been surrendered or involuntarily terminated and the court has granted the guardian authority to surrender parental rights for an adoption; or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>Recognition of Foreign Decree Affecting Adoption. – A decree of court terminating the relationship of parent and child or establishing the relation by adoption issued pursuant to due process of law by a court of any other jurisdiction within or without the United States shall be recognized in this state and the rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the decree was issued by a court of this state.</p> <p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:27 – Foreign Adoptions; Readoption</b>                      II. The court may validate and issue an adoption decree for an adoption finalized in another jurisdiction, provided that evidence satisfactory to the court is produced to demonstrate the validity of such adoption. For the purposes of this paragraph, satisfactory evidence includes documentation from the United States Department of Justice or the United States Department of State that a legal adoption has been completed in another country. Probate court rules shall specify such acceptable documentation.</p>	<p>(e) The department or any licensed child-placing agency which through court action or surrender has been given the care, custody, and control of the adoptee including the right to surrender.</p> <p>II. If a surrendering parent is alleged to be incapacitated, incompetent, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or in any other way mentally deficient, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the interest of said parent.</p> <p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:9 – Procedure for Execution of Surrender</b>                      I. Any parent surrendering parental rights shall be represented by legal counsel who is not representing an intended adoptive parent or the agency, unless such representation is waived with approval of the court for good cause shown. This paragraph is not intended, however, to create a right to counsel to be provided by the state where the surrendering parent is indigent. Instead, this paragraph is intended to make clear that the petitioning party to the adoption shall provide the surrendering parent with legal counsel consistent with RSA 170-B:13, I unless waived by the court for good cause shown.                      II. A surrender of parental rights by a parent or guardian shall be executed by an instrument in writing, signed by the parent, in the presence and with the approval of the court of the county in which the parent resides. The court may designate a person or another court to take the parent's surrender on the court's behalf for good cause shown.                      III. Any parent surrendering parental rights shall file with the court information on the age and medical and personal backgrounds of the birth parents and child. Such personal</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>information may include but not be limited to ethnic and religious background, as is reasonably known. This requirement may be waived by the court for good cause shown.</p> <p>IV. If the parent surrendering is under 18 years of age, the court may require the assent of the minor's parents or legal guardian.</p> <p>V. If the parent does not reside in this state, such surrender may be taken pursuant to the laws of the state where the parent resides. A surrender executed pursuant to the laws of a state other than New Hampshire shall include an affidavit stating that the surrender was taken in accordance with the laws of that state and, where applicable, that the agency named has the authority to surrender the child for an adoption.</p> <p>VI. The identification of the intended adoptive parents need not be known or disclosed to the birth parent or legal guardian in the surrender.</p> <p>VII. A surrender executed by the department or by an agency, shall be in writing and signed by the executive head or other authorized representative, in the presence of a person authorized to take acknowledgments.</p> <p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:10 – Content of Surrender</b></p> <p>I. A surrender shall state that the individual executing the surrender document acknowledges that the individual's parental rights over the child will cease upon the court's approval of the surrender.</p> <p>II. A surrender shall further state:</p> <p>(a) An acknowledgement that after the surrender is executed in substantial compliance with 170-B:9, it is final and except under a circumstance stated in 170-B:12, may not be revoked or set</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>aside for any reason, including the failure of an adoptive parent to comply with an arrangement or understanding reached with the birth parent with respect to the post-surrender exchange of identifying or non-identifying information, communication, or contact.</p> <p>(b) An acknowledgement that the surrender will extinguish all parental obligations, except the obligation to pay any accrued unpaid child support.</p> <p>(c) That the person executing the surrender has:</p> <p>(1) Been informed of counseling services available through child placing agencies pursuant to RSA 170-E.</p> <p>(2) Been provided legal counsel, consistent with RSA 170-B:9, I and RSA 170-B:13, I, unless waived with approval of the court for good cause shown.</p> <p>(d) That the person executing the surrender has not received or been promised any money or anything of value for the surrender, except for payments permissible under 170-B:13.</p> <p>(e) Whether the person executing the surrender has been informed of the identity of the adoptive parents.</p> <p>(f) Whether the child is an Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Section 1901 et seq.</p> <p>(g) Whether the person who is surrendering wishes to be notified that a final decree of adoption has been entered.</p> <p>(h) That the person who is surrendering has read and understands the content of the document, any questions the person has asked have been answered by the court or its designee, and the person wishes the surrender to take effect.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>NH Rev Stat § 170-B:17 – Notice of Petition</b></p> <p>I. After the filing of a petition to adopt a minor, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition. Notice shall be given by the court to the petitioners, all guardians of the child, the person having legal custody of the child, and the guardian ad litem of any party. Notice shall be given by regular mail.</p> <p>II. After the filing of a petition to adopt an adult, the court, by order, shall direct that a copy of the petition and a notice of the time and place of the hearing be given to any person whose assent is required but who has not assented as provided in RSA 170-B:3. The court may order an appropriate assessment to assist it in determining whether the adoption is in the best interest of the persons involved.</p>
New Jersey	<p><b>NJ Rev Stat 9:3-42 – Jurisdiction in Chancery, Venue</b>                      An action for adoption shall be instituted in the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part of the county in which the prospective parent resides, or in the county where the child resided immediately prior to placement for adoption, or if the child is less than three months of age, the county in which the child was born; except that whenever the child to be adopted has been received into the home of a prospective parent from an approved agency, the action may be instituted in the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part of any county in which the approved agency has an office.</p> <p><b>NJ Rev Stat 9:3-43.2 –Force of Final Judgment of Adoption in a Foreign Jurisdiction, Certain Circumstances.</b></p>	<p><b>NJ Rev Stat 9:3-41 – Surrender of Child</b></p> <p>5. a. Surrender of a child to an approved agency for the purpose of adoption, other than a surrender taken in accordance with P.L.1955, c.232 (C.9:2-13 et seq.), shall be by a signed instrument acknowledged by the person executing the instrument before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments or proofs in the State in which the instrument is executed. Prior to the execution of the surrender, the approved agency shall, directly or through its agent, inform the person executing the surrender that the instrument is a surrender of parental rights by the signatory and means the permanent end of the relationship and all contact between the parent and child. The approved agency shall advise the parent that the surrender shall constitute relinquishment of the person's parental rights in or guardianship or custody of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>2. A final judgment of adoption granted by a judicial, administrative or executive body of a jurisdiction or country other than the United States shall have the same force and effect in this State as that given to a judgment of adoption entered by another state, without additional proceedings or documentation if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the adopting parent is a resident of this State; and</li> <li>b. the validity of the foreign adoption has been verified by the granting of an IR-3 immigrant visa, or a successor immigrant visa, for the child by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.</li> </ul>	<p>child named therein and consent by the person to adoption of the child. The approved agency shall offer counseling to the parent, prior to the execution of the surrender. The surrender shall be valid and binding without regard to the age of the person executing the surrender and shall be irrevocable except at the discretion of the approved agency taking such surrender or upon order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction setting aside such surrender upon proof of fraud, duress or misrepresentation by the approved agency. The surrender taken pursuant to this section shall be valid whether acknowledged in this State pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1991, c.308 (R.S.46:14-2.1) or acknowledged in another state or country pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1991, c.308 (R.S.46:14-6.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Any approved agency may accept custody of a child by a duly executed instrument of surrender from a parent or guardian of the child or from another approved agency or any agency for the care and protection of children approved by any other state, by the United States or by any foreign country, which has duly obtained the authority to place the child for adoption.</li> <li>c. A surrender executed in another state or foreign country by a domiciliary of that state or country and valid where executed shall be deemed a valid surrender in this State if taken more than 72 hours after the birth of the child.</li> <li>d. At the request of a parent of the child, an approved agency authorized to receive surrenders, may receive that parent's surrender of his child for purposes of having the child adopted by a person specified by the surrendering parent. The agency shall follow all regulations regarding the securing of a</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>surrender and shall cooperate with the prospective parents in the processing of the proposed adoption. An adoption based on a surrender under this subsection shall be deemed one in which the child was received from an approved agency for purposes of section 11 of P.L.1977, c.367 (C.9:3-47).</p> <p>e. A surrender of a child shall not be valid if taken prior to the birth of the child who is the subject of the surrender. A surrender by the birth parent of a child shall not be valid if taken within 72 hours of the birth of the child. The denial of paternity by an alleged father, at any time including prior to the birth of the child, shall be deemed a surrender for purposes of allowing the child to be adopted.</p> <p><b>NJ Rev Stat 9:3-45 – Notice of Complaint to Parents</b></p> <p>a. In an adoption proceeding pursuant to P.L.1977, c.367 (C.9:3-37 et seq.), notice of the complaint may not be waived and a notice of hearing shall be served in accordance with the Rules of Court on each parent of the child to be adopted. The notice shall inform each parent of the purpose of the action and of the parent's right to file written objections to the adoption within 20 days after notice is given in the case of a resident and 35 days in the case of a nonresident. For purposes of this section, "parent" means (1) the husband of the mother of a child born or conceived during the marriage or (2) a putative or alleged biological mother or father of a child.</p> <p>b. Notice pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall not be served on a parent:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(1) Who has executed a valid surrender to an approved agency pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1977, c.367 (C.9:3-41) or P.L.1955, c.232 (C.9:2-13 et seq.);</p> <p>(2) Whose parental rights have been terminated in a separate judicial proceeding by court order;</p> <p>(3) Who has, prior to the placement of the child for adoption, received notice of the intention to place the child, which notice shall inform the parent of the purpose of the placement, that failure to respond to the notice will prevent the person receiving the notice from objecting to any future adoption of the child, and that the parent has a right to file with the surrogate in the county in which venue is anticipated to lie, the address of which surrogate shall be included in the notice, written objections to the proposed placement within 20 days after notice is given, in the case of a resident, and 35 days in the case of a nonresident; and who has either failed to file written objections or denied paternity or maternity of the child. Failure to respond to this notice and object to the placement of the child for adoption shall constitute a waiver of all notice of any subsequent proceedings with regard to the child including proceedings for adoption or termination of parental rights;</p> <p>(4) Who has given the child for adoption to the adopting parent, and the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part, after a hearing at which the surrendering parent was heard as to the voluntariness of the surrender, has determined that the surrender was voluntary and proper;</p> <p>(5) Whose child has been made available for adoption in a foreign state or country if the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service has determined that the child has been</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>approved for adoptive placement. The finding of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service shall be presumed valid and no notice shall be served; or</p> <p>(6) Who is presumed to be the biological father of the child who is the subject of the adoption proceeding pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1983, c.17 (C.9:17-43) but who, within 120 days of the birth of the child or prior to the date of the preliminary hearing, whichever occurs first, has not acknowledged paternity by amending the original birth certificate record filed with the local registrar's office in the municipality of birth of the child who is the subject of the adoption proceeding in accordance with birth record amendment procedures, or has not filed an action for paternity in court.</p> <p>c. If personal service of the notice cannot be effected because the whereabouts of a birth parent of the child to be adopted are unknown, the court shall determine that an adequate effort has been made to serve notice upon the parent if the plaintiff immediately prior to or during the placement and not more than nine months prior to the filing of a complaint has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Sent the notice by regular mail and by certified mail return receipt requested, to the parent's last known address;</li> <li>(2) Made a discreet inquiry as to the whereabouts of the missing parent among any known relations, friends and current or former employers of the parent;</li> <li>(3) Unless otherwise restricted by law, made direct inquiries, using the party's name and last known or suspected address, to the local post office, the Division of Motor Vehicles, county welfare agency, the municipal police department, the Division</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>of State Police, the county probation office, the Department of Corrections, and any social service and law enforcement agencies known to have had contact with the party, or the equivalents in other states, territories or countries. Failure to receive a response to the inquiries within 45 days shall be a negative response.</p> <p>d. In any case where, within 120 days of the birth of the child or prior to the date of the preliminary hearing, whichever occurs first, the identity of a birth parent cannot be determined or where the known parent of a child is unable or refuses to identify the other parent, and the court is unable from other information before the court to identify the other parent, service on that parent shall be waived by the court.</p> <p>e. In conducting the hearing required by paragraph (4) of subsection b. of this section, the court shall determine that the surrender is voluntary and that the birth parent knows (1) that the hearing is to surrender birth rights; (2) that the hearing is to permanently end the relationship and all contact between parent and child; (3) that such action is a relinquishment and termination of parental rights and consent on the part of the birth parent to the adoption; and (4) that no further notice of the adoption proceedings shall be provided to the birth parent if the surrender is accepted by the court.</p> <p><b>NJ Rev Stat 9:3-43.1 – Conditions for Recognizing Foreign Adoptions</b></p> <p>b. If an adopting parent chooses to file a petition for adoption in this State, a court may grant a judgment of adoption without requiring the consent of a parent otherwise required pursuant</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		to section 5 of P.L.1977, c.367 (C.9:3-41) if the petitioner files with the petition a judgment of adoption, guardianship or termination of parental rights granted by a judicial, administrative or executive body of a jurisdiction or country other than the United States that is in compliance with the laws of that country.
New Mexico	<p><b>NM Stat § 32A-1-4 – Definitions</b>                      "court", when used without further qualification, means the children's court division of the district court and includes the judge, special master or commissioner appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Children's Code or supreme court rule;</p> <p><b>NM Stat § 32A-1-9 – Venue and Transfer</b>                      A. Proceedings in the court under the provisions of the Children's Code shall begin in the county where the child resides. If delinquency is alleged, the proceeding may also be begun in the county where the act constituting the alleged delinquent act occurred or in the county in which the child is detained. Neglect, abuse, family in need of court-ordered services or mental health proceedings may also begin in the county where the child is present when the proceeding is commenced.                      B. The venue for proceedings under other laws will be determined by the venue provisions of the other laws. If the other laws contain no venue provisions, then the venue and transfer provisions of Subsections A and C of this section apply.                      C. If a proceeding is begun in a court for a county other than the county in which the child resides, that court, on its own</p>	<p><b>NM Stat § 32A-5-17 – Persons Whose Consents or Relinquishments are Required</b>                      A. Consent to adoption or relinquishment of parental rights to the department or an agency licensed by the state of New Mexico shall be required of the following:                      (1) the adoptee, if fourteen years of age or older, except when the court finds that the adoptee does not have the mental capacity to give consent;                      (2) the adoptee's mother;                      (3) the adoptee's proposed adoptive parent;                      (4) the presumed father of the adoptee;                      (5) the adoptee's acknowledged father;                      (6) the department or the agency to whom the adoptee has been relinquished that has placed the adoptee for adoption or the department or the agency that has custody of the adoptee; provided, however, that the court may grant the adoption without the consent of the department or the agency if the court finds the adoption is in the best interests of the adoptee and that the withholding of consent by the department or the agency is unreasonable; and                      (7) the guardian of the adoptee's parent when, pursuant to provisions of the Uniform Probate Code [Chapter 45 NMSA</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>motion or on the motion of a party made at any time prior to disposition of the proceeding, may transfer the proceeding to the court for the county of the child's residence for such further proceedings as the receiving court deems proper. A like transfer may be made if the residence of the child changes during or after the proceeding. Certified copies of all legal and social records pertaining to the proceeding shall accompany the case on transfer.</p> <p>D. In neglect, abuse, family in need of court-ordered services or adoption proceedings for the placement of an Indian child, the court shall, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, transfer the proceeding to the jurisdiction of the Indian child's tribe upon the petition of the Indian child's parent, the Indian child's guardian or the Indian child's tribe. The transfer shall be barred if there is an objection to the transfer by a parent of the Indian child or the Indian child's tribe.</p> <p><b>NM Stat § 32A-5-10 – Venue</b>            A petition for adoption may be filed in any county where:            A. a petitioner is a resident;            B. the adoptee is physically present at the time the petition is filed;            C. an office of the agency that placed the adoptee for adoption is located; or            D. the department office from which the child was placed is located.</p> <p><b>NM Stat § 32A-5-39 – Recognition of Foreign Decrees</b></p>	<p>1978], that guardian has express authority to consent to adoption.</p> <p>B. In any adoption involving an Indian child, consent to adoption by the petitioner or relinquishment of parental rights shall be obtained from an "Indian custodian", as required pursuant to the provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.</p> <p>C. A consent or relinquishment executed by a parent who is a minor shall not be subject to avoidance or revocation solely by reason of the parent's minority.</p> <p><b>NM Stat § 32A-5-21 – Form of Consent or Relinquishment</b>            A. Except when consent or relinquishment is implied, a consent or relinquishment by a parent shall be in writing, signed by the parent consenting or relinquishing and shall state the following:            (1) the date, place and time of execution;            (2) the date and place of birth of the adoptee and any names by which the adoptee has been known;            (3) if a consent to adoption is being executed, the identity of the petitioner, if known, or when the adoption is an independent adoption and the identity of the petitioner is unknown, how the petitioner was selected by the consenting parent;            (4) if a relinquishment of parental rights is being executed, the name and address of the agency or the department;            (5) that the person executing the consent or relinquishment has been counseled, as provided in Section 32A-5-22 NMSA 1978, by a certified counselor of the person's choice and with this</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>A. Every decree or order of adoption terminating the parent-child relationship or establishing the relationship of parent and child by adoption entered by a court or other entity in another country acting pursuant to that country's law or pursuant to any convention or treaty or intercountry adoption that the United States has ratified shall be recognized in this state, so that the rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the decree or order of adoption were issued by the courts of this state.</p> <p>B. A convention adoption in a foreign country that is certified by the United States secretary of state shall be recognized as a final adoption in this state</p>	<p>knowledge the person is voluntarily and unequivocally consenting to the adoption of the named adoptee;</p> <p>(6) that the consenting party has been advised of the legal consequences of the relinquishment or consent either by independent legal counsel or a judge;</p> <p>(7) if the adoption is closed, that all parties understand that the court will not enforce any contact, regardless of any informal agreements that have made between the parties;</p> <p>(8) that the consent to or relinquishment for adoption cannot be withdrawn;</p> <p>(9) that the person executing the consent or relinquishment has received or been offered a copy of the consent or relinquishment;</p> <p>(10) that a counseling narrative has been prepared pursuant to department regulations and is attached to the consent or relinquishment;</p> <p>(11) that the person who performed the counseling meets the requirements set forth in the Adoption Act; and</p> <p>(12) that the person executing the consent or relinquishment waives further notice of the adoption proceedings.</p> <p>B. The consent of an adoptee, if fourteen years of age or older, shall be in writing, signed by the adoptee, consenting to the adoption and shall state the following:</p> <p>(1) the date, place and time of execution;</p> <p>(2) the date and place of birth of the adoptee and any names by which the adoptee has been known;</p> <p>(3) the name of the petitioner;</p> <p>(4) that the adoptee has been counseled regarding the consent pursuant to department regulation;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(5) that the adoptee has been advised of the legal consequences of the consent;</p> <p>(6) that the adoptee is voluntarily and unequivocally consenting to the adoption;</p> <p>(7) that the consent or relinquishment cannot be withdrawn;</p> <p>(8) that a counseling narrative has been prepared pursuant to department regulation and is attached to the consent; and</p> <p>(9) that the person who performed the counseling meets the requirements set forth in the Adoption Act.</p> <p>C. In cases when the consent or relinquishment is in English and English is not the first language of the consenting or relinquishing person, the person taking the consent or relinquishment shall certify in writing that the document has been read and explained to the person whose consent or relinquishment is being taken in that person's first language, by whom the document was so read and explained and that the meaning and implications of the document are fully understood by the person giving the consent or relinquishment.</p> <p>D. Unconditional consents or relinquishments are preferred and therefore, conditional consents or relinquishments shall be for good cause and approved by the court. However, if the condition is for a specific petitioner or the condition requires the other parent to consent before the decree of adoption is entered, the condition shall be deemed for good cause. In any event, all conditions permitted under this subsection shall be met within one hundred eighty days of the execution of the conditional consent or relinquishment or the conclusion of any</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>litigation concerning the petition for adoption. The court may grant an extension of this time for good cause.</p> <p>E. Agency or department consents required pursuant to the provisions of Section 32A-5-17 NMSA 1978 shall state the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the date, place and time of execution;</li> <li>(2) the date and place of birth of the adoptee and any names by which the adoptee has been known;</li> <li>(3) the name of the petitioner; and</li> <li>(4) the consent of the agency or department.</li> </ol> <p>F. A consent or relinquishment taken by an individual appointed to take consents or relinquishments by an agency shall be notarized, except that a consent or relinquishment signed in the presence of a judge need not be notarized. A hearing before the court for the purpose of taking a consent or relinquishment shall be heard by the court within seven days of request for setting.</p> <p>G. No consent to adoption or relinquishment of parental rights shall be valid if executed within forty-eight hours after the adoptee's birth. Consent to adoption or relinquishment of parental rights involving an Indian child shall comply with the more stringent requirements of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.</p> <p>H. The requirements of a consent to adoption or relinquishment of parental rights involving an Indian child and the rights of a parent of an Indian child to withdraw the consent or relinquishment shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>I. A consent to or relinquishment for adoption shall not be withdrawn prior to the entry of a decree of adoption unless the court finds, after notice and opportunity to be heard is afforded to the petitioner, to the person seeking the withdrawal and to the agency placing a child for adoption, that the consent or relinquishment was obtained by fraud. In no event shall a consent or relinquishment be withdrawn after the entry of a decree of adoption.</p> <p><b>NM Stat § 32A-5-27 – Notice of Petition; Form of Service; Waiver</b></p> <p>A. The petition for adoption shall be served by the petitioner on the following, unless it has been previously waived in writing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the department, by providing a copy to the court clerk for service pursuant to Section 32A-5-7 NMSA 1978;</li> <li>(2) any person, agency or institution whose consent or relinquishment is required by Section 32A-5-17 NMSA 1978, unless the notice has been previously waived;</li> <li>(3) any acknowledged father of the adoptee;</li> <li>(4) the legally appointed custodian or guardian of the adoptee;</li> <li>(5) the spouse of any petitioner who has not joined in the petition;</li> <li>(6) the spouse of the adoptee;</li> <li>(7) the surviving parent of a deceased parent of the adoptee;</li> <li>(8) any person known to the petitioner having custody of or visitation with the adoptee under a court order;</li> <li>(9) any person in whose home the child has resided for at least two months within the preceding six months;</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(10) the agency or individual authorized to investigate the adoption under Section 32A-5-13 NMSA 1978; and</p> <p>(11) any other person designated by the court.</p> <p>B. Notice shall not be served on the following:</p> <p>(1) an alleged father; and</p> <p>(2) a person whose parental rights have been relinquished or terminated.</p> <p>C. The petitioner shall provide the clerk of the court with a copy of the petition for adoption, to be mailed to the department pursuant to the provisions of Section 32A-5-7 NMSA 1978.</p> <p>D. In an adoption in which the adoptee is an Indian child, in addition to the notice required pursuant to Subsection A of this section, notice of pendency of the adoption proceeding shall be served by the petitioner on the appropriate Indian tribe and on an "Indian custodian" pursuant to the provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.</p> <p>E. The notice shall state that the person served shall respond to the petition within twenty days if the person intends to contest the adoption and shall state that the failure to so respond shall be treated as a default and the person's consent to the adoption shall not be required. Provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to an agency, the department or an investigator preparing the post-placement report pursuant to Section 32A-5-31 NMSA 1978. If an agency, the department or an investigator preparing the post-placement report wants to contest the adoption, it shall notify the court within twenty days after completion of the post-placement report.</p> <p>F. Service shall be made pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts. If the whereabouts of a</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>parent whose consent is required is unknown, the investigator, department or agency charged with investigating the adoption under Section 32A-5-13 NMSA 1978 shall investigate the whereabouts of the parent and shall file by affidavit the results of the investigation with the court. Upon a finding by the court that information as to the whereabouts of a parent has been sufficiently investigated and is still insufficient to effect service in accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts, the court shall issue an order providing for service by publication.</p> <p>G. As to any other person for whom notice is required under Subsection A of this section, service by certified mail, return receipt requested, shall be sufficient. If the service cannot be completed after two attempts, the court shall issue an order providing for service by publication.</p> <p>H. The notice required by this section may be waived in writing by the person entitled to notice.</p> <p>I. Proof of service of the notice on all persons for whom notice is required by this section shall be filed with the court before any hearing adjudicating the rights of the persons.</p>
New York	<p><b>NY FCT § 641 – Jurisdiction</b> The family court has original jurisdiction concurrent with the surrogate's courts over adoption proceedings under article seven of the domestic relations law.</p> <p><b>NY Dom Rel L § 115 – Private Placement Adoption</b> 2. The proceeding shall be instituted in the county where the adoptive parents reside or, if such adoptive parents do not</p>	<p><b>NY Dom Rel L § 111 – Whose Consent Required</b> 1. Subject to the limitations hereinafter set forth consent to adoption shall be required as follows: (a) Of the adoptive child, if over fourteen years of age, unless the judge or surrogate in his discretion dispenses with such consent; (b) Of the parents or surviving parent, whether adult or infant, of a child conceived or born in wedlock;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>reside in this state, in the county where the adoptive child resides.</p> <p><b>NY Dom Rel L § 115 – Foreign Adoption - Readoption</b>            8. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, where a child is placed with a couple or individual in New York state for the purpose of adoption, and where said adoption has theretofore been finalized in the country of birth, outside the United States, the couple or person may petition the court in their county of residence in New York state, for the readoption of said child in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, providing for adoptions originally commenced in this state. In any proceeding for readoption, proof of finalization of an adoption outside the United States shall be prima facie evidence of the consent of those parties required to give consent to an adoption pursuant to section one hundred eleven of this article.</p>	<p>(c) Of the mother, whether adult or infant, of a child born out of wedlock;</p> <p>(d) Of the father, whether adult or infant, of a child born out-of-wedlock and placed with the adoptive parents more than six months after birth, but only if such father shall have maintained substantial and continuous or repeated contact with the child as manifested by: (i) the payment by the father toward the support of the child of a fair and reasonable sum, according to the father's means, and either (ii) the father's visiting the child at least monthly when physically and financially able to do so and not prevented from doing so by the person or authorized agency having lawful custody of the child, or (iii) the father's regular communication with the child or with the person or agency having the care or custody of the child, when physically and financially unable to visit the child or prevented from doing so by the person or authorized agency having lawful custody of the child. The subjective intent of the father, whether expressed or otherwise, unsupported by evidence of acts specified in this paragraph manifesting such intent, shall not preclude a determination that the father failed to maintain substantial and continuous or repeated contact with the child. In making such a determination, the court shall not require a showing of diligent efforts by any person or agency to encourage the father to perform the acts specified in this paragraph. A father, whether adult or infant, of a child born out-of-wedlock, who openly lived with the child for a period of six months within the one year period immediately preceding the placement of the child for adoption and who during such period openly held himself out to be the father of such child</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>shall be deemed to have maintained substantial and continuous contact with the child for the purpose of this subdivision.</p> <p>(e) Of the father, whether adult or infant, of a child born out-of-wedlock who is under the age of six months at the time he is placed for adoption, but only if: (i) such father openly lived with the child or the child's mother for a continuous period of six months immediately preceding the placement of the child for adoption; and (ii) such father openly held himself out to be the father of such child during such period; and (iii) such father paid a fair and reasonable sum, in accordance with his means, for the medical, hospital and nursing expenses incurred in connection with the mother's pregnancy or with the birth of the child.</p> <p>(f) Of any person or authorized agency having lawful custody of the adoptive child.</p> <p>2. The consent shall not be required of a parent or of any other person having custody of the child:</p> <p>(a) who evinces an intent to forego his or her parental or custodial rights and obligations as manifested by his or her failure for a period of six months to visit the child and communicate with the child or person having legal custody of the child, although able to do so; or</p> <p>(b) who has surrendered the child to an authorized agency under the provisions of section three hundred eighty-three-c or three hundred eighty-four of the social services law; or</p> <p>(c) for whose child a guardian has been appointed under the provisions of section three hundred eighty-four-b of the social services law; or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(d) who, by reason of mental illness or intellectual disability, as defined in subdivision six of section three hundred eighty-four-b of the social services law, is presently and for the foreseeable future unable to provide proper care for the child. The determination as to whether a parent is mentally ill or intellectually disabled shall be made in accordance with the criteria and procedures set forth in subdivision six of section three hundred eighty-four-b of the social services law; or</p> <p>(e) who has executed an instrument, which shall be irrevocable, denying the paternity of the child, such instrument having been executed after conception and acknowledged or proved in the manner required to permit the recording of a deed.</p> <p>3. (a) Notice of the proposed adoption shall be given to a person whose consent to adoption is required pursuant to subdivision one and who has not already provided such consent.</p> <p>(b) Notice and an opportunity to be heard upon the proposed adoption may be afforded to a parent whose consent to adoption may not be required pursuant to subdivision two, if the judge or surrogate so orders.</p> <p>(c) Notice under this subdivision shall be given in such manner as the judge or surrogate may direct.</p> <p>(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the notice of a proposed adoption nor any process in such proceeding shall be required to contain the name of the person or persons seeking to adopt the child.</p> <p>4. Where the adoptive child is over the age of eighteen years the consents specified in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subdivision one of this section shall not be required, and the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>judge or surrogate in his discretion may direct that the consent specified in paragraph (f) of subdivision one of this section shall not be required if in his opinion the best interests of the adoptive child will be promoted by the adoption and such consent cannot for any reason be obtained.</p> <p>5. An adoptive child who has once been lawfully adopted may be readopted directly from such child's adoptive parents in the same manner as from its birth parents. In such case the consent of such birth parents shall not be required but the judge or surrogate in his discretion may require that notice be given to the birth parents in such manner as he may prescribe.</p>
North Carolina	<p><b>N.C. Gen Stat. § 48-2-100 – Jurisdiction</b></p> <p>(a) Adoption shall be by a special proceeding before the clerk of superior court.</p> <p>(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, jurisdiction over adoption proceedings commenced under this Chapter exists if, at the commencement of the proceeding:</p> <p>(1) The adoptee has lived in this State for at least the six consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of the petition or from birth;</p> <p>(2) The prospective adoptive parent has lived in or been domiciled in this State for at least the six consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of the petition; or</p> <p>(3) An agency licensed by this State or a county department of social services in this State has legal custody of the adoptee.</p> <p>(c) The courts of this State shall not exercise jurisdiction under this Chapter if at the time the petition for adoption is filed, a court of any other state is exercising jurisdiction substantially in</p>	<p><b>N.C. Gen Stat. § 48-2-401 – Notice by Petitioner</b></p> <p>(a) No later than 30 days after a petition for adoption is filed pursuant to Part 3 of this Article, the petitioner shall initiate service of notice of the filing on the persons required to receive notice under subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section.</p> <p>(b) In all adoptions, the petitioner shall serve notice of the filing on each of the following:</p> <p>(1) Any individual whose consent to the adoption is required but has not been obtained, has been revoked in accord with this Chapter, or has become void as provided in this Chapter.</p> <p>(2) The spouse of the petitioner if that spouse is required to join in the petition and petitioner is requesting that the joinder requirement be waived, provided the court for cause may waive this notice requirement.</p> <p>(3) Any individual who has executed a consent or relinquishment, but who the petitioner has actually been informed has filed an action to set it aside for fraud or duress.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>conformity with the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, Article 2 of Chapter 50A of the General Statutes. However, this subsection shall not apply and the courts of this State may exercise jurisdiction under this Chapter if either of the following apply:</p> <p>(1) The matter in which the other state is exercising jurisdiction places custody of the adoptee in an agency, the petitioner, or another custodian expressly in support of an adoption plan that does not identify a specific prospective adoptive parent other than the petitioner.</p> <p>(2) Prior to the decree of adoption being granted, the court of the other state dismisses its proceeding or releases its exclusive, continuing jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>N.C. Gen Stat. § 48-2-101 – Venue</b>            A petition for adoption may be filed with the clerk of the superior court in the county in which:</p> <p>(1) A petitioner lives, or is domiciled, at the time of filing;            (2) The adoptee lives; or            (3) An office of the agency that placed the adoptee is located.</p> <p><b>N.C. Gen Stat. § 48-2-205 – Recognition of Adoption Decrees from other Jurisdictions - Readoption</b>            A final adoption decree issued by any other state must be recognized in this State. Where a minor child has been previously adopted in a foreign country by a petitioner or petitioners seeking to readopt the child under the laws of North Carolina, the adoption order entered in the foreign country may be accepted in lieu of the consent of the</p>	<p>(4) Any other person designated by the court who can provide information relevant to the proposed adoption.</p> <p>(c) In the adoption of a minor, the petitioner shall also serve notice of the filing on each of the following:</p> <p>(1) A minor whose consent is dispensed with under G.S. 48-3-603(b)(2).</p> <p>(2) Any agency that placed the adoptee.</p> <p>(3) A man who to the actual knowledge of the petitioner claims to be or is named as the biological or possible biological father of the minor, and any biological or possible biological fathers who are unknown or whose whereabouts are unknown, but notice need not be served upon a man who has executed a consent, a relinquishment, or a notarized statement denying paternity or disclaiming any interest in the minor, a man whose parental rights have been legally terminated or who has been judicially determined not to be the minor's parent, a man whose consent to the adoption is not required under G.S. 48-3-603(a)(9) due to his conviction of a specified crime, or, provided the petition is filed within three months of the birth of the minor, a man whose consent to the adoption has been determined not to be required under G.S. 48-2-206.</p> <p>(4) Any individual who the petitioner has been actually informed has legal or physical custody of the minor or who has a right of visitation or communication with the minor under an existing court order issued by a court in this State or another state.</p> <p>(d) In the adoption of an adult, the petitioner shall also serve notice of the filing on any adult children of the prospective adoptive parent and any parent, spouse, or adult child of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>biological parent or parents or the guardian of the child to the readoption. A man and a woman who adopted a minor child in a foreign country while married to one another must readopt jointly, regardless of whether they have since divorced. If either does not join in the petition, he or she must be joined as a necessary party as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 19.</p>	<p>adoptee who are listed in the petition to adopt; provided the court for cause may waive the requirement of notice to a parent of an adult adoptee.</p> <p>(e) Only those persons identified in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section are entitled to notice of the proceeding.</p> <p>(f) A notice required under this section must state that the person served must file a response to the petition within 30 days after service or, if service is by publication, 40 days after first publication of the notice, in order to participate in and to receive further notice of the proceeding, including notice of the time and place of any hearing.</p> <p>(g) Issuance of a summons is not required to commence an adoption proceeding under this Chapter.</p> <p><b>N.C. Gen Stat. § 48-2-402 – Manner of Service</b></p> <p>(a) Service of the notice required under G.S. 48-2-401 must be made as provided by G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4, for service of process.</p> <p>(b) In the event that the identity of a biological or possible biological parent cannot be ascertained and notice is required, the parent or possible parent shall be served by publication pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4 (j1). The time for response shall be the time provided in the rule. The words "In re Doe" may be substituted for the title of the action in the notice as long as the notice contains the correct docket number. The notice shall be directed to "the unknown father [or mother] of" the adoptee, and the adoptee shall be described by sex, date of birth, and place of birth. The notice shall contain any information known to the petitioner that would allow an unknown parent or possible parent to identify himself or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>herself as the individual being addressed, such as the approximate date and place of conception, any name by which the other biological parent was known to the unknown parent or possible parent, and any fact about the unknown parent or possible parent known to or believed by the other biological parent. The notice shall also state that any parental rights the unknown parent or possible parent may have will be terminated upon entry of the order of adoption.</p> <p>(c) In an agency placement under Article 3 of this Chapter, the agency or other proper person shall file a petition to terminate the parental rights of an unknown parent or possible parent instead of serving notice under subsection (b) of this section, and the court shall stay any adoption proceeding already filed, except that nothing in this subsection shall require that the agency or other proper person file a petition to terminate the parental rights of any known or possible parent who has been served notice as provided under G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j)(1) of the Rules of Civil Procedure.</p> <p><b>N.C. Gen Stat. § 48-2-407 – Filing Proof of Service</b>                      Proof of service of notice on each person entitled to receive notice under this Part, or a certified copy of each waiver of notice, must be filed with the court before the hearing on the adoption begins.</p>
North Dakota	<p><b>N.D. Cent. Code § 14-15-01 – Definition [“Court”]</b>                      5. "Court" means the district court of this state, and when the context requires means the court of any other state</p>	<p><b>N.D. Cent. Code § 14-15-05 – Persons Required to Consent to Adoption</b></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>empowered to grant petitions for adoption</p> <p><b>N.D. Cent. Code § 14-15-04 – Venue – Inconvenient Forum - Caption</b></p> <p>1. Proceedings for adoption must be brought in the court for the place in which, at the time of filing or granting the petition, the petitioner, or the individual to be adopted resides or is in military service or in which the agency having the care, custody, or control of the minor is located.</p> <p>2. If the court finds in the interest of substantial justice that the matter should be heard in another forum, the court may transfer, stay, or dismiss the proceeding in whole or in part on any conditions that are just.</p> <p>3. The caption of a petition for adoption must be styled substantially "In the Matter of the Adoption of _____ ". The individual to be adopted must be designated in the caption under the name by which that individual is to be known if the petition is granted. If the child is placed for adoption by an agency, any name by which the child was previously known may not be disclosed in the petition, the notice of hearing, or in the decree of adoption.</p> <p><b>N.D. Cent. Code § 14-15-17 – Recognition or Validation of Foreign Decree Affecting Adoption</b></p> <p>1. A decree of court terminating the relationship of parent and child or establishing the relationship by adoption issued pursuant to due process of law by a court of any other jurisdiction within or outside of the United States must be recognized in this state and the rights and obligations of the</p>	<p>1. Unless consent is not required under section 14-15-06, a petition to adopt a minor may be granted only if written consent to a particular adoption has been executed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The mother of the minor whether by birth or adoption;</li> <li>b. The father of the minor, if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The minor is the father's child by adoption, or the father has otherwise legitimated the minor according to the laws of the place in which the adoption proceeding is brought; or</li> <li>(2) The person is presumed to be the biological father of the minor under subsection 1 of section 14-20-10, provided the nonexistence of the father and child relationship between them has not been judicially determined;</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Any individual lawfully entitled to custody of the minor or empowered to consent;</li> <li>d. The court having jurisdiction to determine custody of the minor, if the legal guardian or custodian of the minor is not empowered to consent to the adoption;</li> <li>e. The minor, if more than ten years of age, unless the court in the best interest of the minor dispenses with the minor's consent; and</li> <li>f. The spouse of the minor to be adopted.</li> </ul> <p>2. A petition to adopt an adult may be granted only if written consent to adoption has been executed by the adult and the adult's spouse.</p> <p><b>N.D. Cent. Code § 14-15-07 – How Consent is Executed</b></p> <p>The required consent to adoption must be executed at any time after the birth of the child and in the manner following:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state must be determined as though the decree were issued by a court of this state.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If by the individual to be adopted, in the presence of the court.</li> <li>2. If by an agency, by the executive head or other authorized representative, in the presence of an individual authorized to take acknowledgments.</li> <li>3. If by any other individual, in the presence of the court or in the presence of an individual authorized to take acknowledgments.</li> <li>4. If by a court, by appropriate order or certificate.</li> </ol> <p><b>N.D. Cent. Code § 14-15-11 – Notice of Petition – Investigation and Hearing</b></p> <p>1.a. After the filing of a petition to adopt a minor, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition. At least twenty days before the date of hearing, notice of the filing of the petition and of the time and place of hearing must be given by the petitioner to the department and human service zone; any agency or individual whose consent to the adoption is required by this chapter but who has not consented; an individual whose consent is dispensed with upon any ground mentioned in subdivisions a, b, f, h, i, and j of subsection 1 of section 14-15-06 but who has not consented; and any individual identified by the court as a biological parent or a possible biological parent of the minor, upon making inquiry to the extent necessary and appropriate, as in proceedings under section 27-20-45, unless the individual has relinquished parental rights or the individual's parental rights have been previously terminated by a court. The notice to the department</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>and human service zone must be accompanied by a copy of the petition.</p> <p>b. Notice of the filing of a petition to adopt an adult must be given by the petitioner at least twenty days before the date of the hearing to each living parent of the adult to be adopted.</p> <p>2. An investigation must be made by a licensed child-placing agency to inquire into the conditions and antecedents of a minor sought to be adopted and of the petitioner for the purpose of ascertaining whether the adoptive home is a suitable home for the minor and whether the proposed adoption is in the best interest of the minor.</p> <p>3. A written report of the investigation must be filed with the court by the investigator before the petition is heard.</p> <p>4. The report of the investigation must contain a review of the child's history; a preplacement adoption assessment of the petitioner, including a criminal history record investigation of the petitioner; and a postplacement evaluation of the placement with a recommendation as to the granting of the petition for adoption and any other information the court requires regarding the petitioner or the minor.</p> <p>5. An investigation and report is not required in cases in which a stepparent is the petitioner or the individual to be adopted is an adult. The department and human service zone, when required to consent to the adoption, may give consent without making the investigation. If the petitioner is a relative other than a stepparent of the minor, the minor has lived with the petitioner for at least nine months, no allegations of abuse or neglect have been filed against the petitioner or any member of the petitioner's household, and the court is satisfied that the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>proposed adoptive home is appropriate for the minor, the court may waive the investigation and report required under this section.</p> <p>6. The department and human service zone, when required to consent to the adoption, may request the licensed child-placing agency to conduct further investigation and to make a written report thereof as a supplemental report to the court.</p> <p>7. After the filing of a petition to adopt an adult, the court by order shall direct that a copy of the petition and a notice of the time and place of the hearing be given to any individual whose consent to the adoption is required but who has not consented and to each living parent of the adult to be adopted. The court may order an appropriate investigation to assist it in determining whether the adoption is in the best interest of the individuals involved.</p> <p>8. Notice must be given in the manner appropriate under the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure for the service of process in a civil action in this state or in any manner the court by order directs. Proof of the giving of the notice must be filed with the court before the petition is heard.</p> <p><b>N.D. R. Civ. P. 5(b) – Service</b>            (b) Service--How made.            (1) Serving an Attorney. If a party is represented by an attorney, service under this rule must be made on the attorney unless the court orders service on the party. If an attorney is providing limited representation under Rule 11(e), service must be made on the party and on the attorney for matters within the scope of the limited representation.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(2) Service in General. A paper is served under this rule by:</p> <p>(A) handing it to the person;</p> <p>(B) leaving it:</p> <p>(i) at the person's office with a clerk or other person in charge or, if no one is in charge, leaving it in a conspicuous place in the office; or,</p> <p>(ii) if the person has no office or the office is closed, at the person's dwelling or usual place of abode with someone of suitable age and discretion who resides there;</p> <p>(C) mailing it to the person's last known address, in which event service is complete upon mailing;</p> <p>(D) sending it by a third-party commercial carrier to the person's last known address, in which event service is complete upon deposit of the paper to be served with the commercial carrier;</p> <p>(E) if no address is known, on order of the court by leaving it with the clerk of court;</p> <p>(F) sending it by electronic means if the person consented in writing, in which event service is complete on transmission, but is not effective if the serving party learns that it did not reach the person to be served; or</p> <p>(G) delivering it by any other means that the person consented to in writing.</p>
Ohio	<p><b>Ohio Rev Code § 3107.01 – Adoption Definition</b>            (D) "Court" means the probate courts of this state, and when the context requires, means the court of any other state empowered to grant petitions for adoption.</p>	<p><b>Ohio Rev Code § 3107.06 – Consent to Adoption</b>            Unless consent is not required under section 3107.07 of the Revised Code, a petition to adopt a minor may be granted only if written consent to the adoption has been executed by all of the following:</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>Ohio Rev Code § 3107.04 – Filing Petition - Caption</b>                      (A) A petition for adoption shall be filed in the court in the county in which the person to be adopted was born, or in which, at the time of filing the petition, the petitioner or the person to be adopted or parent of the person to be adopted resides, or in which the petitioner is stationed in military service, or in which the agency having the permanent custody of the person to be adopted is located.                      (B) If the court finds in the interest of justice that the case should be heard in another forum, the court may stay the proceedings or dismiss the petition in whole or in part on any conditions that are just, or certify the case to another court.                      (C) The caption of a petition for adoption shall be styled, "in the matter of adoption of . . . . .". The person to be adopted shall be designated in the caption under the name by which he is to be known if the petition is granted.</p> <p><b>Ohio Rev Code § 3107.18 – Foreign Decrees</b>                      (A) Except when giving effect to such a decree would violate the public policy of this state, a court decree terminating the relationship of parent and child, or establishing the relationship by adoption, issued pursuant to due process of law by a court of any jurisdiction outside this state, whether within or outside the United States, shall be recognized in this state, and the rights and obligations of the parties as to all matters within the jurisdiction of this state, including, without limitation, those matters specified in section 3107.15 of the Revised Code, shall be determined as though the decree were issued by a court of this state. A decree or certificate of adoption that is issued</p>	<p>(A) The mother of the minor;                      (B) The father of the minor, if any of the following apply:                      (1) The minor was conceived or born while the father was married to the mother;                      (2) The minor is his child by adoption;                      (3) Prior to the date the petition was filed, it was determined by a court proceeding pursuant to sections 3111.01 to 3111.18 of the Revised Code, a court proceeding in another state, an administrative proceeding pursuant to sections 3111.38 to 3111.54 of the Revised Code, or an administrative proceeding in another state that he has a parent and child relationship with the minor;                      (4) He acknowledged paternity of the child and that acknowledgment has become final pursuant to section 2151.232, 3111.25, or 3111.821 of the Revised Code.                      (C) The putative father of the minor;                      (D) Any person or agency having permanent custody of the minor or authorized by court order to consent;                      (E) The minor, if more than twelve years of age, unless the court, finding that it is in the best interest of the minor, determines that the minor's consent is not required.</p> <p><b>Ohio Rev Code § 3107.0611 – Notice to Putative Father</b>                      Notice served under section 3107.067 of the Revised Code shall be provided to the putative father of the child in substantially the following form:                      "..... (putative father's name), who has been named as the father of the unborn child of ..... (birth mother's name), or who claims to be the father of the unborn child, is</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>under the laws of a foreign country and that is verified and approved by the immigration and naturalization service of the United States shall be recognized in this state. Nothing in this section prohibits a court from issuing a final decree of adoption or interlocutory order of adoption pursuant to section 3107.14 of the Revised Code for a person the petitioner has adopted pursuant to a decree or certificate of adoption recognized in this state that was issued outside the United States.</p> <p>(B) If a child born in a foreign country is placed with adoptive parents or an adoptive parent in this state for the purpose of adoption and if the adoption previously has been finalized in the country of the child's birth, the adoptive parent or parents may bring a petition in the probate court in their county of residence requesting that the court issue a final decree of adoption or an interlocutory order of adoption pursuant to section 3107.14 of the Revised Code. In a proceeding on the petition, proof of finalization of the adoption outside the United States is prima-facie evidence of the consent of the parties who are required to give consent even if the foreign decree or certificate of adoption was issued with respect to only one of two adoptive parents who seek to adopt the child in this state.</p> <p>(C) At the request of a person who has adopted a person pursuant to a decree or certificate of adoption recognized in this state that was issued outside the United States, the court of the county in which the person making the request resides shall order the department of health to issue a foreign birth record for the adopted person under section 3705.122 of the Revised Code. The court may specify a change of name for the</p>	<p>notified that ..... (birth mother's name) has expressed an intention to place the child for adoption.</p> <p>On receipt of this notice, ..... (putative father's name) may file an action under section 3111.04 of the Revised Code. Under Ohio law, a putative father means a man, including one under age eighteen, who may be a child's father and to whom all of the following apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) He is not married to the child's mother at the time of the child's conception or birth.</li> <li>(2) He has not adopted the child.</li> <li>(3) He has not been determined, prior to the date a petition to adopt the child is filed, to have a parent and child relationship with the child by a court proceeding pursuant to sections 3111.01 to 3111.18 of the Revised Code, a court proceeding in another state, an administrative agency proceeding pursuant to sections 3111.38 to 3111.54 of the Revised Code, or an administrative agency proceeding in another state.</li> <li>(4) He has not acknowledged paternity of the child pursuant to sections 3111.20 to 3111.35 of the Revised Code.</li> </ol> <p>For purposes of this notice, ..... (putative father's name) is a putative father under the laws in Ohio regarding adoption."</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>child and, if a physician has recommended a revision of the birth date, a revised birth date. The court shall send to the department with its order a copy of the foreign adoption decree or certificate of adoption and, if the foreign decree or certificate of adoption is not in English, a translation certified as to its accuracy by the translator and provided by the person who requested the order.</p>	
<p>Oklahoma</p>	<p><b>10 OK Stat § 7502-1.1 – Jurisdiction</b>                      Jurisdiction over proceedings to terminate parental rights and proceedings for the adoption of a minor commenced pursuant to the Oklahoma Adoption Code shall be governed by the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act as provided in Sections 551-101 through 551-402 of Title 43 of the Oklahoma Statutes.</p> <p><b>10 OK Stat § 7502-1.2 – Venue</b>                      Proceedings for adoption shall be brought in the district court in the county where the petitioners or the child to be adopted resides, in Tulsa County or in Oklahoma County, or where termination proceedings took place, at the election of the petitioners.</p> <p><b>10 OK Stat § 7502-1.4 – Foreign Adoptions</b>                      A. The courts of this state shall recognize a decree, judgment, or final order creating the relationship of parent and child by adoption, issued by a court or other governmental authority with appropriate jurisdiction in a foreign country or in another state or territory of the United States. The rights and</p>	<p><b>10 OK Stat § 7503-2.1 – Who May Consent</b>                      A. A minor may be adopted when there has been filed written consent to adoption or a permanent relinquishment for adoption executed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Both parents of the minor;</li> <li>2. One parent of the minor, alone, if:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the other parent is dead,</li> <li>b. the parental rights of the other parent have been terminated, or</li> <li>c. the consent of the other parent is otherwise not required pursuant to Section 7505-4.2 of this title;</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The legal guardian of the person of the minor or the guardian ad litem of the minor if both parents are dead or if the rights of the parents have been terminated by judicial proceedings, or the consent of both parents is otherwise not required pursuant to Section 7505-4.2 of this title, and such guardian or guardian ad litem has authority by order of the court appointing the guardian to consent to the adoption;</li> <li>4. The executive head of a licensed child-placing agency if:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the minor has been permanently relinquished to such agency by:</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the decree, judgment, or final order were issued by a court of this state. Except that, this state, any of its agencies, or any court of this state shall not recognize an adoption by more than one individual of the same sex from any other state or foreign jurisdiction.</p> <p>D. An adoptive parent of a minor adopted outside of the United States may petition to readopt the minor under Oklahoma law, if one or both of the petitioners are citizens of Oklahoma and the minor is residing in Oklahoma at the time the petition for adoption is filed.</p>	<p>(1) both parents, or</p> <p>(2) one parent alone if the other parent is dead, the parental rights of the other parent have been terminated, or the consent of the other parent is otherwise not required pursuant to Section 7505-4.2 of this title, or</p> <p>b. the rights of both parents have been judicially terminated and custody of the minor has been legally vested in such agency with authority to consent to adoption of the minor; or</p> <p>5. Any person having legal custody of a minor by court order if:</p> <p>a. the parental rights of both parents have been judicially terminated, and</p> <p>b. the court that issued the custody order for the minor has consented to adoption and a certified copy of its order containing its consent is filed before the final decree.</p> <p>B. 1. A parent of a minor born in wedlock or a parent who is sixteen (16) years of age or older shall be deemed capable of giving consent to the adoption of a minor.</p> <p>2. If the parent of a minor born out of wedlock is under sixteen (16) years of age, that parent's consent to the adoption shall be deemed sufficient when:</p> <p>a. given by such minor parent before a judge of the district court, and</p> <p>b. accompanied by the written consent of:</p> <p>(1) the legal guardian of the minor parent,</p> <p>(2) the parents of the minor parent,</p> <p>(3) the parent having custody of the minor parent, if the other parent of the minor parent is deceased or the parents of the minor parent are divorced, or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(4) the person having physical custody of the minor parent, if both parents of the minor parent are deceased, or</p> <p>c. accompanied by a finding of the court issuing the decree of adoption, if consent cannot be secured from any individual whose consent is required by subparagraph b of this paragraph, that:</p> <p>(1) either notice was given by mail by the court to such person directing the person to show cause at a time appointed by the court, which shall be not less than ten (10) days from the date of mailing, why the adoption should not be granted without the individual's consent, or that notice was waived by the personal appearance of the individual, and</p> <p>(2) the individual did not appear to contest the adoption, or the consent of the individual is unreasonably withheld.</p> <p>C. If a minor to be adopted is twelve (12) years of age or older, the consent of the minor to the adoption is required in addition to the consents required by subsections A and B of this section before a decree of adoption may be granted, unless the court makes a finding that it is not in the best interest of the minor to require the minor's consent. The consent of the minor must be given before the court in such form as the court shall direct.</p> <p>D. 1. When consent for adoption is necessary for minors in the custody of the Department of Human Services, the Director of the Department of Human Services or the designee of the Director may designate, authorize, and direct in writing an employee of the Department to appear in the court of the county in which said adoption proceedings are to be completed and to give written consent for the adoption of such</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>minor by the family whose application for adoption has been approved by the Department of Human Services; or</p> <p>2. The executive head of a licensed child-placing agency whose consent is required for the adoption of a minor who is in the custody of the licensed child-placing agency may designate, authorize and direct in writing an employee of the agency to appear in the district court of the county in which the adoption proceedings are to be completed or before anyone authorized by law to take acknowledgements and to give written consent for the adoption of the minor.</p> <p><b>10 OK Stat § 10-7505-4.1 – Application – Notice – Hearing – Order – Appeal</b></p> <p>A. If a consent to adoption or permanent relinquishment for adoption has not been obtained from both parents of a minor who is the subject of a petition for adoption, and the rights of the nonconsenting parent or parents have not previously been terminated, the petitioner for adoption, a consenting parent, or a legal guardian or legal custodian of the minor to be adopted must file an application to the court stating the reason that the consent or relinquishment of the parent or parents is not necessary. In the alternative, if the nonconsenting parent is a putative father of a minor born out of wedlock, the petitioner for adoption, a consenting parent, or a legal guardian or legal custodian of the minor may file an application to terminate the parental rights of the putative father. The grounds for terminating a putative father pursuant to this section shall be identical to the grounds for permitting an adoption without the consent of a parent, pursuant to Section 7505-4.2 of this title.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>B. A hearing on an application for adoption without consent or an application to terminate parental rights cannot be combined with the hearing on the application for a final decree of adoption. For good cause shown, a hearing on the application for a final decree of adoption may be heard as early as the same day as a hearing on an application to terminate parental rights, without prejudice to the rights of any parties to appeal from the order terminating parental rights.</p> <p>C. 1. Prior to the hearing on the application to permit the adoption of the minor without the consent or relinquishment of a parent, or the application to terminate the rights of a putative father filed pursuant to this section, notice of the hearing on the application and a copy of the application shall be served upon the parent or putative father who is the subject of the application in the same manner as summons is served in civil cases, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing.</p> <p>2. The notice shall contain the name of the parent, putative father, or if the father is unknown, the name of the child, date of birth of the child, the date of the hearing, and the ground or grounds for which application for adoption without consent or relinquishment or termination of parental rights is sought. The notice shall apprise the parent or putative father of the parent's legal rights and shall include a clear statement that failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child, which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the granting of the application for adoption without consent or permanent relinquishment or in the termination of the putative father's parental rights and in the child's adoption.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>3. If the identity or whereabouts of a parent or putative father are unknown, the court must determine whether the parent or putative father can be identified or located. Following an inquiry pursuant to Section 7505-4.3 of this title, if the court finds that the identity or whereabouts of the putative father cannot be ascertained, and this fact is attested to by affidavit of the consenting parent, legal guardian or legal custodian of the minor, it shall order that notice be given by publication and, if the identity is known, that a copy be mailed to the last-known address of the parent or putative father. The notice shall be published once pursuant to the laws relating to the service of notice by publication in the county in which the petition to adopt is filed, and the hearing shall not be held for at least fifteen (15) days after publication of the notice. When notice is given by publication, an order terminating parental rights shall not become final for a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of the order.</p> <p>4. A parent or putative father may waive such person's right to notice pursuant to this section. The waiver, signed by the parent or putative father, shall include a statement affirming that the person signing the waiver understands that the waiver shall constitute grounds for ordering adoption without consent of the parent or for the termination of the parental rights of a putative father pursuant to the provisions of this section and Section 7505-4.2 of this title. A putative father may waive his right to notice under this section, by signing an extrajudicial consent pursuant to Section 7503-2.6 of this title, or by waiving notice on a form filed with the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services, or by failing to register with</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services after receiving a Notice of Plan for Adoption pursuant to Section 7503-3.1 of this title.</p> <p>D. When a parent or putative father appears at the hearing and desires counsel but is indigent and cannot for that reason employ counsel, the court shall appoint counsel. In all counties having county indigent defenders, the county's indigent defenders shall assume the duties of representation in such proceedings.</p> <p><b>10 OK Stat § 10-7503-3.1 – Notice of Plan for Adoption</b></p> <p>A. 1. Before or after the birth of a minor born out of wedlock, the Department of Human Services, a licensed child-placing agency, or an attorney representing prospective adoptive parents of the minor may, by in-hand service to the putative father or certified mail to the putative father, to be signed by the putative father only, notify or cause to be notified a putative father of the minor that the mother of the child is considering an adoptive placement for the minor through a Notice of Plan for Adoption. If service of the Notice of Plan for Adoption is made by in-hand service, delivery of the Notice must be made by a person licensed to make service of process in civil cases. Residence service delivered to or signed by a person residing in the home of the putative father or any other forms of substitute service shall not be sufficient service pursuant to this subsection.</p> <p>2. Service of a Notice of Plan for Adoption may be served in the manner permitted in this subsection upon a putative father within this state or outside of this state.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>B. The Notice of Plan for Adoption shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The identity of the mother, that she is pregnant and the estimated date of birth, that the notified person may be the father of the minor, and that a plan for the adoption of the minor is being considered by the mother;</li> <li>2. A preaddressed form for filing by mail or in person with the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services and a copy to be returned to the attorney or agency who sent it. On this form, the recipient shall sign the form and indicate one of the following choices:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. "I do not know if I am the father of this minor. I desire to receive notice of the adoption proceedings or the proceeding to terminate parental rights. I understand that this creates no evidence that could be introduced in court to prove paternity. Its only legal effect is to entitle me to notice, at the address listed on the form, of an adoption proceeding that may be filed after the birth of the minor."</li> <li>b. "I hereby file my notice of intent to claim paternity. I understand that a notice of intent to claim paternity may be revoked at any time by filing a notice to disclaim with the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services. I also understand that an unrevoked notice of intent to claim paternity may be used as evidence in any future court proceeding in which it may be relevant, including a child support proceeding. I desire to receive notice of the adoption proceeding or the proceeding to terminate parental rights."</li> <li>c. "I acknowledge paternity. I understand that this acknowledgement of paternity cannot be revoked and may be used as evidence in any future court proceeding in which it</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>may be relevant, including a child support proceeding. I desire to receive notice of the adoption proceeding or the proceeding to terminate parental rights."</p> <p>d. "I deny paternity. I am not the father of the minor and I do not want to receive notice of any adoption proceeding, or proceeding to terminate my parental rights regarding the minor. I understand that I am waiving and surrendering any parental rights in relation to the minor in connection with the adoption of the minor. I understand that my consent to the adoption will not be required."</p> <p>e. "I may or may not be the father of the minor. I do not want to receive notice of any adoption proceeding, or proceeding to terminate my parental rights regarding the minor. I understand that I am waiving and surrendering any parental rights in relation to the minor in connection with the adoption of the minor. I understand that my consent to the adoption will not be required."</p> <p>3. In addition, the Notice of Plan for Adoption shall inform the putative father that:</p> <p>a. if the form is not received by the Department of Human Services or the attorney or child-placing agency sending it within thirty (30) days from the date that the Notice of Plan for Adoption is served, the failure to file the form shall constitute:</p> <p>(1) a waiver of the right to receive further notice of any adoption proceedings or proceedings to terminate parental rights, if any, that may be filed regarding the minor,</p> <p>(2) a denial of interest in the minor, which denial shall result in the court's termination of the notified party's parental rights to the minor and approval of an adoption without his consent if</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>an adoption proceeding is filed regarding the minor and the adoption is approved by the court,</p> <p>b. if the form is received by the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services or the attorney or child-placing agency sending it within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the Notice of Plan for Adoption, and it indicates that any of the options specified in subparagraphs a, b and c of paragraph 2 of this subsection have been chosen, the notified person shall have a right to receive notice of any adoption proceedings or any termination of parental rights proceedings that may be filed regarding the minor, at the address given by the putative father on the form, or at an address later provided to the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services. The return of the form to the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services or the attorney or child-placing agency sending the form is the only action by which the notified person will retain the right, if any, to notice of adoption or termination of parental rights proceedings regarding the minor,</p> <p>c. the filing of the enclosed form shall not, by itself, constitute the bearing of parental responsibilities, and shall not, by itself, establish parental rights,</p> <p>d. the filing of the enclosed form or the failure to file the enclosed form shall not affect the duty to support the mother or child during the pregnancy or after the delivery of the minor,</p> <p>e. if a petition to adopt the minor is not filed within twelve (12) months of the placement of the minor for adoption, failure to mail the enclosed notice form shall not affect the notified person's parental rights and responsibilities,</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>f. the failure to give such notice shall not be grounds available to the father to establish that he was denied knowledge of the pregnancy, and</p> <p>g. receipt by a putative father of a Notice of Plan for Adoption or return of the form does not obligate the mother of the minor to proceed with an adoptive placement of the minor.</p> <p>C. If the form is not received by the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services, the attorney or child-placing agency within thirty (30) days from the date that the Notice of Plan for Adoption is served, the failure to file the form shall constitute:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A waiver of the right to receive further notice of any adoption proceedings or proceedings to terminate parental rights, if any, that may be filed regarding the minor; and</li> <li>2. A denial of interest in the minor, which denial shall result in the court's termination of the notified party's parental rights to this minor and approval of an adoption without his consent if an adoption proceeding is filed regarding this minor and the adoption is approved by the court.</li> </ol> <p>D. If the form is received by the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services, or the attorney or child-placing agency within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the Notice of Plan for Adoption, and it indicates that any of the options specified in subparagraphs a, b and c of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section have been chosen, the putative father shall have a right to receive notice of any adoption proceedings or any termination of parental rights proceedings that may be filed regarding the minor, at the address of the putative father given on the form, or at an address later</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>provided to the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services. The return of the form to the Paternity Registry of the Department of Human Services, or the attorney or child-placing agency sending the form within thirty (30) days is the only action by which the notified person will retain the right, if any, to notice of adoption or termination of parental rights proceedings regarding the minor.</p> <p>E. The filing of the enclosed form shall not, by itself, constitute the bearing of parental responsibilities, and shall not, by itself, establish parental rights.</p> <p>F. The filing of the enclosed form or the failure to file the enclosed form shall not affect the duty to support the mother or minor during the pregnancy or after the delivery of the minor.</p> <p>G. If a petition to adopt the minor has not been filed within twelve (12) months of placement of the minor for adoption, failure to mail the enclosed notice form shall not affect the notified person's parental rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>H. The failure to give such notice shall not be grounds available to the father to establish that he was denied knowledge of the pregnancy.</p> <p>I. Receipt by a putative father of a Notice of Plan for Adoption or return of the form does not obligate the mother of the minor to proceed with an adoptive placement of the minor.</p>
Oregon	<p><b>ORS 109.309 – Jurisdiction and Venue</b> (1) Any person may petition the circuit court for leave to adopt another person and, if desired, for a change of the other person's name. Except as provided in ORS 419B.529 (Adoption</p>	<p><b>ORS 109.315 – Petition for Adoption</b> (5)(a) Within 30 days after being filed with the court, the petitioner shall serve copies of the petition, the documents filed as exhibits under subsection (3) of this section and the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>after permanent commitment or surrender), a separate petition must be filed for each person for whom leave to adopt is sought.</p> <p>(2) One petitioner, the child, one parent or the person, who is not an adoption agency, consenting to the adoption as required under ORS 109.321 (Consent to adoption) (1) must be a resident of this state. As used in this subsection, “resident” means a person who has resided in this state continuously for a period of six months prior to the date of the petition.</p> <p>(3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, when the petition is for the adoption of a minor child, the adoption is governed by the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, ORS 109.701 (Short Title) to 109.834 (Severability clause).</p> <p>(4)(a) Notwithstanding ORS 109.741 and 109.744, a court of this state has jurisdiction over the adoption of a minor child if, immediately prior to the filing of a petition for adoption:</p> <p>(A) The minor child resided in this state for at least six consecutive months including periods of temporary absence;</p> <p>(B) One parent or another person, who is not an adoption agency, consenting to the adoption as required under ORS 109.321 (1) resided in this state for at least six consecutive months including periods of temporary absence;</p> <p>(C) The prospective adoptive parent resided in this state for at least six consecutive months including periods of temporary absence and substantial evidence is available in this state concerning the present or future care of the minor child;</p> <p>(D) It appears that no court of another state would have jurisdiction under circumstances substantially in accordance</p>	<p>Adoption Summary and Segregated Information Statement described in ORS 109.317, including any amendments and exhibits attached to the statement, on the Director of Human Services by either registered or certified mail with return receipt or personal service.</p> <p>(b) In the case of an adoption in which one of the child's parents retains parental rights as established under ORS 109.065, the petitioner shall also serve the petition by either registered or certified mail with return receipt or personal service:</p> <p>(A) On all persons whose consent to the adoption is required under ORS 109.321 unless the person's written consent is filed with the court; and</p> <p>(B) On the parents of the party whose parental rights would be terminated, if the names and addresses are known or may be readily ascertained by the petitioner.</p> <p>(c) When a parent of the child is deceased or incapacitated, the petitioner shall also serve the petition on the parents of the deceased or incapacitated parent, if the names and addresses are known or may be readily ascertained by the petitioner. As used in this paragraph:</p> <p>(A) “Incapacitated” means a condition in which a person's ability to receive and evaluate information effectively or to communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent that the person lacks the capacity to meet the essential requirements for the person's physical health or safety.</p> <p>(B) “Meet the essential requirements for the person's physical health or safety” means those actions necessary to provide health care, food, shelter, clothing, personal hygiene and other</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>with subparagraphs (A) to (C) of this paragraph; or                      (E) A court of another state has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the grounds that this state is a more appropriate forum to hear a petition for adoption of the minor child and it is in the best interests of the minor child that a court of this state assume jurisdiction.</p> <p>(b) As used in paragraph (a) of this subsection, “periods of temporary absence” means periods of absence of not more than a total of 30 days in the prior six consecutive months.</p> <p>(5) In a petition to adopt a minor child, venue lies in the Oregon county with which the child has the most significant connection or in the Oregon county in which the licensed adoption agency is located.</p> <p><b>ORS 109.385 – Foreign Adoption - Readoption</b>                      (2) An adoption in a foreign nation under the laws of that nation of a person who is at the time of the adoption a national of the nation by adoptive parents, at least one of whom is a citizen of the United States, shall be recognized as a valid and legal adoption for all purposes in the State of Oregon if the adoption is valid and legal in the foreign nation where the adoption occurred, unless the adoption violates fundamental principles of human rights or the public policy of the state or of the federal government.</p> <p>(3) A copy of a decree, order, judgment, certificate or other document of adoption by adoptive parents, at least one of whom is a citizen of the United States, issued by a court or pursuant to an administrative proceeding of competent jurisdiction in the foreign nation is prima facie evidence in any</p>	<p>care without which serious physical injury or illness is likely to occur.</p> <p>(d) Service required by this subsection may be waived by the court for good cause.</p> <p><b>ORS 109.321 – Consents to Adoption</b>                      (1) Except as provided in ORS 109.323 to 109.329, consent in writing to the adoption of a minor child pursuant to a petition filed under ORS 109.309 is required to be given by the following:</p> <p>(a) The parents of the child, or the survivor of them.                      (b) The guardian of the child, if the child has no living parent.                      (c) The next of kin in this state, if the child has no living parent and no guardian.                      (d) Some suitable person appointed by the court to act in the proceeding as next friend of the child to give or withhold consent, if the child has no living parent and no guardian or next of kin qualified to consent.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>court or administrative proceeding in this state that the adoption was legal and valid.</p> <p>(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, an adoptive parent who has adopted a person in a foreign nation may petition the court for readoption for the purpose of obtaining a judgment of adoption from the circuit court of the county in which the petitioner resides.</p>	
<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p><b>23 Pa. C.S.A. § 2301 – Court</b> The court of common pleas of each county shall exercise through the appropriate division original jurisdiction over voluntary relinquishment, involuntary termination and adoption proceedings.</p> <p><b>23 Pa.C.S.A. § 2302 – Venue</b> Proceedings for voluntary relinquishment, involuntary termination and adoption may be brought in the court of the county:</p> <p>(1) Where the parent or parents or the adoptee or the person or persons who have filed a report of intention to adopt required by section 2531 (relating to report of intention to adopt) reside.</p> <p>(2) In which is located an office of an agency having custody of the adoptee or in the county where the agency having placed the adoptee is located.</p> <p>(3) With leave of court, in which the adoptee formerly resided.</p> <p><b>23 Pa.C.S.A. § 2908 – Foreign Decree of Adoption</b></p>	<p><b>23 Pa. C.S.A. § 2503 – Proceedings Prior to Petition to Adopt - Hearing</b></p> <p>(a) <i>General rule.</i> Upon presentation of a petition prepared pursuant to section 2501 (relating to relinquishment to agency) or section 2502 (relating to relinquishment to adult intending to adopt child), the court shall fix a time for hearing which shall not be less than ten days after filing of the petition. The petitioner must appear at the hearing.</p> <p>(b) <i>Notice.</i></p> <p>(1) At least ten days' notice of the hearing shall be given to the petitioner, and a copy of the notice shall be given to the other parent, to the putative father whose parental rights could be terminated pursuant to subsection (d) and to the parents or guardian of a petitioner who has not reached 18 years of age.</p> <p>(2) The notice to the petitioner shall state the following: "To: (insert petitioner's name) A petition has been filed asking the court to put an end to all rights you have to your child (insert name of child). The court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. That hearing will be held in (insert place, giving reference to exact room and building number or designation) on (insert</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(a) When a minor is adopted by a resident of this Commonwealth and a final decree of adoption is made or entered in conformity with the laws of a foreign country, the adopting parent shall file a properly authenticated copy of the foreign decree of adoption, a copy of the child's visa and either the child's birth certificate or some form of birth identification with the clerk of the court in the county of residence of the parent. If the foreign decree of adoption is not in English, the adopting parent shall also file a certified English translation. If no birth certificate or birth identification can be obtained, the adopting parent shall include an affidavit stating the reason therefor.</p>	<p>date) at (insert time). Your presence is required at the hearing. You have a right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.</p> <p>(Name)                  (Address)                  _____                  (Telephone number)"</p> <p>(3) The copy of the notice which is given to the putative father shall state that his rights may also be subject to termination pursuant to subsection (d) if he fails to file either an acknowledgment of paternity or claim of paternity pursuant to section 5103 (relating to acknowledgment and claim of paternity) and fails to either appear at the hearing for the purpose of objecting to the termination of his rights or file a written objection to such termination with the court prior to the hearing.</p> <p>(c) <i>Decree.</i> After hearing, which shall be private, the court may enter a decree of termination of parental rights in the case of their relinquishment to an adult or a decree of termination of parental rights and duties, including the obligation of support, in the case of their relinquishment to an agency.</p> <p>(d) <i>Putative father.</i> If a putative father will not file a petition to voluntarily relinquish his parental rights pursuant to section 2501 (relating to relinquishment to agency) or 2502 (relating to relinquishment to adult intending to adopt child), has been given notice of the hearing being held pursuant to this section and fails to either appear at that hearing for the purpose of</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>objecting to termination of his parental rights or file a written objection to such termination with the court prior to the hearing and has not filed an acknowledgment of paternity or claim of paternity pursuant to section 5103, the court may enter a decree terminating the parental rights of the putative father pursuant to subsection (c).</p> <p><i>(e) Right to file personal and medical history information.</i> At the time the decree of termination is transmitted to the parent whose rights are terminated, the court shall advise that parent, in writing, of his or her continuing right to place and update personal and medical history information, whether or not the medical condition is in existence or discoverable at the time of adoption, on file with the court and with the Department of Public Welfare pursuant to Subchapter B of Chapter 29 (relating to records and access to information).</p> <p><b>23 Pa. C.S.A. § 2721 – Petition for Adoption – Notice of Hearing</b> The court shall fix a time and place for hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be given to all persons whose consents are required and to such other persons as the court shall direct. Notice to the parent or parents of the adoptee, if required, may be given by the intermediary or someone acting on his behalf. Notice shall be by personal service or by registered mail to the last known address of the person to be notified or in such other manner as the court shall direct.</p>
Rhode Island	<p><b>15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-7-4 – Court Having Jurisdiction</b> (a) Any person residing in Rhode Island may petition the family court for leave to adopt as his or her child any person younger</p>	<p><b>15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-7-5 – Consents Required</b> (a) The parents of the child, or their survivor, shall, except as provided in this section, consent in writing to the adoption, or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>than him or herself and under eighteen (18) years of age, and, if desired, for a change of the child's name, but the prayer of the petition by a person having a husband or wife shall not be granted unless the husband or wife joins in the petition; provided, that upon good cause shown and a showing that the granting of the petition for adoption would be in the best interests of the minor child, the prayer of the petition may be granted although the spouse of the petitioner is not a party to the petition.</p> <p>(b) The family court shall retain jurisdiction over any petition properly filed under subsection (a) when and if the petitioners become nonresidents after the petition is filed, but during the pendency of the action.</p> <p>(c) Any person not a resident of Rhode Island may petition the family court for leave to adopt as his or her child any person younger than him or herself and under eighteen (18) years of age, and, if desired, for a change of the child's name, if the child is at the time of the filing of the petition in the care and custody of a governmental child placing agency, or licensed Rhode Island child placing agency, but the prayer of the petition by a person having a husband or wife shall not be granted unless the husband or wife joins in the petition.</p> <p>(d) Petitions for adoptions of persons eighteen (18) years or older shall be heard by the probate court of the city or town in which the petitioners live.</p> <p>(e) The department shall grant an opportunity for a fair hearing, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(12) and chapter 35 of title 42 to an individual residing outside of Rhode Island who alleges that</p>	<p>the petition shall be dismissed. If neither parent is living, the guardian of the person of the child, or, if there is no guardian, the next of kin, may give consent; or if there is no next of kin, the court may appoint some suitable person to act in the proceedings as next friend of the child, and to give or withhold the consent; provided, that if the child is of the age of fourteen (14) years or over, the adoption shall not be made without the child's consent. In case the child to be adopted is eighteen (18) years or older, the consent of, or notice to, the child's parents or other person in the child's behalf shall not be required.</p> <p>(b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when the petitioners are one of the natural parents of the child and his or her spouse or one of the grandparents of the child and the child is residing, at the time the petition is filed, with the petitioners, if the noncustodial parent refused to consent to the adoption, the court shall determine whether the noncustodial parent's rights shall be terminated involuntarily. In making the determination, the court shall apply the grounds for termination of parental rights set forth in § 15-7-7; provided, that the petitioners need not demonstrate, and the court shall not require, efforts to encourage and strengthen the child's relationship with the noncustodial parent prior to terminating his or her parental rights.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, when the petitioners are one of the natural parents of the child and his or her spouse or one of the grandparents of the child and the child is residing, at the time the petition is filed, with the petitioners, and if the noncustodial parent refuses to consent to the adoption, then the court may grant</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>the department denied or delayed placement of a child for adoption.</p>	<p>the petition without a noncustodial parent's consent if the petitioners prove by clear and convincing evidence any of the grounds set forth in § 15-7-7(a)(1), (2), or (4). The standard of proof in these cases shall be by clear and convincing evidence and the court shall give primary consideration to the physical, psychological, mental, and intellectual needs of the child insofar as that consideration is not inconsistent with other provisions of this chapter.</p> <p><b>15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-7-6 – Waiver of Parents' Right to Consent</b>            Any duly licensed child placement agency in this state, or governmental child placement agency, at the request of the natural parent or parents of a child under eighteen (18) years of age, may, not sooner than fifteen (15) days after the birth of the child, petition the family court for the termination of the rights of the natural parents of the child to consent to its adoption. After any notice to the natural parents that the court deems proper, a hearing shall be had prior to the hearing on the petition for adoption in the family court, and if the family court finds after examination of the parent or parents that the parent or parents freely join in the petition, and that the granting of the petition is for the best interests of the child, it shall decree that in the hearing on the adoption of the child the consent of the natural parents as provided above shall be unnecessary and that the agency shall be the sole party to give or withhold consent. The granting of the petition to give or withhold consent to the child placement agency shall also make the agency the guardian of the child for all purposes.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-7-8 – Notice to Parents – Notice When No Parent Living or When Parent in Mental Institution</b></p> <p>(a) The notice required in § 15-7-7 shall be as follows: If a parent does not consent in writing to the adoption of his or her child, the court shall order a copy of the petition and order that copy to be served on him or her, personally, if found in the state; and if not, notice of the petition for adoption shall be published once in any newspaper that the court directs. Like notice shall also be published whenever a child has no parent living.</p> <p>(b) Whenever a parent is confined in any asylum, hospital, or institution for mental illness, whether the asylum, hospital, or institution is situated within or out of the state, the court shall order a copy of the petition and order that copy, subsequently referred to as the notice, to be served on him or her personally, which notice, if to be served within the state, shall be served by an officer authorized by law to serve citations; but if the notice is to be served out of the state, it may be served by any disinterested person, who shall make return, upon oath, that he or she has made service of the notice, the manner in which, the time when, and the place where the service was made; provided, that before any officer or disinterested person makes service of the notice, he or she shall apply to the physician in charge of the asylum, hospital, or institution where the person upon whom the notice to be served is confined, and if the physician shall return, upon oath, on the back of the notice, that in his or her opinion service of the notice upon the person will be injurious to his or her mental health, the officer or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>person charged with the service shall leave a copy of the notice, with the physician's return, with the keeper of the asylum, hospital, or institution and shall return the notice, with a statement of his or her actions regarding the notice, to the court without further service; and upon return being made in either case, the court, having first appointed a guardian ad litem for the parent, may proceed to act upon the petition and order.</p> <p><b>15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-7-9 – Notice to Parents Whose Whereabouts Unknown</b>            (a) When a petition concerning the adoption or termination of parental rights is filed which sets forth that the whereabouts of the parent or parents of the child are unknown, that fact shall be sworn to by the petitioners by affidavit which shall set forth the last contacts with the absent parent and any other information considered pertinent in determining the absent parent's whereabouts.            (b) The court shall review the affidavit and, if it is determined that personal service cannot be effectuated, an order of notice shall be entered directing that notice be given to the parent by publication in any newspaper of general circulation that the court directs; which notice shall be published once and this notice may be combined and placed with other names that the court is attempting to notify.</p> <p><b>15 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 15-7-26 – Notice to Natural Father</b>            (a) If the court, after examination, determines that the natural father has not joined in a petition either for the termination of</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>parental rights or a petition for adoption or has not executed a waiver, then the court shall cause inquiry to be made of the mother, as the court in its discretion shall deem appropriate.</p> <p>(b)(1) If, after the inquiry, the natural father is identified to the satisfaction of the court, he shall be given notice in accordance with § 15-7-8 or in any other manner that the court may direct. Proof of giving the notice shall be filed with the court before a petition for termination of parental rights or a petition for adoption is granted. If the natural father fails to appear, or if appearing fails to claim any rights to the child, the court shall enter an order terminating his rights with reference to the child. If the natural father, or a man representing himself to be the natural father, claims rights to the child, the court shall proceed to determine his rights.</p> <p>(2) If, after the inquiry, the court is able to identify the natural father but his whereabouts are unknown, or if the court is unable to identify the natural father, the court, on the basis of all information available, shall determine whether there is a reasonable probability that publication of notice of the proceeding will lead to the ascertainment of his identity or whereabouts. If so, the court may order publication in accordance with § 15-7-9.</p>
<p>South Carolina</p>	<p><b>S.C. Code Ann. § 63-9-40 – Jurisdiction; Venue</b>                      (A) The family court has exclusive jurisdiction over all proceedings held pursuant to this article. Proceedings for adoption by residents of this State may be brought in the family court of the county in which the petitioner resides or is in military service, or in the county in which the child resides or</p>	<p><b>S.C. Code Ann. § 63-9-310 – Persons Who Must Give Consent or Relinquishment</b>                      (A) Consent or relinquishment for the purpose of adoption is required of the following persons:                      (1) the adoptee, if over fourteen years of age, except where the court finds that the adoptee does not have the mental capacity</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>is born. For nonresidents of this State proceedings for adoption must be brought in the county in which the child resides, in which the child is born, or in which the agency having custody of the child is located.</p> <p>(B) The family court may order a change of venue as in civil proceedings in this State.</p> <p><b>S.C. Code Ann. § 63-9-920 – Effect of Foreign Decrees of Adoption</b>            When the relationship of parent and child has been created by a decree of adoption of a court of any other state or nation, the rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this State must be determined by Section 63-9-760.</p>	<p>to give consent, or that the best interests of the adoptee are served by not requiring consent; and either</p> <p>(2) the parents or surviving parent of a child conceived or born during the marriage of the parents; or</p> <p>(3) the mother of a child born when the mother was not married; and either</p> <p>(4) the father of a child born when the father was not married to the child's mother, if the child was placed with the prospective adoptive parents more than six months after the child's birth, but only if the father has maintained substantial and continuous or repeated contact with the child as demonstrated by:</p> <p>(a) payment by the father toward the support of the child of a fair and reasonable sum, based on the father's financial ability; and either</p> <p>(b) visits by the father to the child at least monthly when the father is physically and financially able to do so, and when the father is not prevented from doing so by the person or agency having lawful custody of the child; or</p> <p>(c) regular communication by the father with the child or with the person or agency having lawful custody of the child, when the father is physically and financially unable to visit the child, or when the father is prevented from visiting the child by the person or agency having lawful custody of the child.</p> <p>The subjective intent of the father, if unsupported by evidence of the acts specified in subitems (a), (b), and (c) of this item (4) of subsection (A) of this section, does not preclude a determination that the father failed to maintain substantial and continuous or repeated contact with the child. In making this</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>determination, the court may not require a showing of diligent efforts by any person or agency having lawful custody of the child to encourage the father to perform the acts. A father of a child born when the father was not married to the child's mother, who openly lived with the child for a period of six months within the one-year period immediately preceding the placement of the child for adoption, and who during the six-months period openly held himself out to be the father of the child is considered to have maintained substantial and continuous or repeated contact with the child for the purpose of this item (4) of subsection (A) of this section; or</p> <p>(5) the father of a child born when the father was not married to the child's mother, if the child was placed with the prospective adoptive parents six months or less after the child's birth, but only if:</p> <p>(a) the father openly lived with the child or the child's mother for a continuous period of six months immediately preceding the placement of the child for adoption, and the father openly held himself out to be the father of the child during the six months period; or</p> <p>(b) the father paid a fair and reasonable sum, based on the father's financial ability, for the support of the child or for expenses incurred in connection with the mother's pregnancy or with the birth of the child, including, but not limited to, medical, hospital, and nursing expenses.</p> <p>(B) Consent or relinquishment for the purpose of adoption is required of the legal guardian, child placing agency, or legal custodian of the child if authority to execute a consent or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>relinquishment has been vested legally in the agency or person and:</p> <p>(1) both the parents of the child are deceased; or</p> <p>(2) the parental rights of both the parents have been judicially terminated.</p> <p>(C) Consent is required of the child placing agency or person facilitating the placement of the child for adoption if the child has been relinquished for adoption to the agency or person.</p> <p>(D) If the consent of a child placing agency required by this subsection is not provided to any person eligible under Section 63-9-60, the agency has an affirmative duty to inform the person who is denied consent of all of his rights for judicial review of the denial.</p> <p>(E) Consent or relinquishment for the purpose of adoption given by a parent who is a child is not subject to revocation by reason of the parent's minority.</p> <p>(F) Under no circumstances may a child-placing agency or any person receive a fee, compensation, or any other thing of value as consideration for giving a consent or relinquishment of a child for the purpose of adoption and no child-placing agency or person may receive a child for payment of such fee, compensation, or any other thing of value.</p> <p>However, costs may be assessed and payment made, subject to the court's approval, for the following:</p> <p>(1) reimbursements for necessary, actual medical, and reasonable living expenses incurred by the mother and child for a reasonable period of time;</p> <p>(2) the fee for obtaining investigations and reports as required by Section 63-9-520;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(3) the fee of the individuals required to take the consent or relinquishment, as required by Section 63-9-340(A);</p> <p>(4) the fee of a guardian ad litem appointed pursuant to Section 63-9-720;</p> <p>(5) reasonable attorney's fees and costs for actual services rendered;</p> <p>(6) reasonable fees to child-placing agencies; and</p> <p>(7) reasonable fees to sending agencies as defined in Section 63-9-2200(2)(b), the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.</p> <p>The court may approve an adoption while not approving unreasonable fees and costs.</p> <p><b>S.C. Code Ann. § 63-9-730 – Notice of Adoption Proceedings</b></p> <p>(A) Notice of any proceeding initiated pursuant to this article must be given to the persons or agencies specified in subsection (B) of this section, unless the person has given consent or relinquishment or parental rights have been terminated.</p> <p>(B) The following persons or agencies are entitled to notice as provided in subsection (A):</p> <p>(1) a person adjudicated by a court in this State to be the father of the child;</p> <p>(2) a person or agency required to give consent or relinquishment pursuant to Section 63-9-310(A) or (B) from whom consent or relinquishment cannot be obtained;</p> <p>(3) a person who has properly registered with the Responsible Father Registry at the time of the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights or adoption;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(4) a person who is recorded on the child's birth certificate as the child's father. The Department of Health and Environmental Control shall release this information to any attorney representing a party in an adoption or termination of parental rights action pursuant to a subpoena;</p> <p>(5) a person who is openly living with the child or the child's mother, or both, at the time the proceeding is initiated and who is holding himself out to be the child's father;</p> <p>(6) a person who has been identified as the child's father by the mother in a sworn, written statement; and</p> <p>(7) a person from whom consent or relinquishment is not required pursuant to Section 63-9-320(A)(2).</p> <p>(C) Persons specified in subsection (B) of this section are not entitled to notice if the child who is the subject of the adoption proceeding was conceived as a result of criminal sexual conduct or incest.</p> <p>(D) Any person or agency entitled to notice pursuant to this section must be given notice that adoption proceedings have been initiated. Notice must be given in the manner prescribed by law for personal service of summons in civil actions. If notice cannot be effected by personal service, notice may be given by publication or by the manner the court decides will provide notice.</p> <p>(E) Notice given pursuant to this section must include notice of the following:</p> <p>(1) within thirty days of receiving notice the person or agency shall respond in writing by filing with the court in which the adoption is pending notice and reasons to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond;</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(2) the court must be informed of the person's or agency's current address and of any changes in address during the adoption proceedings; and</p> <p>(3) failure to file a response within thirty days of receiving notice constitutes consent to adoption of the child and forfeiture of all rights and obligations of the person or agency with respect to the child.</p> <p>(F) When notice of intent to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond is filed with the court within the required time period, the person or agency must be given an opportunity to appear and to be heard before the final hearing on the merits of the adoption.</p> <p>(G) Petitioners must be notified by the court of notice and reasons to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond, and petitioners also must be given the opportunity to be represented or to appear and to be heard at any hearing held relating to the adoption.</p>
<p>South Dakota</p>	<p><b>S.D. Codified Laws § 25-6-6 – Jurisdiction of Circuit Court Appeal</b>                      The circuit court is vested with the jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine all matters relative to the adoption of children, subject to the right of appeal in the same form and manner as appeals are taken from the circuit court.</p> <p><b>S.D. Codified Laws § 25-6-7 – Venue of Adoption Proceedings</b>                      The circuit court for the county of the child's legal residence or of the adopting parent's legal residence according to where petition is first filed shall have the original jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>S.D. Codified Laws § 25-6-4 – Consent of Child's Parents Required for Adoption – Court Waiver of Consent</b>                      No child may be adopted without the consent of the child's parents. However, if it is in the best interest of the child, the court may waive consent from a parent or putative father who:</p> <p>(1) Has been convicted of any crime punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a period that, in the opinion of the court, will deprive the child of the parent's companionship for a critical period of time;</p> <p>(2) Has, by clear and convincing evidence, abandoned the child for six months or more immediately prior to the filing of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>S.D. Codified Laws § 25-6-25 – Effect of Adoption Orders of Another Jurisdiction or Nation</b>                      Effect of adoption orders of another jurisdiction or nation. Any order of adoption entered in compliance with the laws of another jurisdiction or nation shall have the same effect as an order for adoption entered in this state.</p>	<p>petition;                      (3) Has substantially and continuously or repeatedly neglected the child and refused to give the child necessary parental care and protection;                      (4) Being financially able, has willfully neglected to provide the child with the necessary subsistence, education, or other care necessary for the child's health, morals, or welfare or has neglected to pay for such subsistence, education, or other care if legal custody of the child is lodged with others and such payment ordered by the court;                      (5) Is unfit by reason of habitual abuse of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs;                      (6) Has been judicially deprived of the custody of the child, if the adjudication is final on appeal to the court of last resort or the time for an appeal has expired;                      (6A) Has caused the child to be conceived as a result of rape or incest; or                      (7) Does not appear personally or by counsel at the hearing to terminate parental rights after notice pursuant to §§ 25-5A-11 and 25-5A-12 which was received at least fifteen days prior to the hearing.</p> <p><b>S.D. Codified Laws § 25-6-12 – Execution of Consents and Agreement by Parties—Appearances at Hearing</b>                      Before the hearing on a petition for adoption, the person adopting a child, the child adopted, and the other persons whose consent is necessary, shall execute their consent in writing, and the person adopting shall execute an agreement to the effect that the child adopted shall be treated in all</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>respects as his or her own. The consent forms and the agreement of the person adopting shall be filed with the court. At the time of the hearing on the petition, the person adopting a child and the child to be adopted shall appear in court or by other means as may be allowed by the court. All persons whose consent is necessary, except the child and the person adopting the child, unless a different means of appearance is allowed by the court, may appear by a person filing with the court a power of attorney, or a guardian may appear on behalf of the child, or a duly incorporated home or society for the care of dependent or neglected children may by its authorized officer or agent, consent to the adoption of a child surrendered to such home or society by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Department of Social Services may appear in court and consent to the adoption of a child surrendered to it by any court of competent jurisdiction, or, if the department has custody of a child by written agreement of a parent or parents with power of attorney to consent to adoption, by the officer of the department holding such power of attorney.</p>
Tennessee	<p><b>Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-114 – Venue</b> A petition for adoption may be filed in the county:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Where the petitioners reside;</li> <li>(2) Where the child resides;</li> <li>(3) Where, at the time the petition is filed, any respondent resides;</li> <li>(4) In which is located any licensed child-placing agency or institution operated under the laws of this state having custody or guardianship of the child or to which the child has been</li> </ol>	<p><b>Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-117(a) – Domestic Relations</b> (a) Unless the legal parent or the guardian, or, as provided in subsections (b) and (c), the putative father of the child has surrendered parental or guardianship rights to the child, has executed a parental consent that has been confirmed by the court, has waived the person's rights pursuant to § 36-1-111(w) or (x), or unless the person's rights have been terminated by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, the legal parents, guardian of the person of the child or of an adult, the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>surrendered as provided in this part;                      (5) Where the child became subject to the care and control of a public or private child-caring or child-placing agency; or                      (6) Where the child became subject to partial or complete guardianship or legal custody of the petitioners as provided in this part.</p> <p><b>Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-106 – Readoption</b>                      (c)(1) With respect to a child sought to be readopted under the laws of this state who has been previously adopted pursuant to the laws of a foreign country, the circuit and chancery courts are specifically authorized to enter new orders of adoption as they may be required for purposes of compliance with any requirements of the government of the United States for children who were adopted in foreign countries.                      (2)(A) When a Tennessee resident adopts a child in a foreign country in accordance with the laws of the foreign country and such adoption is recognized as full and final by the United States government, such resident may file, with a petition, a copy of the decree, order or certificate of adoption that evidences finalization of the adoption in the foreign country, together with a certified translation of the decree, order or certificate of adoption, if it is not in English, and proof of full and final adoption from the United States government, with the clerk of the chancery or circuit court of any county in this state having jurisdiction over the person or persons filing such documents.</p>	<p>biological mother, and the established father or putative father of the child must be made parties to the adoption proceeding or to a separate proceeding seeking the termination of those rights, and their rights to the child must be terminated by a court to authorize the court to order the adoption of the child or adult by other persons.</p> <p><b>Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-117(m) – Domestic Relations</b>                      (1) Service of process for adoption proceedings in chancery and circuit courts pursuant to this part shall be made pursuant to the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and the statutes governing substituted service.                      (3) Any motion for an order for publication in these proceedings shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the petitioners or their legal counsel attesting, in detail, to all efforts to determine the identity and whereabouts of the parties against whom substituted service is sought.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
<p>Texas</p>	<p><b>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 103.001 – Venue for Original Suit</b>                      A suit in which adoption is requested may be filed in the county where the child resides or in the county where the petitioner’s reside, regardless of whether another court has continuing exclusive jurisdiction, and a court that has continuing exclusive jurisdiction is not required to transfer the suit affecting the parent-child relationship to the court in which the adoption suit was filed.</p> <p><b>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 101.008 – Court</b>                      “Court” means the district court, juvenile court having the same jurisdiction as a district court, or other court expressly given jurisdiction of a suit affecting the parent-child relationship</p> <p><b>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 162.023 – Adoption Order from Foreign Country</b>                      (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, an adoption order rendered to a resident of this state that is made by a foreign country shall be accorded full faith and credit by the courts of this state and enforced as if the order were rendered by a court in this state unless the adoption law or process of the foreign country violates the fundamental principles of human rights or the laws or public policy of this state.                      (b) A person who adopts a child in a foreign country may register the order in this state. A petition for registration of a foreign adoption order may be combined with a petition for a name change. If the court finds that the foreign adoption order meets the requirements of Subsection (a), the court shall order the state registrar to:</p>	<p><b>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 162.002 – Prerequisites to Petition</b>                      (a) If a petitioner is married, both spouses must join in the petition for adoption.                      (b) A petition in a suit for adoption or a suit for appointment of a nonparent managing conservator with authority to consent to adoption of a child must include:                      (1) a verified allegation that there has been compliance with Subchapter B; or                      (2) if there has not been compliance with Subchapter B, a verified statement of the particular reasons for noncompliance</p> <p><b>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 162.010 – Consent Required</b>                      (a) Unless the managing conservator is the petitioner, the written consent of a managing conservator to the adoption must be filed. The court may waive the requirement of consent by the managing conservator if the court finds that the consent is being refused or has been revoked without good cause. A hearing on the issue of consent shall be conducted by the court without a jury.                      (b) If a parent of the child is presently the spouse of the petitioner, that parent must join in the petition for adoption and further consent of that parent is not required.                      (c) A child 12 years of age or older must consent to the adoption in writing or in court. The court may waive this requirement if it would serve the child's best interest.</p> <p><b>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 161.103 – Affidavit of Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights</b></p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(1) register the order under Chapter 192 (Birth Records), Health and Safety Code; and</p> <p>(2) file a certificate of birth for the child under Section 192.006 (Supplementary Birth Certificates), Health and Safety Code.</p>	<p>(a) An affidavit for voluntary relinquishment of parental rights must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) signed after the birth of the child, but not before 48 hours after the birth of the child, by the parent, whether or not a minor, whose parental rights are to be relinquished;</li> <li>(2) witnessed by two credible persons; and</li> <li>(3) verified before a person authorized to take oaths.</li> </ol> <p>(b) The affidavit must contain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the name, county of residence, and age of the parent whose parental rights are being relinquished;</li> <li>(2) the name, age, and birth date of the child;</li> <li>(3) the names and addresses of the guardians of the person and estate of the child, if any;</li> <li>(4) a statement that the affiant is or is not presently obligated by court order to make payments for the support of the child;</li> <li>(5) a full description and statement of value of all property owned or possessed by the child;</li> <li>(6) an allegation that termination of the parent-child relationship is in the best interest of the child;</li> <li>(7) one of the following, as applicable:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) the name and county of residence of the other parent;</li> <li>(B) a statement that the parental rights of the other parent have been terminated by death or court order; or</li> <li>(C) a statement that the child has no presumed father;</li> </ol> </li> <li>(8) a statement that the parent has been informed of parental rights and duties;</li> <li>(9) a statement that the relinquishment is revocable, that the relinquishment is irrevocable, or that the relinquishment is irrevocable for a stated period of time;</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(10) if the relinquishment is revocable, a statement in boldfaced type concerning the right of the parent signing the affidavit to revoke the relinquishment only if the revocation is made before the 11th day after the date the affidavit is executed;</p> <p>(11) if the relinquishment is revocable, the name and address of a person to whom the revocation is to be delivered; and</p> <p>(12) the designation of a prospective adoptive parent, the Department of Family and Protective Services, if the department has consented in writing to the designation, or a licensed child-placing agency to serve as managing conservator of the child and the address of the person or agency.</p> <p>(c) The affidavit may contain:</p> <p>(1) a waiver of process in a suit to terminate the parent-child relationship filed under this chapter or in a suit to terminate joined with a petition for adoption; and</p> <p>(2) a consent to the placement of the child for adoption by the Department of Family and Protective Services or by a licensed child-placing agency.</p> <p>(d) A copy of the affidavit shall be provided to the parent at the time the parent signs the affidavit.</p> <p>(e) The relinquishment in an affidavit that designates the Department of Family and Protective Services or a licensed child-placing agency to serve as the managing conservator is irrevocable. A relinquishment in any other affidavit of relinquishment is revocable unless it expressly provides that it is irrevocable for a stated period of time not to exceed 60 days after the date of its execution.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(f) A relinquishment in an affidavit of relinquishment of parental rights that fails to state that the relinquishment is irrevocable for a stated time is revocable as provided by Section 161.1035.</p> <p>(g) To revoke a relinquishment under Subsection (e) the parent must sign a statement witnessed by two credible persons and verified before a person authorized to take oaths. A copy of the revocation shall be delivered to the person designated in the affidavit. If a parent attempting to revoke a relinquishment under this subsection has knowledge that a suit for termination of the parent-child relationship has been filed based on the parent's affidavit of relinquishment of parental rights, the parent shall file a copy of the revocation with the clerk of the court.</p> <p>(h) The affidavit may not contain terms for limited post-termination contact between the child and the parent whose parental rights are to be relinquished as a condition of the relinquishment of parental rights.</p>
Utah	<p><b>Utah Code Ann. § 78B-6-105 – District Court Venue – Jurisdiction of Juvenile Court – Jurisdiction Over Non-Residents – Timing for Filing</b></p> <p>(1) Adoption proceedings shall be commenced by filing a petition with the clerk of the district court either:</p> <p>(a) in the district where the prospective adoptive parent resides;</p> <p>(b) if the prospective adoptive parent is not a resident of this state, in the district where:</p> <p>(i) the adoptee was born;</p> <p>(ii) the adoptee resides on the day on which the petition is</p>	<p><b>Utah Code Ann. § 78B-6-110 – Notice of Adoption Proceeding</b></p> <p>(1) (a) An unmarried biological father, by virtue of the fact that he has engaged in a sexual relationship with a woman:</p> <p>(i) is considered to be on notice that a pregnancy and an adoption proceeding regarding the child may occur; and</p> <p>(ii) has a duty to protect his own rights and interests.</p> <p>(b) An unmarried biological father is entitled to actual notice of a birth or an adoption proceeding with regard to his child only as provided in this section or Section 78B-6-110.5.</p> <p>(2) Notice of an adoption proceeding shall be served on each</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>filed; or</p> <p>(iii) a parent of the proposed adoptee resides on the day on which the petition is filed; or</p> <p>(c) with the juvenile court as provided in Subsection 78A-6-103(1).</p> <p>(2) All orders, decrees, agreements, and notices in the proceedings shall be filed with the clerk of the court where the adoption proceedings were commenced under Subsection (1).</p> <p>(3) A petition for adoption:</p> <p>(a) may be filed before the birth of a child;</p> <p>(b) may be filed before or after the adoptee is placed in the home of the petitioner for the purpose of adoption; and</p> <p>(c) shall be filed no later than 30 days after the day on which the adoptee is placed in the home of the petitioners for the purpose of adoption, unless:</p> <p>(i) the time for filing has been extended by the court; or</p> <p>(ii) the adoption is arranged by a child-placing agency in which case the agency may extend the filing time.</p> <p>(4)(a) If a person whose consent for the adoption is required under Section 78B-6-120 or 78B-6-121 cannot be found within the state, the fact of the minor's presence within the state shall confer jurisdiction on the court in proceedings under this chapter as to such absent person, provided that due notice has been given in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.</p> <p>(b) The notice may not include the name of:</p> <p>(i) a prospective adoptive parent; or</p> <p>(ii) an unmarried mother without her consent.</p> <p>(5) Service of notice as provided in Subsection (6) shall vest the</p>	<p>of the following persons:</p> <p>(a) any person or agency whose consent or relinquishment is required under Section 78B-6-120 or 78B-6-121, unless that right has been terminated by:</p> <p>(i) waiver;</p> <p>(ii) relinquishment;</p> <p>(iii) actual or implied consent; or</p> <p>(iv) judicial action;</p> <p>(b) any person who has initiated a paternity proceeding and filed notice of that action with the state registrar of vital statistics within the Department of Health, in accordance with Subsection (3);</p> <p>(c) any legally appointed custodian or guardian of the adoptee;</p> <p>(d) the petitioner's spouse, if any, only if the petitioner's spouse has not joined in the petition;</p> <p>(e) the adoptee's spouse, if any;</p> <p>(f) any person who, prior to the time the mother executes her consent for adoption or relinquishes the child for adoption, is recorded on the birth certificate as the child's father, with the knowledge and consent of the mother;</p> <p>(g) a person who is:</p> <p>(i) openly living in the same household with the child at the time the consent is executed or relinquishment made; and</p> <p>(ii) holding himself out to be the child's father; and</p> <p>(h) any person who is married to the child's mother at the time she executes her consent to the adoption or relinquishes the child for adoption, unless the court finds that the mother's spouse is not the child's father under Section 78B-15-607.</p> <p>(3)(a) In order to preserve any right to notice, an unmarried</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>court with jurisdiction over the person served in the same manner and to the same extent as if the person served was served personally within the state.</p> <p>(6) In the case of service outside the state, service completed not less than five days before the time set in the notice for appearance of the person served shall be sufficient to confer jurisdiction.</p> <p>(7) Computation of periods of time not otherwise set forth in this section shall be made in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.</p> <p><b>Utah Code Ann. § 78B-6-112 – District Court Jurisdiction Over Termination of Parental Rights Proceeding</b></p> <p>(1) A district court has jurisdiction to terminate parental rights in a child if the party who filed the petition is seeking to terminate parental rights in the child for the purpose of facilitating the adoption of the child.</p> <p>(2) A petition to terminate parental rights under this section may be:</p> <p>(a) joined with a proceeding on an adoption petition; or</p> <p>(b) filed as a separate proceeding before or after a petition to adopt the child is filed.</p> <p>(3) A court may enter a final order terminating parental rights before a final decree of adoption is entered.</p> <p>(4)(a) Nothing in this section limits the jurisdiction of a juvenile court relating to proceedings to terminate parental rights as described in Section 78A-6-103.</p> <p>(b) This section does not grant jurisdiction to a district court to terminate parental rights in a child if the child is under the</p>	<p>biological father shall, consistent with Subsection (3)(d):</p> <p>(i) initiate proceedings in a district court of Utah to establish paternity under Title 78B, Chapter 15, Utah Uniform Parentage Act; and</p> <p>(ii) file a notice of commencement of the proceedings described in Subsection (3)(a)(i) with the office of vital statistics within the Department of Health.</p> <p>(b) If the unmarried, biological father does not know the county in which the birth mother resides, he may initiate his action in any county, subject to a change in trial pursuant to Section 78B-3-307.</p> <p>(c) The Department of Health shall provide forms for the purpose of filing the notice described in Subsection (3)(a)(ii), and make those forms available in the office of the county health department in each county.</p> <p>(d) When the state registrar of vital statistics receives a completed form, the registrar shall:</p> <p>(i) record the date and time the form was received; and</p> <p>(ii) immediately enter the information provided by the unmarried biological father in the confidential registry established by Subsection 78B-6-121(3)(c).</p> <p>(e) The action and notice described in Subsection (3)(a):</p> <p>(i) may be filed before or after the child's birth; and</p> <p>(ii) shall be filed prior to the mother's:</p> <p>(A) execution of consent to adoption of the child; or</p> <p>(B) relinquishment of the child for adoption.</p> <p>(4) Notice provided in accordance with this section need not disclose the name of the mother of the child who is the subject of an adoption proceeding.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>jurisdiction of the juvenile court in a pending abuse, neglect, dependency, or termination of parental rights proceeding.</p> <p><b>Utah Code Ann. § 78B-6-142 – Adoption Order from Foreign Country</b></p> <p>(1) Except as otherwise provided by federal law, an adoption order rendered to a resident of this state that is made by a foreign country shall be recognized by the courts of this state and enforced as if the order were rendered by a court in this state.</p> <p>(2) A person who adopts a child in a foreign country may register the order in this state. A petition for registration of a foreign adoption order may be combined with a petition for a name change. If the court finds that the foreign adoption order meets the requirements of Subsection (1), the court shall order the state registrar to:</p> <p>(a) file the order pursuant to Section 78B-6-137; and</p> <p>(b) file a certificate of birth for the child pursuant to Section 26-2-28.</p> <p>(3) If a clerk of the court is unable to establish the fact, time, and place of birth from the documentation provided, a person holding a direct, tangible, and legitimate interest as described in Subsection 26-2-22(3)(a) or (b) may petition for a court order establishing the fact, time, and place of a birth pursuant to Subsection 26-2-15(1).</p>	<p>(5) The notice required by this section:</p> <p>(a) may be served at any time after the petition for adoption is filed, but may not be served on a birth mother before she has given birth to the child who is the subject of the petition for adoption;</p> <p>(b) shall be served at least 30 days prior to the final dispositional hearing;</p> <p>(c) shall specifically state that the person served shall fulfill the requirements of Subsection (6)(a) within 30 days after the day on which the person receives service if the person intends to intervene in or contest the adoption;</p> <p>(d) shall state the consequences, described in Subsection (6)(b), for failure of a person to file a motion for relief within 30 days after the day on which the person is served with notice of an adoption proceeding;</p> <p>(e) is not required to include, nor be accompanied by, a summons or a copy of the petition for adoption;</p> <p>(f) shall state where the person may obtain a copy of the petition for adoption; and</p> <p>(g) shall indicate the right to the appointment of counsel for a party whom the court determines is indigent and at risk of losing the party's parental rights.</p> <p>(6)(a) A person who has been served with notice of an adoption proceeding and who wishes to contest the adoption shall file a motion to intervene in the adoption proceeding:</p> <p>(i) within 30 days after the day on which the person was served with notice of the adoption proceeding;</p> <p>(ii) setting forth specific relief sought; and</p> <p>(iii) accompanied by a memorandum specifying the factual and</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>legal grounds upon which the motion is based.</p> <p>(b) A person who fails to fully and strictly comply with all of the requirements described in Subsection (6)(a) within 30 days after the day on which the person was served with notice of the adoption proceeding:</p> <p>(i) waives any right to further notice in connection with the adoption;</p> <p>(ii) forfeits all rights in relation to the adoptee; and</p> <p>(iii) is barred from thereafter bringing or maintaining any action to assert any interest in the adoptee.</p> <p>(7) Service of notice under this section shall be made as follows:</p> <p>(a)(i) Subject to Subsection (5)(e), service on a person whose consent is necessary under Section 78B-6-120 or 78B-6-121 shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.</p> <p>(ii) If service of a person described in Subsection (7)(a)(i) is by publication, the court shall designate the content of the notice regarding the identity of the parties.</p> <p>(iii) The notice described in this Subsection (7)(a) may not include the name of a person seeking to adopt the adoptee.</p> <p>(b)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(b)(ii) to any other person for whom notice is required under this section, service by certified mail, return receipt requested, is sufficient.</p> <p>(ii) If the service described in Subsection (7)(b)(i) cannot be completed after two attempts, the court may issue an order providing for service by publication, posting, or by any other manner of service.</p> <p>(c) Notice to a person who has initiated a paternity proceeding and filed notice of that action with the state registrar of vital</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>statistics in the Department of Health in accordance with the requirements of Subsection (3), shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the last address filed with the registrar.</p> <p>(8) The notice required by this section may be waived in writing by the person entitled to receive notice.</p> <p>(9) Proof of service of notice on all persons for whom notice is required by this section shall be filed with the court before the final dispositional hearing on the adoption.</p> <p>(10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the notice of an adoption proceeding nor any process in that proceeding is required to contain the name of the person or persons seeking to adopt the adoptee.</p> <p>(11) Except as to those persons whose consent to an adoption is required under Section 78B-6-120 or 78B-6-121, the sole purpose of notice under this section is to enable the person served to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) intervene in the adoption; and</li> <li>(b) present evidence to the court relevant to the best interest of the child.</li> </ul> <p><b>Utah Code Ann. § 78B-6-120 – Necessary Consent to Adoption or Relinquishment for Adoption</b></p> <p>(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), consent to adoption of a child, or relinquishment of a child for adoption, is required from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the adoptee, if the adoptee is more than 12 years of age, unless the adoptee does not have the mental capacity to consent;</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(b) a man or woman who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) by operation of law under Section 78B-15-204, is recognized as the father or mother of the proposed adoptee, unless:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) the presumption is rebutted under Section 78B-15-607; or</li> <li>(B) the man or woman was not married to the mother of the proposed adoptee until after the mother consented to adoption, or relinquishment for adoption, of the proposed adoptee; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>(ii) is the father of the adoptee by a previous legal adoption;</li> <li>(c) the mother of the adoptee;</li> <li>(d) a biological parent who has been adjudicated to be the child's biological father by a court of competent jurisdiction prior to the mother's execution of consent to adoption or her relinquishment of the child for adoption;</li> <li>(e) consistent with Subsection (3), a biological parent who has executed and filed a voluntary declaration of paternity with the state registrar of vital statistics within the Department of Health in accordance with Title 78B, Chapter 15, Utah Uniform Parentage Act, prior to the mother's execution of consent to adoption or her relinquishment of the child for adoption;</li> <li>(f) an unmarried biological father, of an adoptee, whose consent is not required under Subsection (1)(d) or (1)(e), only if he fully and strictly complies with the requirements of Sections 78B-6-121 and 78B-6-122; and</li> <li>(g) the person or agency to whom an adoptee has been relinquished and that is placing the child for adoption.</li> </ul> <p>(2)(a) The consent of a person described in Subsections (1)(b) through (g) is not required if the adoptee is 18 years of age or older.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(b) The consent of a person described in Subsections (1)(b) through (f) is not required if the person's parental rights relating to the adoptee have been terminated.</p> <p>(3) For purposes of Subsection (1)(e), a voluntary declaration of paternity is considered filed when it is entered into a database that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) can be accessed by the Department of Health; and</li> <li>(b) is designated by the state registrar of vital statistics as the official database for voluntary declarations of paternity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Utah Code Ann. § 78B-6-124 – Persons Who May Take Consents and Relinquishments</b></p> <p>(1) A consent or relinquishment by a birth mother or an adoptee shall be signed before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a judge of any court that has jurisdiction over adoption proceedings;</li> <li>(b) subject to Subsection (6), a person appointed by the judge described in Subsection (1)(a) to take consents or relinquishments; or</li> <li>(c) subject to Subsection (6), a person who is authorized by a child-placing agency to take consents or relinquishments, if the consent or relinquishment grants legal custody of the child to a child-placing agency or an extra-jurisdictional child-placing agency.</li> </ul> <p>(2) If the consent or relinquishment of a birth mother or adoptee is taken out of state it shall be signed before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) subject to Subsection (6), a person who is authorized by a child-placing agency to take consents or relinquishments, if the consent or relinquishment grants legal custody of the child to a</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>child-placing agency or an extra-jurisdictional child-placing agency;</p> <p>(b) subject to Subsection (6), a person authorized or appointed to take consents or relinquishments by a court of this state that has jurisdiction over adoption proceedings;</p> <p>(c) a court that has jurisdiction over adoption proceedings in the state where the consent or relinquishment is taken; or</p> <p>(d) a person authorized, under the laws of the state where the consent or relinquishment is taken, to take consents or relinquishments of a birth mother or adoptee.</p> <p>(3) The consent or relinquishment of any other person or agency as required by Section 78B-6-120 may be signed before a Notary Public or any person authorized to take a consent or relinquishment under Subsection (1) or (2).</p> <p>(4) A person, authorized by Subsection (1) or (2) to take consents or relinquishments, shall certify to the best of his information and belief that the person executing the consent or relinquishment has read and understands the consent or relinquishment and has signed it freely and voluntarily.</p> <p>(5) A person executing a consent or relinquishment is entitled to receive a copy of the consent or relinquishment.</p> <p>(6) A signature described in Subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), (2)(a), or (2)(b), shall be:</p> <p>(a) notarized; or</p> <p>(b) witnessed by two individuals who are not members of the birth mother's or the adoptee's immediate family.</p> <p>(7) Except as provided in Subsection 62A-4a-602(2), a transfer of relinquishment from one child-placing agency to another child-placing agency shall be signed before a Notary Public.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
<p>Vermont</p>	<p><b>15A V.S.A. § 3-101 – Jurisdiction</b>                      (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Probate Division of the Superior Courts of this State have jurisdiction over a proceeding for the adoption of a minor commenced under this title if:                      (1) immediately before commencement of the proceeding, the minor lived in this State with a parent, a guardian, a prospective adoptive parent, or another person acting as parent, for at least six consecutive months, including periods of temporary absence, or, in the case of a minor under six months of age, lived in this State from soon after birth with any of those persons;                      (2) immediately before commencement of the proceeding, the prospective adoptive parent lived in this State for at least six consecutive months, including periods of temporary absence;                      (3) an agency placed the minor for adoption and it is in the best interest of the minor that a court of this State assume jurisdiction because:                      (A) the minor and the minor's parents, or the minor and the prospective adoptive parent, have a significant connection with this State; and                      (B) there is available in this State substantial evidence concerning the minor's present or future care;                      (4) the minor and the prospective adoptive parent are physically present in this State and the minor has been abandoned or it is necessary in an emergency to protect the minor because the minor has been subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse or is otherwise neglected; or</p>	<p><b>15A V.S.A. § 2-401 – Persons Whose Consent to Adoption is Required</b>                      (a) Unless consent is not required or is dispensed with by section 2-402 of this title, in a direct placement of a minor for adoption by a parent or guardian authorized under this title to place the minor, a petition to adopt the minor may be granted only if consent to the adoption has been executed by:                      (1) the woman who gave birth to the minor;                      (2) the biological father identified by the mother or as otherwise known to the court;                      (3) a man who is or has been married to the woman if the minor was born during the marriage or within 300 days after the marriage was terminated or a court issued a decree of separation;                      (4) a man who:                      (A) was not married to the minor's mother at the time of the child's birth;                      (B) has acknowledged his paternity of the minor by executing a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity under 15 V.S.A. § 307 or has filed a notice to retain parental rights under section 1-110 of this title; and                      (C) has demonstrated a commitment to the responsibilities of parenthood by establishing a custodial, personal, or financial relationship with the child, unless he was prevented from demonstrating such commitment or was unable to demonstrate such commitment; and                      (5) the minor's guardian if expressly authorized by a court to consent to the minor's adoption; or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(5) it appears that no other state would have jurisdiction under prerequisites substantially in accordance with subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection, or another state has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the ground that this State is the more appropriate forum to hear a petition for adoption of the minor, and it is in the best interest of the minor that a court of this State assume jurisdiction.</p> <p>(b) A court of this State may not exercise jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption of a minor if at the time the petition for adoption is filed a proceeding concerning the custody or adoption of the minor is pending in a court of another state exercising jurisdiction substantially in conformity with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act or this title, unless the proceeding is stayed by the court of the other state.</p> <p>(c) If a court of another state has issued a decree or order concerning the custody of a minor who may be the subject of a proceeding for adoption in this State, a court of this State may not exercise jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption of the minor unless:</p> <p>(1) the court of this State finds that the court of the state which issued the decree or order:</p> <p>(A) does not have continuing jurisdiction to modify the decree or order under jurisdictional prerequisites substantially in accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act or has declined to assume jurisdiction to modify the decree or order; or</p> <p>(B) does not have jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption substantially in conformity with subdivisions (a)(1) through (4)</p>	<p>(6) the current adoptive or other legally recognized mother and father of the minor.</p> <p>(b) Unless consent is not required under section 2-402 of this title, in a placement of a minor for adoption by an agency authorized under this title to place the minor, a petition to adopt the minor may be granted only if consent to the adoption has been executed by:</p> <p>(1) the agency that placed the minor for adoption; and</p> <p>(2) a person described in subsection (a) who has not relinquished the minor or had his or her parental rights terminated.</p> <p><b>15A V.S.A. § 2-404 – Time and Prerequisites for Execution of Consent or Relinquishment</b></p> <p>(a) A parent whose consent to the adoption of a minor is required by section 2-401 of this title may not execute a consent or a relinquishment sooner than 36 hours after the minor is born. A parent who executes a consent or relinquishment may revoke the consent or relinquishment within 21 days after the consent or relinquishment is executed by filing a written notice in the court in which the consent was executed.</p> <p>(b) A guardian may execute a consent to the adoption of a minor or a relinquishment at any time after being authorized by a court to do so.</p> <p>(c) An agency that places a minor for adoption may execute its consent at any time before or during the hearing on the petition for adoption.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>of this section or has declined to assume jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption; and</p> <p>(2) the court of this State has jurisdiction over the proceeding.</p> <p>(d) The Probate Division of the Superior Courts of this State shall have jurisdiction over a proceeding for relinquishment, consent to adoption or termination of parental rights associated with an adoption if immediately preceding the commencement of the proceeding:</p> <p>(1) the adoptee resided in this State; or</p> <p>(2) the agency receiving a relinquishment is licensed as a child placing agency in this State; or</p> <p>(3) the prospective adoptive parents, if known, have lived or had legal residence in this State for at least six consecutive months; or</p> <p>(4) one parent of the adoptee has had legal residence in this State for at least six months; or</p> <p>(5) any requirement of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act is satisfied so as to vest the courts of this State with jurisdiction over the child.</p> <p>(e) The Probate Division of the Superior Courts of this State shall have jurisdiction over civil actions concerning disclosure of identifying information pursuant to Article 6 of this title and construction and enforcement of adoption decrees and orders, and except as provided in section 7-101 of this title, all other civil actions arising under this title.</p> <p>(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to remove jurisdiction from the Family Division of the Superior Court over relinquishment or termination of parental rights under 33 V.</p>	<p>(d) A minor adoptee whose consent is required may execute a consent at any time at or before the hearing on the petition for adoption.</p> <p>(e) Before executing a consent or relinquishment, a parent shall have been informed of the meaning and consequences of adoption, the availability of personal and legal counseling, the consequences of misidentifying the other parent, the procedure for releasing information about the health and other characteristics of the parent which may affect the physical or psychological well-being of the adoptee, and the procedure for the release of the parent's identity pursuant to Article 6 of this title. (Added 1995, No. 161 (Adj. Sess.), § 1.)</p> <p><b>15A V.S.A. § 2-405 – Procedure for Execution of Consent or Relinquishment</b></p> <p>(a) A consent or relinquishment executed by a parent or guardian under this title shall be signed in the presence of:</p> <p>(1) a judge of a court that has jurisdiction over adoption proceedings in this or in any other state;</p> <p>(2) a person appointed by a probate judge to take consents or relinquishments;</p> <p>(3) a commissioned officer on active duty in the military service of the United States, if the person executing the consent or relinquishment is in military service; or</p> <p>(4) an officer of the foreign service or a consular officer of the United States in another country, if the person executing the consent or relinquishment is in that country.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p><b>15A V.S.A. § 3-102 – Venue</b>                      (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a petition for adoption may be filed in the probate division of the superior court in the district in which a petitioner resides or has legal residence at the time of filing, the adoptee resides, or an office of an agency or the department that placed the adoptee is located.                      (b) A consent or petition for relinquishment or termination of parental rights may be filed in the probate division of the superior court in the district in which the minor resides, a relinquishing parent resides, or the agency or person receiving the relinquishment has its principal place of business.                      (c) Review of the appeal of a preplacement assessment shall take place in the probate division of the superior court in the district in which the appealing party resides or where the agency or person conducting the assessment is located.</p> <p><b>15A V.S.A. § 1-108 – Recognition of Adoption Decree in Another Jurisdiction</b>                      A decree or order of adoption issued by a court of any other state which is entitled to full faith and credit in this State, or a decree or order of adoption entered by a court or administrative entity in another country acting pursuant to that country's law or to any convention or treaty on intercountry adoption which the United States has ratified, has the same effect as a decree or order of adoption issued by a court of this State. The rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the decree or order were issued by a court of this State.</p>	<p>(b) A consent executed by a minor adoptee shall be signed in the presence of the judge before whom the proceeding is pending.                      (c) A parent who is a minor is competent to execute a consent or relinquishment if the parent has had the advice of an attorney who is not representing an adoptive parent or the agency to which the parent's child is relinquished. The attorney shall be present when the consent or relinquishment is executed.                      (d) A person before whom a consent or relinquishment is signed under subsection (a) of this section shall certify in writing that he or she orally explained the contents and consequences of the consent or relinquishment and, to the best of the person's knowledge or belief, the person executing the consent or relinquishment:                      (1) read or was read the consent or relinquishment and understood it;                      (2) signed the consent or relinquishment voluntarily;                      (3) received or was offered a copy of the consent or relinquishment and the information described in subsection 2-404(e) of this title;                      (4) if a parent, understands that personal counseling was available by a certified adoption counselor or other counselor of his or her choice;                      (5) if a parent who is a minor, was advised by an attorney who is not representing an adoptive parent or the agency to which the parent's child is being relinquished, or, if an adult, was informed of the right to have an attorney who is not</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>representing an adoptive parent or an agency to which the parent's child is being relinquished;</p> <p>(6) if a mother who has not identified a biological father, has responded to inquiries under section 3-404 of this title; and</p> <p>(7) if a parent who has identified another parent who is deceased, has provided the names and addresses of persons described in subdivision 3-401(a)(6) of this title.</p> <p>(e) A prospective adoptive parent named or described in a consent to the adoption of a minor shall sign a statement indicating an intention to adopt the minor, acknowledging an obligation to return legal and physical custody of the minor to the minor's parent if the parent revokes the consent within the time specified in subsection 2-404(a) of this title, and acknowledging responsibility for the minor's support and medical and other care if the consent is not revoked.</p> <p>(f) If an agency accepts a relinquishment, an employee of the agency shall sign a statement accepting the relinquishment, acknowledging its obligation to return legal and physical custody of the child to the minor's parent if the parent revokes the relinquishment within the time indicated in subsection 2-404(a), and acknowledging responsibility for the minor's support and medical and other care if the relinquishment is not revoked.</p> <p>(g) A person before whom a consent or a relinquishment is signed or confirmed shall certify having received the statements required by subsections (e) and (f) of this section.</p> <p>(h) A consent by an agency to the adoption of a minor in the agency's legal custody shall be executed by the head of the agency or a person authorized by the agency and shall be</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>signed or confirmed under oath in the presence of a person authorized to take acknowledgments.</p> <p>(i) A consent or relinquishment executed in another state or country is valid if in accordance with this title or with the law and procedure of the state or country in which executed.</p> <p>(Added 1995, No. 161 (Adj. Sess.), § 1.)</p>
Virginia	<p><b>VA Code § 63.2-1201</b> – <i>Filing of Petition for Adoption; Venue; jurisdiction; and Proceedings</i></p> <p>Proceedings for the adoption of a minor child and for a change of name of such child shall be instituted only by petition to a circuit court in the county or city in which the petitioner resides, in the county or city in which the child-placing agency that placed the child is located, or in the county or city in which a birth parent executed a consent pursuant to § 63.2-1233.</p> <p>Such petition may be filed by any natural person who resides in the Commonwealth, or who has custody of a child placed by a child-placing agency of the Commonwealth, or by an adopting parent of a child who was subject to a consent proceeding held pursuant to § 63.2-1233, or by intended parents who are parties to a surrogacy contract. The petition shall ask leave to adopt a minor child not legally the petitioner's by birth and, if it is so desired by the petitioner, also to change the name of such child. In the case of married persons, or persons who were previously married who are permitted to adopt a child under § 63.2-1201.1, the petition shall be the joint petition of the husband and wife or former spouses but, in the event the child to be adopted is legally the child by birth or adoption of one of the petitioners, such petitioner shall unite in the petition for the</p>	<p><b>VA Code § 63.2-1202</b> – <i>Parental, or Agency, Consent Required; Exceptions</i></p> <p>A. No petition for adoption shall be granted, except as hereinafter provided in this section, unless written consent to the proposed adoption is filed with the petition. Such consent shall be in writing, signed under oath and acknowledged before an officer authorized by law to take acknowledgments. The consent of a birth parent for the adoption of his child placed directly by the birth parent shall be executed as provided in § 63.2-1233, and the circuit court may accept a certified copy of an order entered pursuant to § 63.2-1233 in satisfaction of all requirements of this section, provided the order clearly evidences compliance with the applicable notice and consent requirements of § 63.2-1233.</p> <p>B. A birth parent who has not reached the age of 18 shall have legal capacity to give consent to adoption and perform all acts related to adoption, and shall be as fully bound thereby as if the birth parent had attained the age of 18 years.</p> <p>C. Consent shall be executed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By the birth mother and by any man who:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is an acknowledged father under § 20-49.1;</li> <li>b. Is an adjudicated father under § 20-49.8;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>purpose of indicating consent to the prayer thereof only. If any procedural provision of this chapter applies to only one of the adoptive parents, then the court may waive the application of the procedural provision for the spouse of the adoptive parent to whom the provision applies. The petition shall contain a full disclosure of the circumstances under which the child came to live, and is living, in the home of the petitioner. Each petition for adoption shall be signed by the petitioner as well as by counsel of record, if any. In any case in which the petition seeks the entry of an adoption order without referral for investigation, the petition shall be under oath.</p> <p>A single petition for adoption under the provisions of this section shall be sufficient for the concurrent adoption by the same petitioners of two or more children who have the same birth parent or parents, and nothing in this section shall be construed as having heretofore required a separate petition for each of such children.</p> <p>The petition for adoption, except those filed pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 6 of § 63.2-1210, shall include an additional \$50 filing fee that shall be used to fund the Virginia Birth Father Registry established in Article 7 (§ 63.2-1249 et seq.) of this chapter.</p> <p>A petition filed while the child is under 18 years of age shall not become invalid because the child reaches 18 years of age prior to the entry of a final order of adoption. Any final order of adoption entered pursuant to § 63.2-1213 after a child reaches 18 years of age, where the petition was filed prior to the child turning 18 years of age, shall have the same effect as if the child was under 18 years of age at the time the order was</p>	<p>c. Is a presumed father under subsection D; or</p> <p>d. Has registered with the Putative Father Registry pursuant to Article 7 (§ 63.2-1249 et seq.).</p> <p>Verification of compliance with the notice provisions of the Putative Father Registry shall be provided to the court.</p> <p>2. By the child-placing agency or the local board having custody of the child, with right to place him for adoption, through court commitment or parental agreement as provided in § 63.2-900, 63.2-903, or 63.2-1221; or an agency outside the Commonwealth that is licensed or otherwise duly authorized to place children for adoption by virtue of the laws under which it operates; and</p> <p>3. By the child if he is 14 years of age or older, unless the circuit court finds that the best interests of the child will be served by not requiring such consent.</p> <p>D. A man shall be presumed to be the father of a child if:</p> <p>1. He and the mother of the child are married to each other and the child is born during the marriage;</p> <p>2. He and the mother of the child were married to each other and the child is born within 300 days of their date of separation, as evidenced by a written agreement or decree of separation, or within 300 days after the marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce; or</p> <p>3. Before the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child married each other in apparent compliance with the law, even if the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and the child is born during the invalid marriage or within 300 days of their date of separation, as evidenced by a written agreement</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>entered by the circuit court provided the court has obtained the consent of the adoptee.</p> <p><b>VA Code § 63.2-1200.1 – Recognition of Foreign Adoption</b>                      A. Any adoption of a child who was born in a foreign country and who was not a citizen of the United States at the time of birth shall, subject to the provisions of subsection D of § 63.2-1201.1, be recognized by the Commonwealth and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be determined as though the order of adoption was entered by a court of the Commonwealth if the adoption was finalized pursuant to the laws of the country from which the child was adopted, and the child was admitted to the United States with an IR-3 or IH-3 visa issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In such cases, the adoptive parents shall not be required to readopt the child in Virginia.</p>	<p>or decree of separation, or within 300 days after its termination by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce. Such presumption may be rebutted by sufficient evidence that would establish by a preponderance of the evidence the paternity of another man or the impossibility or improbability of cohabitation with the birth mother for a period of at least 300 days prior to the birth of the child.</p> <p>E. No consent shall be required of a birth father if he denies under oath and in writing the paternity of the child. Such denial of paternity may be withdrawn no more than 10 days after it is executed. Once the child is 10 days old, any executed denial of paternity is final and constitutes a waiver of all rights with respect to the adoption of the child and cannot be withdrawn.</p> <p>F. No consent shall be required of the birth father of a child when the birth father is convicted of a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-61, § 18.2-63, subsection B of § 18.2-366, or an equivalent offense of another state, the United States, or any foreign jurisdiction, and the child was conceived as a result of such violation.</p> <p>G. No notice or consent shall be required of any person whose parental rights have been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction, including foreign courts that have competent jurisdiction. No notice or consent is required of any birth parent of a child for whom a guardianship order was granted when the child was approved by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for purposes of adoption.</p> <p>H. No consent shall be required of a birth parent who, without just cause, has neither visited nor contacted the child for a period of six months immediately prior to the filing of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>petition for adoption or the filing of a petition to accept consent to an adoption. The prospective adoptive parent(s) shall establish by clear and convincing evidence that the birth parent(s), without just cause, has neither visited nor contacted the child for a period of six months immediately prior to the filing of the petition for adoption or the filing of a petition to accept consent to an adoption. This provision shall not infringe upon the birth parent's right to be noticed and heard on the allegation of abandonment. For purposes of this section, the payment of child support, in the absence of other contact with the child, shall not be considered contact.</p> <p>I. A birth father of the child may consent to the termination of all of his parental rights prior to the birth of the child.</p> <p>J. The failure of the nonconsenting party to appear at any scheduled hearing, either in person or by counsel, after proper notice has been given to said party, shall constitute a waiver of any objection and right to consent to the adoption.</p> <p>K. If a birth parent, legal guardian, or prospective adoptee, executing a consent, entrustment, or other documents related to the adoption, cannot provide the identification required pursuant to § 47.1-14, the birth parent, legal guardian, or prospective adoptee may execute a self-authenticating affidavit as to his identity subject to the penalties contained in § 63.2-1217.</p>
Washington	<b>RCW 26.33.030</b> – <i>Petitions—Place of Filing—Consolidation of Petitions and Hearings</i>	<b>RCW 26.33.160</b> – <i>Consent to Adoption – When Revocable - Procedure</i> (1) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 26.33.170, consent to an adoption shall be required of the following if applicable:

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A petition under this chapter may be consolidated with any other petition under this chapter. A hearing under this chapter may be consolidated with any other hearing under this chapter</p>	<p>(a) The adoptee, if fourteen years of age or older;</p> <p>(b) The parents and any alleged father of an adoptee under eighteen years of age;</p> <p>(c) An agency or the department to whom the adoptee has been relinquished pursuant to RCW 26.33.080; and</p> <p>(d) The legal guardian of the adoptee.</p> <p>(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4)(h) of this section, consent to adoption is revocable by the consenting party at any time before the consent is approved by the court. The revocation may be made in either of the following ways:</p> <p>(a) Written revocation may be delivered or mailed to the clerk of the court before approval; or</p> <p>(b) Written revocation may be delivered or mailed to the clerk of the court after approval, but only if it is delivered or mailed within forty-eight hours after a prior notice of revocation that was given within forty-eight hours after the birth of the child. The prior notice of revocation shall be given to the agency or person who sought the consent and may be either oral or written.</p> <p>(3) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b) and (4)(h) of this section and in this subsection, a consent to adoption may not be revoked after it has been approved by the court. Within one year after approval, a consent may be revoked for fraud or duress practiced by the person, department, or agency requesting the consent, or for lack of mental competency on the part of the person giving the consent at the time the consent was given. A written consent to adoption may not be revoked more than one year after it is approved by the court.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(4) Except as provided in (h) of this subsection, the written consent to adoption shall be signed under penalty of perjury and shall state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) It is given subject to approval of the court;</li> <li>(b) It has no force or effect until approved by the court;</li> <li>(c) The birth parent is or is not of Native American or Alaska native ancestry;</li> <li>(d) The consent will not be presented to the court until forty-eight hours after it is signed or forty-eight hours after the birth of the child, whichever occurs later;</li> <li>(e) It is revocable by the consenting party at any time before its approval by the court. It may be revoked in either of the following ways:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Written revocation may be delivered or mailed to the clerk of the court before approval of the consent by the court; or</li> <li>(ii) Written revocation may be delivered or mailed to the clerk of the court after approval, but only if it is delivered or mailed within forty-eight hours after a prior notice of revocation that was given within forty-eight hours after the birth of the child. The prior notice of revocation shall be given to the agency or person who sought the consent and may be either oral or written;</li> </ul> </li> <li>(f) The address of the clerk of court where the consent will be presented is included;</li> <li>(g) Except as provided in (h) of this subsection, after it has been approved by the court, the consent is not revocable except for fraud or duress practiced by the person, department, or agency requesting the consent or for lack of mental competency on the part of the person giving the consent at the time the</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>consent was given. A written consent to adoption may not be revoked more than one year after it is approved by the court;</p> <p>(h) In the case of a consent to an adoption of an Indian child, no consent shall be valid unless the consent is executed in writing more than ten days after the birth of the child and unless the consent is recorded before a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1913(a). Consent may be withdrawn for any reason at any time prior to the entry of the final decree of adoption. Consent may be withdrawn for fraud or duress within two years of the entry of the final decree of adoption. Revocation of the consent prior to a final decree of adoption, may be delivered or mailed to the clerk of the court or made orally to the court which shall certify such revocation. Revocation of the consent is effective if received by the clerk of the court prior to the entry of the final decree of adoption or made orally to the court at any time prior to the entry of the final decree of adoption. Upon withdrawal of consent, the court shall return the child to the parent unless the child has been taken into custody pursuant to RCW 13.34.050 or 26.44.050, placed in shelter care pursuant to RCW 13.34.060, or placed in foster care pursuant to RCW 13.34.130; and</p> <p>(i) The following statement has been read before signing the consent:</p> <p>I understand that my decision to relinquish the child is an extremely important one, that the legal effect of this relinquishment will be to take from me all legal rights and obligations with respect to the child, and that an order permanently terminating all of my parental rights to the child will be entered. I also understand that there are social services</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>and counseling services available in the community, and that there may be financial assistance available through state and local governmental agencies.</p> <p>(5) A written consent to adoption which meets all the requirements of this chapter but which does not name or otherwise identify the adopting parent is valid if it contains a statement that it is voluntarily executed without disclosure of the name or other identification of the adopting parent.</p> <p>(6) There must be a witness to the consent of the parent or alleged father. The witness must be at least eighteen years of age and selected by the parent or alleged father. The consent document shall contain a statement identifying by name, address, and relationship the witness selected by the parent or alleged father.</p> <p><b>RCW 26.33.080 – Petition for Relinquishment – Filing – Written Consent Required</b></p> <p>(1) A parent, an alleged father, the department, or an agency may file with the court a petition to relinquish a child to the department or an agency. The parent's or alleged father's written consent to adoption shall accompany the petition. The written consent of the department or the agency to assume custody shall be filed with the petition.</p> <p>(2) A parent, alleged father, or prospective adoptive parent may file with the court a petition to relinquish a child to the prospective adoptive parent. The parent's or alleged father's written consent to adoption shall accompany the petition. The written consent of the prospective adoptive parent to assume custody shall be filed with the petition. The identity of the</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>prospective adoptive parent need not be disclosed to the petitioner.</p> <p>(3) A petition for relinquishment, together with the written consent to adoption, may be filed before the child's birth. If the child is an Indian child as defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903(4), the petition and consent shall not be signed until at least ten days after the child's birth and shall be recorded before a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1913(a).</p> <p><b>RCW 26.33.310 – Notice—Requirements—Waiver</b></p> <p>(1) Petitions governed by this chapter shall be served in the manner as set forth in the superior court civil rules. Subsequent notice, papers, and pleadings may be served in the manner provided in superior court civil rules.</p> <p>(2) If personal service on any parent or alleged father who has not consented to the termination of his or her parental rights can be given, the summons and notice of hearing on the petition to terminate parental rights shall be served at least twenty days before the hearing date if served within the state or thirty days if served outside of this state.</p> <p>(3) If personal service on the parent or any alleged father, either within or without this state, cannot be given, notice shall be given: (a) By first-class and registered mail, mailed at least thirty days before the hearing to the person's last known address; and (b) by publication at least once a week for three consecutive weeks with the first publication date at least thirty days before the hearing. Publication shall be in a legal newspaper in the city or town of the last known address within the United States and its territories of the parent or alleged</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>father, whether within or without this state, or, if no address is known to the petitioner, publication shall be in the city or town of the last known whereabouts within the United States and its territories; or if no address or whereabouts are known to the petitioner or the last known address is not within the United States and its territories, in the city or town where the proceeding has been commenced.</p> <p>(4) Notice and appearance may be waived by the department, an agency, a parent, or an alleged father before the court or in a writing signed under penalty of perjury. The waiver shall contain the current address of the department, agency, parent, or alleged father. The face of the waiver for a hearing on termination of the parent-child relationship shall contain language explaining the meaning and consequences of the waiver and the meaning and consequences of termination of the parent-child relationship. A person or agency who has executed a waiver shall not be required to appear except in the case of an Indian child where consent to termination or adoption must be certified before a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1913(a).</p> <p>(5) If a person entitled to notice is known to the petitioner to be unable to read or understand English, all notices, if practicable, shall be given in that person's native language or through an interpreter.</p> <p>(6) Where notice to an Indian tribe is to be provided pursuant to this chapter and the department is not a party to the proceeding, notice shall be given to the tribe at least ten business days prior to the hearing by registered mail return receipt requested.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
<p>West Virginia</p>	<p><b>WV Code § 48-22-201 – Persons Who May Petition for Decree of Adoption</b>                      Any person not married or any person, with his or her spouse's consent, or any husband and wife jointly, may petition a circuit court of the county wherein such person or persons reside for a decree of adoption of any minor child or person who may be adopted by the petitioner or petitioners.</p> <p><b>WV Code § 48-22-901 – Recognition of Foreign Adoption Decree</b>                      When an adoption occurs in a foreign country and the adopted child has immigrated to the United States with the permission of the United States, this state shall recognize the adoption. The rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined as though the adoption decree was issued by a court of this state.</p> <p><b>WV Code § 48-22-902 – Filing Petition for Recognition of Foreign Adoption Decree</b>                      (a) At any time after the child has immigrated to the United States, the adoptive parent or parents may commence proceedings with the circuit court in their county of residence to have the foreign adoption decree recognized by filing a petition for recognition of foreign adoption decree.</p>	<p><b>WV Code § 48-22-601 – Who Shall Receive Notice.</b>                      (a) Unless notice has been waived, notice of a proceeding for adoption of a child must be served, within twenty days after a petition for adoption is filed, upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Any person whose consent to the adoption is required pursuant to the provisions of section 22-301, but notice need not be served upon a person whose parental relationship to the child or whose status as a guardian has been terminated;</li> <li>(2) Any person whom the petitioner knows is claiming to be the father of the child and whose paternity of the child has been established pursuant to the provisions of 24-101, et seq.;</li> <li>(3) Any person other than the petitioner who has legal or physical custody of the child or who has visitation rights with the child under an existing court order issued by a court in this or another state;</li> <li>(4) The spouse of the petitioner if the spouse has not joined in the petition; and</li> <li>(5) A grandparent of the child if the grandparent's child is a deceased parent of the child and, before death, the deceased parent had not executed a consent or relinquishment or the deceased parent's parental relationship to the child had not been otherwise terminated.</li> </ol> <p>(b) The court shall require notice of a proceeding for adoption to be served upon any person the court finds, at any time during the proceeding, is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) A person described in subsection (a) of this section who has not been given notice;</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(2) A person who has revoked consent or relinquishment pursuant to the provisions of section 22-305; or</p> <p>(3) A person who, on the basis of a previous relationship with the child, a parent, an alleged parent or the petitioner, can provide relevant information that the court, in its discretion, wants to hear.</p> <p><b>WV Code § 48-22-602 – How Notice is to be Served</b></p> <p>(a) Notice shall be served on each person as required under the provisions of section 22-601, in accordance with rule 4 of the West Virginia rules of civil procedure, except as otherwise provided in this article.</p> <p>(b) The notice shall inform the person, in plain language, that his or her parental rights, if any, may be terminated in the proceeding and that such person may appear and defend any such rights within the required time after such service. The notice shall also provide that if the person upon whom notice is properly served fails to respond within the required time after its service, said person may not appear in or receive further notice of the adoption proceedings.</p> <p>(c) In the case of any person who is a nonresident or whose whereabouts are unknown, service shall be achieved: (1) By personal service; (2) by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the person's last known address, with instructions to forward; or (3) by publication. If personal service is not achieved and the person giving notice has any knowledge of the whereabouts of the person to be served, including a last known address, service by mail shall be first attempted as provided herein. Any service achieved by</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>mail shall be complete upon mailing and shall be sufficient service without the need for notice by publication. In the event that no return receipt is received giving adequate evidence of receipt of the notice by the addressee or of receipt of the notice at the address to which the notice was mailed or forwarded, or if the whereabouts of the person is unknown, then the person required to give notice shall cause service of notice by publication as a Class II publication in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code, and the publication area shall be the county where the proceedings are had, and in the county where the person to be served was last known to reside, except in cases of foreign adoptions where the child is admitted to this country for purposes of adoptive placement and the United States immigration and naturalization service has issued the foreign-born child a visa or unless good cause is shown for not publishing in the county where the person was last known to reside. The notice shall state the court and its address but not the names of the adopting parents or birth mother, unless the court so orders.</p> <p>(d) In the case of a person under disability, service shall be made on the person and his or her personal representative, or if there be none, on a guardian ad litem.</p> <p>(e) In the case of service by publication or mail or service on a personal representative or a guardian ad litem, the person shall be allowed thirty days from the date of the first publication or mailing or of such service on a personal representative or guardian ad litem in which to appear and defend his or her parental rights.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p><b>WV Code § 48-22-603 – Notice to an Unknown Father</b></p> <p>(a) In the case of an unknown father, the court shall inspect the affidavit submitted pursuant to the provisions of section 22-502, consider any additional evidence that the court, in its discretion, determines should be produced, and determine whether said father can be identified. The inspection and consideration of any additional evidence by the court shall be accomplished as soon as practicable after the filing of the petition, but no later than sixty days before the final hearing on the adoption petition.</p> <p>(b) If the court identifies a father pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, then notice of the proceeding for adoption shall be served on the father so identified in accordance with the provisions of section 22-602.</p> <p>(c) If after consideration of the affidavit and/or the consideration of further evidence, the court finds that proper service cannot be made upon the father because his identity is unknown, the court shall order publication of the notice only if, on the basis of all information available, the court determines that publication is likely to lead to receipt of notice by the father. If the court determines that publication or posting is not likely to lead to receipt of notice, the court may dispense with the publication or posting of a notice.</p>
Wisconsin	<p><b>WI Stat § 48.83 – Jurisdiction and Venue</b></p> <p>(1) Except as provided in s. 48.028 (3) (b), the court of the county where the proposed adoptive parent or child resides or the court of the county where a petition for termination of</p>	<p><b>WI Stat § 48.41 – Voluntary Consent to Termination of Parental Rights</b></p> <p>(1) The court may terminate the parental rights of a parent after the parent has given his or her consent as specified in this</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>parental rights to the child was filed or granted under subch. VIII, upon the filing with that court of a petition for adoption or for the adoptive placement of a child, has jurisdiction over the child until the petition is withdrawn, denied, or granted. Venue in a proceeding for adoption or adoptive placement of a child shall be in the county where the proposed adoptive parent or child resides at the time the petition is filed or in the county where a petition for termination of parental rights to the child was filed or granted under subch. VIII. The court may transfer the case to a court in the county in which the proposed adoptive parents reside.</p> <p>(2) If the adoption is denied, jurisdiction over the child shall immediately revert to the court which appointed the guardian, unless the appointing court is a court of another state or foreign jurisdiction, in which case the court of the county where the child is shall have jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>WI Stat § 48.97 – Adoption and Guardianship Orders of Other Jurisdictions</b></p> <p>(1) Effect and recognition of adoption decrees of other states. When the relationship of parent and child has been created by an order of adoption of a court of any other state, the rights and obligations of the parties as to matters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be determined under s. 48.92 as though the order of adoption was entered by a court of this state.</p> <p>(2) Effect and recognition of foreign adoption decrees. If the adoption of a child who was born in a foreign jurisdiction and who was not a citizen of the United States at the time of birth</p>	<p>section. When such voluntary consent is given as provided in this section, the judge may proceed immediately to a disposition of the matter after considering the standard and factors specified in s. 48.426.</p> <p>(2) The court may accept a voluntary consent to termination of parental rights only as follows:</p> <p>(a) The parent appears personally at the hearing and gives his or her consent to the termination of his or her parental rights. The judge may accept the consent only after the judge has explained the effect of termination of parental rights and has questioned the parent, or has permitted an attorney who represents any of the parties to question the parent, and is satisfied that the consent is informed and voluntary.</p> <p>(b) If the court finds that it would be difficult or impossible for the parent to appear in person at the hearing, the court may do any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accept the written consent of the parent given before an embassy or consul official, a military judge, or a judge of any court of record in another county or state or a foreign jurisdiction. This written consent shall be accompanied by the signed findings of the embassy or consul official or judge who accepted the parent's consent. These findings shall recite that the embassy or consul official or judge or an attorney who represents any of the parties questioned the parent and found that the consent was informed and voluntary before the embassy or consul official or judge accepted the consent of the parent.</li> </ol>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>was finalized under the laws of the jurisdiction from which the child was adopted and if the child was admitted to the United States with an IR-3 or IH-3 visa issued by the U.S. citizenship and immigration services, all of the following apply:</p> <p>(a) The adoption shall be recognized by this state and the rights and obligations of the adoptive parent and child shall be determined under s. 48.92 as though the order of adoption was entered by a court of this state.</p> <p>(b) The adoptive parent shall not be required to readopt the child in this state.</p>	<p>2. On request of the parent, unless good cause to the contrary is shown, admit testimony on the record by telephone or live audiovisual means as prescribed in s. 807.13 (2).</p> <p>(c) A person who may be, but who has not been adjudicated as, the father of a nonmarital child may consent to the termination of any parental rights that he may have as provided in par. (a) or (b) or by signing a written, notarized statement which recites that he has been informed of and understands the effect of an order to terminate parental rights and that he voluntarily disclaims any rights that he may have to the child, including the right to notice of proceedings under this subchapter.</p> <p>(d) If the proceeding to terminate parental rights is held prior to an adoption proceeding in which the petitioner is the child's stepparent, or in which the child's birth parent is a resident of a foreign jurisdiction, the child's birth parent may consent to the termination of any parental rights that he or she may have as provided in par. (a) or (b) or by filing with the court an affidavit witnessed by 2 persons stating that he or she has been informed of and understands the effect of an order to terminate parental rights and that he or she voluntarily disclaims all rights to the child, including the right to notice of proceedings under this subchapter.</p> <p>(e) In the case of an Indian child, the consent is given as provided in s. 48.028 (5) (b).</p> <p>(3) If in any proceeding to terminate parental rights voluntarily a guardian ad litem has reason to doubt the capacity of a parent to give informed and voluntary consent to the termination, he or she shall so inform the court. The court shall then inquire into the capacity of that parent in any appropriate</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>way and shall make a finding as to whether or not the parent is capable of giving informed and voluntary consent to the termination. If the court finds that the parent is incapable of knowingly and voluntarily consenting to the termination of parental rights, it shall dismiss the proceedings without prejudice. That dismissal shall not preclude an involuntary termination of the parent's rights under s. 48.415.</p> <p><b>WI Stat § 48.88 – Notice of Hearing; Investigation</b>            (1) In this section, unless otherwise qualified, "agency" means any public or private entity except an individual.            (1m) Upon the filing of a petition for adoption, the court shall schedule a hearing within 90 days of the filing. Notice of the hearing shall be mailed, not later than 3 days from the date of the order for hearing and investigation, to the guardian of the child, if any, to the agency making the investigation under sub. (2), to the department when its recommendation is required by s. 48.89 and to the child if the child is 12 years of age or over.</p> <p><b>WI Stat § 48.97 – Adoption and Guardianship Orders of Other Jurisdictions</b>            (c) Within 365 days of a child being admitted to the United States, the adoptive parent shall submit a letter to the court requesting registration of the foreign adoption order. The parent shall include in the request all of the following:            1. Evidence as to the date, place of birth, and parentage of the child.            2. A certified or notarized copy of the final order of adoption entered by a court of the foreign jurisdiction and, if that final</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>order is not in English, a certified translation or a notarized copy of a certified translation of that final order.</p> <p>3. A sworn statement by the adoptive parent including all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That a home study was completed as required or recognized by this state and the home study recommends the parent as an adoptive parent.</li> <li>b. That the required preadoption training was completed.</li> <li>c. That the adoptive parent is receiving and will receive supervision from a licensed child welfare agency in the United States until the court enters an order registering the foreign adoption order and has satisfied all preadoption training requirements.</li> </ul> <p>4. The name and address of the adoptive parents and the child.</p> <p>5. Any other information necessary for the state registrar to prepare a certification of birth data for the child.</p>
Wyoming	<p><b>WY Stat § 1-22-104</b> – <i>Petition for Adoption of Minor; by Whom Filed; Requisites, Confidential Nature; Inspection; Separate Journal to be Kept</i></p> <p>(a) Adoption proceedings shall be commenced by a petition filed in district court. The district court may transfer jurisdiction of a petition to adopt a child to the juvenile court if the child proposed for adoption in the petition is under the prior and continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court.</p> <p><b>WY Stat § 1-5-108</b> – <i>Venue</i></p> <p>Every action not otherwise provided for in this chapter shall be brought in the county in which a defendant resides or may be</p>	<p><b>WY Stat § 1-22-109</b> – <i>Consent to Adoption</i></p> <p>(a) A written relinquishment of custody of the child to be adopted and written consent to adoption shall be filed with the petition to adopt and shall be signed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Both parents, if living; or</li> <li>(ii) The surviving parent; or</li> <li>(iii) The mother and putative father of the child if the name of the putative father is known; or</li> <li>(iv) The mother alone if she does not know the name of the putative father, in which case she shall sign and file an affidavit so stating and the court shall determine whether the putative</li> </ul>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
	<p>summoned, except actions against an executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, which may be brought in the county where he was appointed or resides. If the action involves two (2) or more defendants, the action may be brought against all defendants in any county in which one (1) of the defendants resides or may be summoned.</p>	<p>father has registered under W.S. 1-22-117 and if so, shall require notice to be given to the putative father; or</p> <p>(v) The legal guardian of the person of the child if neither parent is living or if parental rights have been judicially terminated; or</p> <p>(vi) The executive head of the agency to whom the child has been relinquished for adoption; or</p> <p>(vii) The person having exclusive legal custody of the child by court order; or</p> <p>(viii) The legally appointed guardian of any parent or putative father who has been adjudged mentally incompetent.</p> <p>(b) If the child to be adopted is over the age of fourteen (14) years his written consent to adoption shall also be filed with the petition to adopt.</p> <p>(c) The consent to adoption shall be signed any time after the birth of the child. The consent shall be acknowledged or may be approved in the following manner:</p> <p>(i) The consent shall be acknowledged by a:</p> <p>(A) Person authorized to take acknowledgments;</p> <p>(B) Representative of the department of family services; or</p> <p>(C) Representative of a certified agency to whom the custody of the child is being relinquished for adoption.</p> <p>(ii) If not acknowledged as provided in paragraph (i) of this subsection, the consent to adoption may be approved by the court after:</p> <p>(A) The person giving the consent has appeared before the court in an informal hearing in court chambers; and</p> <p>(B) The court finds that the consent is knowingly and voluntarily given.</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>(d) Consent to adoption and the relinquishment of a child for adoption are irrevocable unless obtained by fraud or duress, except that if the court should deny the adoption on account of a claim or objection of the putative father of the child, the court may also allow the mother of the child to withdraw her consent and relinquishment. The consent or relinquishment by a parent who is a minor is valid and may not be revoked solely because of minority.</p> <p>(e) The consent to adoption and the relinquishment of custody of a child for adoption may be contained in a single instrument.</p> <p><b>WY Stat § 1-22-107 – Service of Petition and Order; When Service by Publication Permitted; Exception</b></p> <p>(a) Prior to the hearing a copy of the petition to adopt a child and all orders to show cause shall be served on any persons whose consent to adoption is required by W.S. 1-22-109 and whose consent has not been filed with the petition to adopt. Service shall be made in the same manner as provided for by rule 4 of the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure and shall be accomplished so that a default judgment could be rendered at the hearing against the person served. Service by publication is specifically allowed where the defendant resides out of state, or his residence cannot, with reasonable diligence, be ascertained.</p> <p>(b) The petition and orders to show cause need not be served upon parents or other persons whose rights to the child have been terminated in a prior judicial proceeding.</p> <p>(c) Prior to the hearing a copy of the petition to adopt a child and an order to show cause shall be served on any persons awarded visitation rights to the child under W.S. 20-7-101 or</p>

Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Jurisdiction	Adoption Proceeding – Service/Notification Requirements
		<p>20-7-102. The consent of persons awarded visitation rights to the adoption is not required. However, the court may exercise its discretion to allow those persons an opportunity to be heard if the court finds it to be in the best interest and welfare of the child.</p>

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