



**2019 Edition**

# Adoption in Connecticut

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

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*Prepared by Connecticut Judicial Branch, Superior Court Operations,  
Judge Support Services, Law Library Services Unit*

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Treated Elsewhere:

- [Termination of Parental Rights in Connecticut](#)
- [Guardianship in Connecticut](#)
- [Birth and Conception in Connecticut](#)
- [Paternity Actions in Connecticut](#)

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# Introduction

## A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

- **Adoption:** “means the establishment by court order of the legal relationship of parent and child;” **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-707**(1) (2019).
- “The adoption of a minor child, and the giving of it in adoption to persons other than its natural parents, is a procedure, and creates a status, unknown to the common law. Being of purely statutory origin, a legal adoption results if the statutory procedure is followed, but fails if any essential requirement of the statute is not complied with.” [Appeal of Goshkarian](#), 110 Conn. 463, 465, 148 A. 379 (1930).
- “Connecticut law provides for only three types of adoptions: (1) statutory parent adoptions; (2) stepparent adoptions; and (3) blood relative adoptions.” [Nancy G. v. Dept. of Children and Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 684, 733 A.2d 136 (1999).
- “A statutory parent is defined as “the [commissioner] or the child-placing agency appointed by the court for the purpose of giving a minor child . . . in adoption. . . .” General Statutes § 45a-707 (7). A child-placing agency, in turn, is defined as “any agency within or without the state of Connecticut licensed or approved by the Commissioner . . . .” General Statutes § 45a-707 (3) . . . . [Nancy G. v. Dept. of Children & Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 684, 733 A.2d 136 (1999).” [In re Joshua S.](#), 260 Conn. 182, 218, 796 A.2d 1141 (2002).
- “To complete an adoption, two steps are essential. First, there must be an agreement to give and receive the child in adoption, and second, there must be approval of the agreement by a Probate Court having jurisdiction.” [Killen v. Klebanoff](#), 140 Conn. 111, 115, 98 A.2d 520 (1953).
- **Termination of parental rights required:** “This court agrees that the termination of parental rights is part of the adoption process; it is clear that adoption cannot proceed unless the parents' rights are terminated in the first instance. The converse is not true. The parents' rights can be terminated without an ensuing adoption.” [In re Theresa S.](#), 196 Conn. 18, 30, 491 A.2d 355 (1985).
- “A genetic parent may contract with adopting parents, prior to the adoption, for the continued right to visit the adopted child so long as visitation continues to be in the best interest of the child. See [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 551 A.2d 738 (1988). Such agreements are often referred to as ‘open adoption agreements.’ *Id.*, 412.” [In re Christopher G.](#), 118 Conn. App. 569, 572, n.6, 984 A.2d 1111 (2009).

# Section 1: Adoption by Nonrelated Persons

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to procedures for the adoptions of children by nonrelated persons in Connecticut.

## **TREATED ELSEWHERE:**

For adoptions where child has been located by prospective adoptive parents see [Section 7: Identified Adoptions](#)

## **DEFINITION:**

- **Adoption:** "When both parents' rights are terminated, it becomes the obligation of the state to look for permanent placement for the child or children. Adoption is the most appropriate solution unless family members such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, etc., are available to act as surrogates on either a temporary or permanent basis." [In re Theresa S.](#), 196 Conn. 18, 30-31, 491 A.2d 355 (1985).
- **Purpose:** "In promulgating the adoption statutes, the legislature sought to attain a result that would limit, if not eliminate, the possibility of 'black market adoptions.' In doing so, the legislature purposefully drafted very narrow legislation limiting who may give a child in adoption..." [In re Baby Z.](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New London at Norwich, No. 105695 (April 24, 1996) 45 Conn. Supp. 33, 699 A.2d 1065 (1996 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1091).
- **Types of Adoption.** "Connecticut law provides for only three types of adoptions: (1) statutory parent adoptions; (2) stepparent adoptions; and (3) blood relative adoptions." [Nancy G. v. Dept. of Children and Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 684, 733 A.2d 136 (1999).
- **Agency Placement.** "An application for the adoption of a minor child not related to the adoptive parents shall not be accepted by the Court of Probate unless (A) the child sought to be adopted has been placed for adoption by the Commissioner of Children and Families or a child-placing agency, and the placement for adoption has been approved by the commissioner or a child-placing agency; (B) the placement requirements of this section have been waived by the Adoption Review Board as provided in section 45a-764; (C) the application is for adoption of a minor child by a stepparent as provided in section 45a-733; or (D) the application is for adoption of a child by another person who shares parental responsibility for the child with the parent as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 45a-724. The commissioner or a child-placing agency may place a child in adoption who has been identified or located by a prospective parent, provided any such placement shall be made in accordance with regulations promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to section 45a-728. If any such placement is not

made in accordance with such regulations, the adoption application shall not be approved by the Court of Probate.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-727](#)(a)(3) (2019).

**STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - Chapter 319a. Child Welfare
    - § [17a-93](#)(14). Prospective adoptive family, defined
    - [Chapter 803](#). Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
      - § 45a-706. Rule of construction.
      - § 45a-724. Who may give child in adoption
      - § 45a-724a. Placement for adoption with child-placing agency by Commissioner of Children and Families.
      - § 45a-725. When children are free for adoption.
      - § 45a-726b. Recruitment of minority families not to delay placement of adoptive child.
      - § 45a-727. Application and agreement for adoption. Investigation, report. Adoptive parents entitled to receive copy of records and other information regarding history of child. assessment of fees. Hearing and decree.
      - § 45a-727a. Legislative findings re best interests of child.
      - § 45a-731. Effects of final decree of adoption. Surviving rights.
      - § 45a-736. Change of name of adopted person.
      - § 45a-737. Obliteration of original name on institutional records, new name substituted.
      - § 45a-764. Powers of Adoption Review Board. Notice and hearing.
    - Chapter 815. Court Proceedings in Family Relations Matters
      - § [46b-1](#)(14). Family relations matters defined. “Matters within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court deemed to be family relations matters shall be matters affecting or involving: . . . (14) appeals from probate concerning: (A) Adoption or termination of parental rights; (B) appointment and removal of guardians; (C) custody of a minor child; (D) appointment and removal of conservators; (E) orders for custody of any child; and (F) orders of commitment of persons to public and private institutions and to other appropriate facilities as provided by statute . . . .”

**LEGISLATIVE:**

- Katherine Dwyer, [Private Child Placing Agencies](#), Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, 2015-R-0226 (September 25, 2015).

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each **report's** publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

**"Do private child-placing agencies in Connecticut have to be licensed and, if so, by whom?"**

- Ryan F. O'Neil, [Adoption And Foster Care: Statistics And Recent Legislation](#), Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research Report, 2006-R-0684 (October 31, 2006).  
"You asked about (1) statistics concerning adoptive and foster children and (2) recent legislation affecting those children."
- Lawrence K. Furbish, [Probate Court Adoption Statistics](#), Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research Report, 98-R-1110 (September 2, 1998).  
"You asked us to update charts that appeared in a previous report (93-R-1382) concerning the number of adoptions in Connecticut."

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

- [2000 Conn. Acts 228](#) (Reg. Sess.). An act concerning the best interest of children in adoption matters. Substitute House Bill no. 5830.  
**Senate pages:** 2448-2491  
**House pages:** 4572-4634  
**Committee:** Judiciary: 2757-2760, 2769-2780, 2843-2844, 2845-2846, 2864-2867, 2870-2872, 2882-2885, 2902-2907, 2916-2920, 2934-2961, 2965-2674, 2984, 2988-2993, 3034, 3035, 3091-3122, 3352-3353

**REGULATIONS:**

You can visit your local law library or browse the [Connecticut eRegulations System](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

- Conn. Agencies Regs. [§17a-150-51 et seq.](#) (eff. Feb. 20, 1997)  
Child Placing Agency Licensing and Responsibilities
  - § 17a-150-51. Definitions
  - § 17a-150-52. Governing board
  - § 17a-150-53. Governing board review requirements
  - § 17a-150-54. Policies and procedures
  - § 17a-150-57. Staff supervision
  - § 17a-150-81. Reports of violations of regulations
  - § 17a-150-82. Reports of abuse or neglect
  - § 17a-150-83. Case records
  - § 17a-150-88. Evaluation before placement
  - § 17a-150-89. Consent for placements
  - § 17a-150-92. Access to documentation of approval
  - § 17a-150-95. Physical requirements of foster and prospective adoptive homes
  - § 17a-150-102. Character standards for foster or prospective adoptive parents and members of the household
  - § 17a-150-109. General requirements of foster or prospective adoptive parents
  - § 17a-150-113. Placement criteria
  - § 17a-150-121. Approval of out-of-state agencies
  - § 17a-150-122. Approval of out-of-country agencies
  - § 17a-150-123. Reporting status of approved homes to the department

**DCF POLICY  
MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)

**PROBATE COURT  
RULES:**

- Connecticut Probate Court Rules of Procedure (2017)  
Rule **40. Children’s Matters: General Provisions**  
[Sec. 40.10](#) Pre-adoption hearing  
[Sec. 40.11](#) Appointment of out-of-state child-placing-  
agency as statutory parent to give child in adoption

**PROBATE COURT  
USER GUIDE:**

- [Termination Of Parental Rights And Adoptions](#) (2018)
  - What is adoption?, p. 6
  - When is a minor free for adoption? p. 6
  - Who may give a minor in adoption? p. 6
  - What effect does divorce have on an adoption procedure, p. 7
  - How does an adoption proceeding begin? p. 7
  - What is the legal effect of adoption between the child and the adoptive parent? p. 8

**FORMS:**

Official Judicial Branch forms are frequently updated. Please visit the [Official Court Webforms page](#) for the current forms.

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)
  - [PC-603](#). Petition/Adoption (Rev. 8/19)
  - [PC-603CI](#). Confidential Information/Petition/Adoption (Rev. 8/19)
  - [PC-610](#). Affidavit/Custody of Minor Child (Rev. 4/18)
  - [PC-680](#). Adoption Data Sheet (Rev. 4/19)
  - [PC-681](#). Adoption Agreement (Rev. 4/19)
- [Conn. Judicial Branch Forms](#)
  - [JD-FM-164](#). Affidavit Concerning Children (Rev. 2/15)

**DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 **Adoption**
  - I. In General
    - 102. Nature and purpose of adoption in general
    - 105. Statutory nature of adoption
    - 108. What law governs
    - 109. Relation between state and federal law; preemption
    - 124. Adoption-related payments, fees, and expenses
  - II. Grounds, Factors, and Considerations in General
    - 142. Interest and role of government
    - 152. Fitness of competence in general
    - 154. Residency requirements
    - 172. Welfare and best interest of child
  - IV. Actions and Proceedings
    - 274. Jurisdiction and venue
    - 280. Parties
    - 286. Process or other notice
    - 288. Pleading
    - 291. Interviews, inspections, assessments, and studies
    - 292. Reference; reports and recommendations

- 295. Trial or hearing
- 302. Judgment, order, or decree
- V. Evidence
- VI. Operation and Effect of Adoption
  - 342. Status and rights of adopted person
  - 345. Parental rights, duties, and liabilities

- Dowling’s Digest: *Adoption*

**CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Mueller v. Tepler](#), 312 Conn. 631, 651-652, n. 18, 95 A.3d 1011 (2014). “We note that Connecticut ... enacted legislation in 2000 providing that, for purposes of adoption, ‘[t]he best interests of a child are promoted when the child is part of a loving, supportive and stable family, whether that family is a nuclear, extended, split, blended, single parent, adoptive or foster family.’ Public Acts 2000, No. 00–228, codified as amended at General Statutes § 45a–727a(3).”
- [In re Joshua S.](#), 260 Conn. 182, 218, 796 A.2d 1141 (2002). “A statutory parent is defined as “the [commissioner] or the child-placing agency appointed by the court for the purpose of giving a minor child . . . in adoption. . . .” General Statutes § 45a-707 (7). A child-placing agency, in turn, is defined as “any agency within or without the state of Connecticut licensed or approved by the Commissioner . . . .” General Statutes § 45a-707 (3) . . . .’ [Nancy G. v. Dept. of Children & Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 684, 733 A.2d 136 (1999).”
- [Nancy G. v. Dept. of Children and Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 688, 733 A.2d 136 (1999). “Because Jonathan was not placed for adoption by a licensed child-placing agency as required by § 17a-116, the plaintiff is not eligible to receive a postadoption subsidy for Jonathan.”
- [In re the adoption of Baby Z](#), 247 Conn. 474, 724 A.2d 1035 (1999). *Denial of adoption of a child by same-sex cohabiting partner of natural mother. Lead to passage of 2000 Conn. Acts 228 (Reg. Sess.) making such adoptions possible in Connecticut.*
- [Hao Thi Popp v. Lucas](#), 182 Conn. 545, 551, 438 A.2d 755 (1980). “In any controversy between a parent and a stranger, the parent should have a strong initial advantage, to be lost only where it is shown that the child’s welfare plainly requires custody to be placed in the stranger.” [internal quotation marks and citation omitted.]

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).
  - §§ 15-21. Persons who may adopt
  - §§ 22-26. Persons who may be adopted
  - §§ 75-116. Judicial proceedings
- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).



§§ 15-25. Persons who may adopt  
§ 25. Foster parents  
§§ 26-30. Persons who may be adopted  
§§ 107-162. Proceedings for adoption; Procedure

- *Termination of Parental Rights Under Adoption and Safe Families Act*, Elizabeth O'Connor Tomlinson, 115 [AmJur Trials](#) 465 (2010).

## **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5:1. Note on evolving adoption laws  
§ 5:3. Adoption of minors or adults  
§ 5:4. Probate Court jurisdiction over adoptions, interstate compacts  
§ 5:5. Who may give minors in adoption  
§ 5:6. When minors are free for adoption  
§ 5:7. Termination of parental rights and appointment of guardian or statutory parent for adoption petition  
§ 5:11. Procedure on adoption of minors, identified and hard-to-place children  
§ 5:15. Legal consequences of adoptions  
§ 5:20. Procedures for termination of parental rights and adoption
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).  
Chapter 9. Adoption  
Part II: Conducting Adoptions in Connecticut  
§ 9.06. Determining from Whom a Child May be Adopted  
§ 9.07. **Determining a Child's Eligibility for Adoption**  
§ 9.08. **Determining Adults' Eligibility to Adopt a Child**  
Part III: Navigating the Adoption Process  
§ 9.10. Applying for an Adoption  
§ 9.11. Determining the Legal Effect of Adoption
- 1 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 4. Adoption Procedures  
§ 4.05. Who may adopt  
§ 4.06. Who may be adopted
- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption law, procedure and practice  
§ 64.06. Legal Standards of Adoption  
§ 64.07. Who May Adopt  
§ 64.08. Who May Be Adopted

- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).
  - Chapter 4. Adoption
    - § 4:8. Who may adopt
    - § 4:55. Surrogate parents
    - §§ 4:66-4:69. Adoption by lesbian and gay individuals or couples
    - §§ 4:70-4:71. Minority issues
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).
  - Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements
    - § 6.1. Introduction to adoption
    - § 6.2. Persons who may be adopted and who may adopt
    - § 6.3. – Consideration of race or religion in adoption proceedings
    - § 6.8. Dispensing with consent; abandonment of child; failure to support
    - § 6.10. Attacks on adoption decrees
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).
  - Chapter 14. Adoption
    - § 14.4. Who may adopt
    - § 14.5. Who may be adopted
    - § 14.19. Transracial adoption
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).
  - Chapter 6. Adoption
    - § 6.01[A]. Introduction and Overview
    - § 6.01[B]. Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights
    - § 6.01[D]. Agency Adoption

**LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Pamela Laufer-Ukeles, [The Relational Rights of Children](#), 48 [Connecticut Law Review](#) 741 (February 2016).
- Jennifer E. Croteau, Case Comments, *In Re Baby Z: Manipulating The Law To Allow Adoption Of A Child By The Same Sex Partner Of The Biological Parent*, 11 [Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal](#) 99 (1997).
- Charles M. Lyman, *Conflict of Laws and Facts with Special Application to Our Adoption Statutes*, 9 [Connecticut Bar Journal](#) 315 (1935).
- R. Richard Banks, [The Color of Desire: Fulfilling Adoptive Parents' Racial Preferences Through Discriminatory State Action](#), 107 [Yale Law Journal](#) 875 (1998).
- Elizabeth Bartholet, [Correspondence, Private Race Preferences in Family Formation](#), 107 [Yale Law Journal](#) 2351 (1998).

# Section 2: Adoption by Stepparents

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to procedures for stepparent adoption in Connecticut

## **DEFINITION:**

- **Stepparent Adoption:** "is the adoption of a child by a person who, though unrelated, is the spouse of the birth or adoptive parent." Conn. DCF Policy Manual, [25-2](#), page 1.

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)  
Chapter 319a. Child Welfare  
§ [17a-93](#)(14). Prospective adoptive family, defined  
  
Chapter 803. Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption  
§ [45a-724](#)(a)(2). Who may give child in adoption  
§ [45a-733](#). Procedure on application for adoption by stepparent

## **LEGISLATIVE:**

- [Public Act No. 16-156](#), Sec. 1, (June 2016 Sess.). *An Act Concerning Second Parent Adoption*. (Effective October 1, 2016.)  
-*Waiver of requirements of notice to the Commissioner of Children and Families in co-parent adoption*  
-*Waiver of requirements for investigation and report by the Commissioner of Children and Families in co-parent adoption unless good cause is shown*

## **PROBATE COURT RULES:**

- Connecticut Probate Court Rules of Procedure (2017)  
Rule 40. **Children's Matters: General Provisions**  
[Sec. 40.12](#) Adoption by same sex married couple

## **DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies  
  
[Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)  
Relative and Stepparent Adoptions §§ 48-21-2 – 48-21-10

## **FORMS:**

Official Judicial Branch forms are frequently updated. Please visit the [Official Court Webforms page](#) for the current forms.

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)  
[PC-601](#). Petition/Consent TPR AND Stepparent, Co-Parent, or Relative Adoption (Rev. 8/19)  
[PC-601C1](#). Confidential Information /Petition (Rev. 8/19)  
[PC-603](#). Application/Adoption (Rev. 8/19)  
[PC-610](#). Affidavit/Custody of Minor Child (Rev. 4/18)  
[PC-680](#). Adoption Data Sheet (Rev. 7/18)  
[PC-681](#). Adoption Agreement (Rev. 4/19)  
  
• [Conn. Judicial Branch Court Forms](#)  
[JD-FM-164](#). Affidavit Concerning Children (Rev. 2/15)  
[JD-JM-60](#). Affidavit/Consent to Termination of Parental Rights (Rev. 7/11)

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5: 44. Decree, stepparent, relative adoption (PC-661)

### **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*  
II. Grounds, Factors, and Considerations in General  
160. Spouse or partner of birth parent; stepparents  
161. – In general  
162. – Former spouse or partner
- Dowling’s Digest *Adoption*

### **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [In re Adoption of K.S.P.](#), 804 N.E.2d 1253, footnote 4 (2004). **“In a lengthy opinion, which included a strong dissent, a majority of the Connecticut Supreme Court held that the state’s adoption laws did not permit a child with a natural or adoptive legal parent to be adopted by a second person other than that parent’s spouse. [Adoption of Baby Z](#), 247 Conn. 474, 724 A.2d 1035 (Conn. 1999). The Connecticut legislature quickly reacted to this decision by amending existing adoption statutes to specifically allow for second-parent adoptions.”**
- [In re Jeremy J.S.](#), Superior Court, Juvenile Matters, Judicial District of New Haven, (March 10, 1992) (1992 WL 48676) (1992 Conn. Super. LEXIS 670). **“Pursuant to Conn.Gen.Stat. § 45a-717(i), this leaves the petitioner herein the sole parent and guardian of the person of the child, and as such may pursue a stepparent adoption by her present husband under Con.Gen.Stat. § 45a-724(2)(D).”**
- [Remkiewicz v. Remkiewicz](#), 180 Conn. 114, 120, 429 A.2d 833, 1035 (1980). ***Stepfather may not obtain parental rights “through the simple expedient” of changing stepchild’s birth certificate.***

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).  
§§ 15-25. Persons who may adopt  
§§ 107-162. Proceedings for adoption; Procedure
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).  
§§ 15-21. Persons who may adopt  
§§ 22-26. Persons who may be adopted  
§ 138. Open adoption; postadoption visitation – Grandparents
- Mark A. Momjian, *Cause of action for second-parent adoption*, 25 [COA2d](#) 1 (2004).
- Ann K. Wooster, *Adoption of Child by Same-Sex Partners*, 61 [ALR6th](#) 1 (2011).

## **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5.5. Who may give minors in adoption  
§ 5.6. When minors are free for adoption  
§ 5.12. Procedure on adopting minor by stepparents
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin  
Stepparent adoptions - pp. 560-561
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).  
Chapter 9. Adoption  
Part II: Conducting Adoptions in Connecticut  
§ 9.08. **Determining Adults' Eligibility to Adopt a Child**  
[2] Adopting a Child by a Stepparent  
[3] Adopting a Child by a Co-Parent
- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption law, procedure and practice  
§ 64.04[1]. Stepparent adoption
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§ 4:5. Stepparent
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).  
Chapter 14. Adoption  
§ 14:8. Stepparent adoption
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).  
Chapter 6. Adoption  
§ 6.01[I]. Second-Parent Adoption

## **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Jennifer L. Laporte, *Connecticut's Intent Test to Determine Parentage: Equality for Same-Sex Couples at Last*, 26 [Quinnipiac Prob. L.J.](#) 291 (2013).
- Karthik Subramanian, *Better a Ward of the State than to Have Two Mothers? How Unconstitutional State Bans on Gay Adoption End up Hurting the Children the Most*, 32 [Children's Legal Rights Journal](#) 46, issue no. 1 (Spring 2012).
- Koreen Labrecque, Notes, *Grandparent Visitation After Stepparent Adoption*, 6 [Connecticut Probate L.J.](#) 61 (1991) or 10 [Connecticut Family Law Journal](#) 57 (1992).

Table 1: Co-Parent Adoption

<b>Co-Parent (or Second-Parent) Adoption</b>	
<b>Definition</b>	<p><b>Co-parent adoption:</b> "By law, the parent of a minor child may agree in writing with someone who shares parental responsibility for that child that the other person adopt or join in adopting the child. Such an adoption cannot take place unless the parental rights of the child's other parent have been terminated (CGS § 45a-724(a)(3)). Such a second-parent adoption, also called a co-parent adoption, gives a co-parent full legal rights with regard to the child." <a href="#">OLR Bill Analysis</a> For File Copy 14 (Public Act 16-156)</p> <p><b>Second-parent adoption:</b> "...child adoption proceedings where the person seeking to adopt shares parental responsibility with a child's biological parent ('second-parent adoption')." <a href="#">OLR Bill Analysis</a> For File Copy 14 (Public Act 16-156)</p>
<b>Authority</b>	<p>"Subject to the approval of the Court of Probate as provided in section 45a-727, any parent of a minor child may agree in writing with one other person who shares parental responsibility for the child with such parent that the other person shall adopt or join in the adoption of the child, if the parental rights, if any, of any other person other than the parties to such agreement have been terminated." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-724</a>(a)(3) (2019)</p>
<b>Probate Court Approval</b>	<p>"An application for the adoption of a minor child not related to the adoptive parents shall not be accepted by the Court of Probate unless... (D) the application is for adoption of a child by another person who shares parental responsibility for the child with the parent as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 45a-724." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-727</a>(a)(3)(D) (2019)</p>
<p><b>Waiver of requirements of notice to the Commissioner</b></p> <p><b>Waiver of requirements for investigation and report by Commissioner</b></p>	<p>"Notwithstanding the provisions of section 45a-727, in the case of a child sought to be adopted by a stepparent or a person who shares parental responsibility with the parent of such child pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 45a-724, the Probate Court may waive all requirements of notice to the Commissioner of Children and Families and shall waive, unless good cause is shown for an investigation</p>
<p>You can visit your local law library or search the most recent <a href="#">statutes</a> and <a href="#">public acts</a> on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.</p>	

	<p>and report, all requirements for investigation and report by the Commissioner of Children and Families or by a child-placing agency. Upon receipt of the application and agreement, the Probate Court may set a day for a hearing upon the agreement and shall give reasonable notice of the hearing to the parties to the agreement and to the child, if over twelve years of age." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-733</a>(a) (2019)</p>
<p><b>Office of Legislative Research Report</b></p> <p><a href="#">Office of Legislative Research</a> reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.</p>	<p><a href="#">Co-Parent Adoption and Home Study</a> – 2013-R-0088  <b>"You asked (1) if state law requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to conduct a home study when a second-parent adoption (called co-parent adoption in Connecticut) occurs and (2) how other states handle home studies for these types of adoptions."</b></p>
<p><b>Legislative</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Act 00-228</a> <i>An Act Concerning the Best Interest of Children in Adoption Matters</i>  <a href="#">Office of Legislative Research Summary</a></p>
<p><b>Treatise</b></p> <p>You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our <a href="#">catalog</a> directly to search for more treatises.</p>	<p>Louise Truax, ed., <a href="#">LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law</a> (2019).  Chapter 9. Adoption  Part II: Conducting Adoptions in Connecticut  <b>§ 9.08 Determining Adults' Eligibility to Adopt a Child</b>  [3] Adopting a Child by a Co-Parent</p>

# Section 3: Adoption by Blood Relatives

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to adoption by relatives in Connecticut, **including unmarried father and the child's grandparents.**

## **DEFINITION:**

- **Relative:** "means any person descended from a common ancestor, whether by blood or adoption, not more than three generations removed from the child." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-707](#)(6) (2019).
- **Relative:** "shall include, but not be limited to, a person who has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child born out of wedlock, or who has acknowledged his paternity under the provisions of section 46b-172a, with further relationship to the child determined through the father." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-724](#)(a)(4) (2019).
- **Relative adoption:** "is the adoption of a child by a person(s) who is a blood relative descended from a common ancestor not more than three generations removed from the child." Conn. DCF Policy Manual, [25-2](#), page 1.

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - [Chapter 319a](#). Child Welfare
    - § [17a-93](#)(14). Prospective adoptive family, defined
  - [Chapter 803](#). Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
    - § [45a-724](#). Who may give child in adoption
    - § [45a-725](#). When child free for adoption
    - § [45a-727](#). Application and agreement for adoption. Investigation, report. Adoptive parents entitled to receive copy of records and other information re history of child. Assessment of fees. Hearing and decree

## **DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)
  - [25-1](#). Adoption Overview
  - [25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)
  - Relative and Stepparent Adoptions §§ 48-21-2 – 48-21-10

## **FORMS:**

Official Judicial Branch forms are frequently updated. Please visit the [Official Court Webforms page](#) for the current forms.

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)
  - [PC-601](#). Petition/Consent Termination of Parental Rights AND Stepparent, Co-Parent, or Relative Adoption (Rev. 8/19)
  - [PC-601C1](#). Confidential Information /Petition /Consent /Termination of Parental Rights AND Stepparent, Co-parent or Relative Adoption (Rev. 8/19)
  - [PC-603](#). Application/Adoption (Rev. 8/19)



[PC-610](#). Affidavit/Custody of Minor Child (Rev. 4/18)

[PC-680](#). Adoption Data Sheet (Rev. 7/18)

[PC-681](#). Adoption Agreement (Rev. 4/19)

- [Conn. Judicial Branch Court Forms](#)
  - [JD-FM-164](#). Affidavit Concerning Children (Rev. 2/15)
  - [JD-JM-60](#). Affidavit/Consent to Termination of Parental Rights (Rev. 7/11)

## **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Daniel J. Ryan, et al. v. Joette Katz, Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, Juvenile Matters at Hartford, No. H12CP13015300A (January 8, 2014) (2014 WL 279670) (2014 Conn. Super. LEXIS 36). **“Further, pursuant to General Statutes § 46b-129(j)(3), relatives are given preferential treatment for permanent placement of the child.”** (Emphasis added.)

“Pursuant to the fair preponderance of the evidence presented to the court, the court finds that it is in Izabella's best interest to be placed with her biological family in Pennsylvania. The issue before the court is not to determine which family loves Izabella more or to question the depth of each family's love and affection for her, nor who would make better parents. Indeed, Izabella is clearly a well-loved child. The issue is whether the petitioners have proven that placement of Izabella with her paternal family would be detrimental to her well-being. The petitioners have not proven that assertion to the court by a fair preponderance of the evidence.”

- [Mullins v. Oregon](#), 57 F.3d 789 (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit 1995). *Constitutional rights of grandparents.*
- [Lehr v. Robertson](#), 463 U.S. 248, 103 S.Ct. 2985, 77 L. Ed. 2d 614 (1983). *Unwed father's petition to set aside order of adoption.*

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - II. Grounds, Factors, and Considerations in General
    - 157. Grandparents
    - 158. Persons in loco parentis; de facto parents
- Dowling's Digest *Adoption*

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).
  - § 24. Persons who may adopt - Other blood relations
  - § 29. Persons who may be adopted - Blood relations; natural children
  - § 124. Proceedings - Parties - Grandparents
  - § 134. Proceedings - Factors Affecting Determination - Grandparents
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).

§§ 15-21. Persons who may adopt  
§§ 22-26. Persons who may be adopted

## **TEXT & TREATISES**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5.5. Who may give minors in adoption
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin  
Relative adoption – p. 561
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).  
Chapter 9. Adoption  
Part II: Conducting Adoptions in Connecticut  
§ 9.08 **Determining Adults' Eligibility to Adopt a Child**  
[4] Adopting a Child by a Relative
- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption law, procedure and practice  
§ 64.07. Who may adopt  
§ 64.08. Who may be adopted  
§ 64.17. Challenge by grandparent or relative
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§ 4:8. Who may adopt  
§ 4:56. Grandparents' rights
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).  
Chapter 14. Adoption  
§ 14.6. Unmarried fathers  
§ 14.7. Unnamed fathers  
§ 14.9. Kinship adoption
- Dave Woods, *Crosspollination of Same-Sex Parental Rights Post-DOMA: The Subtle Solution*, 46 [Connecticut Law Review](#) 1651 (2014).
- Alan Brown, *Re G; Re Z (Children: Sperm Donors: Leave to Apply for Children Act Orders): Essential 'Biological Fathers' and Invisible 'Legal Parents'*, 26 Child and Family Law Quarterly 237, issue # 2 (2014).

## **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

Table 2: Who May Give a Child in Adoption?

<b>Who May Give a Child in Adoption</b>	
<b>Statutory parent</b>	<p>"A statutory parent appointed under the provisions of section 17a-112, section 45a-717 or section 45a-718 may, by written agreement, subject to the approval of the Court of Probate as provided in section 45a-727, give in adoption to any adult person any minor child of whom he or she is the statutory parent; provided, if the child has attained the age of twelve, the child <b>shall consent to the agreement.</b>" Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-724</a>(a)(1) (2019)</p>
<b>Parent and spouse</b>	<p>"Subject to the approval of the Court of Probate as provided in section 45a-727, any parent of a minor child may agree in writing with his or her spouse that the spouse shall adopt or join in the adoption of the child; if that parent is (A) the surviving parent if the other parent has died; (B) the mother of a child born out of wedlock, provided that if there is a putative father who has been notified under the provisions of section 45a-716, the rights of the putative father have been terminated; (C) a former single person who adopted a child and thereafter married; or (D) the sole guardian of the person of the child, if the parental rights, if any, of any person other than the parties to such agreement have been <b>terminated.</b>" Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-724</a>(a)(2) (2019)</p>
<b>Parent and other person who shares parental responsibility</b>	<p>"Subject to the approval of the Court of Probate as provided in section 45a-727, any parent of a minor child may agree in writing with one other person who shares parental responsibility for the child with such parent that the other person shall adopt or join in the adoption of the child, if the parental rights, if any, of any other person other than the parties to such agreement have been <b>terminated.</b>" Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-724</a>(a)(3) (2019)</p>
<b>Relative</b>	<p>"Subject to the approval of the Court of Probate as provided in section 45a-727, the guardian or guardians of the person of any minor child who is free for adoption in accordance with section 45a-725 may agree in writing with a relative that the relative shall <b>adopt the child. For the purposes of this subsection 'relative' shall include, but not be limited to, a person who has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child born out of wedlock, or who has acknowledged his paternity under the provisions of section 46b-172a, with further relationship to the child determined through the father.</b>" Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-724</a>(a)(4) (2019)</p>
<p>You can visit your local law library or search the most recent <a href="#">statutes</a> and <a href="#">public acts</a> on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.</p>	

Table 3: Statutory Parent and Adoption

<b>Statutory Parent and Adoption</b>	
<b>Definition</b>	<p>“[T]he Commissioner of Children and Families or the child-placing agency appointed by the court for the purpose of the adoption of a minor child or minor children.” <b>Conn. Gen. Stat.</b> § <a href="#">45a-707</a> (7)(2019)</p> <p>Probate Court User Guide: <a href="#">Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption</a> (2018)            What is a statutory parent, pg. 4</p>
<b>Appointment</b>	<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ <a href="#">17a-112</a> (2019), <a href="#">45a-717</a> (2019) (Amended by <a href="#">P.A. 19-47</a>, sec. 8), <a href="#">45a-718</a> (2019) (Amended by <a href="#">P.A. 19-47</a>, sec. 9)</p>
<b>Duties</b>	<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-718</a>(b) (2019)</p>
<b>Removal</b>	<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-718</a>(c) (2019)</p>
<b>Resignation</b>	<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-718</a>(c) (2019)</p>
<p>You can visit your local law library or search the most recent <a href="#">statutes</a> and <a href="#">public acts</a> on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.</p>	

## Section 4: Consent to Adoption

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to procedures for consenting to adoption including withdrawal or revocation of consent

### **DEFINITION:**

- “To complete an adoption, two steps are essential. First, there must be an agreement to give and receive the child in adoption, and second, there must be approval of the **agreement by a Probate Court having jurisdiction.**” [Killen v. Klebanoff](#), 140 Conn. 111, 115, 98 A.2d 520 (1953).
- “The right of custody has never been an absolute right, which could be bargained away or disposed of or transferred by either parent, except by giving in adoption with the approval of a Court of Probate in a manner prescribed by statute. [Johnson v. Terry](#), 34 Conn. 259, 263; General Statutes, §§ 4878, 4879.” [Dunham v. Dunham](#), 97 Conn. 440, 442, 117 A. 504 (1922) overruled in part on other grounds by [Freund v. Burns](#), 131 Conn. 380, 385, 40 A.2d 754 (1944).
- **Consent of child who has attained the age of 12:** “A statutory parent appointed under the provisions of section 17a-112, section 45a-717 or section 45a-718 may, by written agreement, subject to the approval of the Court of Probate as provided in section 45a-727, give in adoption to any adult person any minor child of whom he or she is the statutory parent; provided, if the child has attained the age of twelve, **the child shall consent to the agreement.**” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-724](#)(a)(1) (2019).

### **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - [Chapter 801b](#). Probate Court Procedures
    - § [45a-186](#). Appeals from probate (Amended by [P.A. 19-47](#), sec. 10)
    - § [45a-187](#). Time of taking appeals (Amended by [P.A. 19-47](#), sec. 13)
  - [Chapter 803](#). Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
    - § [45a-724](#). Who may give child in adoption
    - § [45a-727](#). Application and agreement for adoption. Investigation, report. Adoptive parents entitled to receive copy and other information re history of child. Assessment of fees. Hearing and decree
    - § [45a-732](#). Husband and wife to join in adoption

### **LEGISLATIVE:**

- Susan Price, [Adoption: Birth Mothers’ Rights To Revoke Consent](#), Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, 2004-R-0661 (September 13, 2004).

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report’s publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

## **FORMS:**

- 1A [Am Jur Legal Forms 2d Adoption](#) (2017)
  - §§ 9:15-9:26. Consent to adoption
    - § 9:16. Checklist--Matters to consider when drafting consent to adoption
    - § 9:17. Consent to adoption--By parents
    - § 9:18. --By mother or father
    - § 9:19. --By unmarried father
    - § 9:20. --By institution
    - § 9:21. --By spouse of adult
    - § 9:22. --By natural parent--Adoptive parent spouse of other natural parent
    - § 9:23. --By minor child
    - § 9:24. --By spouse of adopting parent
    - § 9:25. Refusal to consent to adoption--By father or mother
    - § 9:26. Withdrawal of consent to adoption--By father or mother
- 1 [Nichols Cyclopeda Of Legal Forms Annotated](#) (2019)
  - § 7:24. Consent to adoption
  - § 7:26. —Consent by mother
  - § 7:27. —Consent by mother of illegitimate child
  - § 7:29. —Consent of minor
  - § 7:32. —**Consent of children’s home or agency**
  - § 7:33. —Causes showing authority to give consent

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - III. Consent to Adoption
    - (A) In General; Necessity
    - (B) Exceptions to Consent Requirement
    - (C) Requisites and Validity of Consent
    - (D) Withdrawal or Revocation of Consent
- Dowling’s Digest: *Adoption*

## **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [In re Simon A. W.](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New Haven at New Haven, No. CP97009105A, n. 3 (May 27, 1997) (1997 WL 309576) (1997 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1480). “The legislature’s intent that no adoption application may be approved until after the court first determines the validity of any parent’s consent and subsequently issues an order of termination based on such consent, was made explicit by the creation, in P.A. 96-246, of a separate subsection (f) of 45a-717.”
- [Bailey v. Mars](#), 138 Conn. 593, 87 A.2d 388 (1952). *Withdrawal of consent to adopt.*
- [Killen v. Klebanoff](#), 18 Conn. Supp. 177, 178 (1952). “Consent lies at the foundation of statutes of adoption and when it is

required to be given and submitted the court cannot take jurisdiction of the **subject matter without it.**"

- [Meleski v. Havens](#), 129 Conn. 238, 27 A.2d 159 (1942).  
*Fraudulent representation.*

#### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).
  - §§ 65-106. Consent to adoption
  - §§ 67-93. Consent of particular persons
  - §§ 94-100. Validity of consent; Formal requirements
  - §§ 101-106. Revocation or withdrawal of consent
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).
  - §§ 49-74. Consent of parties
  - §§ 117-127. Revoking or setting aside adoption
- *Undue Influence in Obtaining Parent's Consent to Adoption of Child*, Jonathan M. Purver, 8 [POF2d](#) 481 (1976).
- *Guardian's Arbitrary And Unreasonable Withholding Of Consent To Adoption*, Jonathan M. Purver, 23 [POF2d](#) 163 (1980).
- *Cause of Action to Withdraw or Revoke Parental Consent to Adopt*, Kurtis A. Kemper, JD, 14 [COA](#) 817 (1987).
- *Cause of Action for Adoption without Consent of Parent on Ground of Abandonment*, Stephen A. Brunette, JD, 16 [COA](#) 219 (1988).

#### **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).
  - Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights
    - § 5.5. Who may give minors in adoption
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).
  - Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
- 1 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 2. Consent to Adoption
    - § 2.02. Whose consent is necessary
    - § 2.03. Mother of the child
    - § 2.04. Father of the child
    - § 2.05. Consent when mother or father is a minor
    - § 2.06. Consent when child has only one or no living parent; Appointment of a legal guardian
    - § 2.07. Consent by adoption agencies
    - § 2.08. Consent of the adoptee
    - § 2.09. Special situations
    - § 2.10. Exceptions to the requirement of parental consent
    - § 2.11. Procedure for obtaining consent

§ 2.12. Revocation of consent

- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption law, procedure and practice  
§ 64.10. Consent to adoption  
§ 64.12[4]. Consents or surrender documents  
§ 64.15. Challenges by Birth Parents  
[1] No Consent  
[2] Validity of Consent  
[3] Revocation of Consent
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§§ 4:14-4:24. Consent requirements  
Appendix 4E. Consent to adoption (Open adoption)  
Appendix 4F. Consent to adoption (Closed adoption)  
Appendix 4G. Consent by Agency  
Appendix 4H. Consent of Guardian
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).  
Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements  
§ 6.6. Consent, or lack of consent, to adoption  
§ 6.9. —Withdrawal of consent
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).  
Chapter 14. Adoption  
§ 14.11. Voluntary relinquishment and parental consent  
§ 14.12. Safe Haven Laws  
§ 14.13. Revocation of parental consent  
§ 14.14. Waver of consent  
§ 14.15. Consent of child  
§ 14.16. Agency consent
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).  
Chapter 6. Adoption  
§ 6.01[E]. Consent  
[1] Who Must Give Consent?  
[2] Consent of Unwed Father  
[3] Consent of Minor Parent  
[4] Revocation of Consent

**LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Malinda L. Seymore, [Adopting Civil Damages: Wrongful Family Separation in Adoption](#), 76 Washington and Lee Law Review 895 (Spring 2019).
- Malinda L. Seymore, [Sixteen and Pregnant: Minors' Consent in Abortion and Adoption](#), 25 Yale J. L. & Feminism 99 (2013).



- Ellen Wertheimer, *[Of Apples and Trees: Adoption and Informed Consent](#)*, 25 [Quinnipiac Law Review](#) 601 (2007).
- Kathleen M. Lynch, *[Adoption: Can Adoptive Parents Change Their Minds?](#)*, 26 [Family Law Quarterly](#) 257 (Fall 1992).
- Michelle De Garneau, Notes, *[Fraud In The Inducement And Mistake Of Fact In The Adoption Process: Reevaluating The Best Interest Of The Child With Special Needs](#)*, 2 [Connecticut Prob. L. J.](#) 83 (Fall 1986).
- Recent Decisions and Statutes, *[Adoption—Withdrawal Of Statutory Consent As Affecting Court’s Jurisdiction—Bailey v. Mars](#)*, 138 Conn. 593 (1952), 26 [Connecticut Bar J.](#) 314 (1952).

# Section 5: Adoption Agreements

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to agreements to adopt.

## **SEE ALSO:**

For provisions concerning visitation after adoption see [Section 6: Open Adoptions](#)

## **DEFINITION:**

- “To complete an adoption . . . there must be an agreement to give and receive the child in adoption . . . The fundamental basis of the proceeding is the agreement. If the purported agreement is void, there is nothing which the Probate Court can approve.” [Killen v. Klebanoff](#), 140 Conn. 111, 115-116, 98 A.2d 520 (1953).
- “Each adoption matter shall be instituted by filing an application in a Court of Probate, together with the written agreement of adoption, in duplicate.” **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-727(a)(1)** (2019).

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - Chapter 803. Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption § [45a-727](#). Application and agreement for adoption
  - Chapter 319a. Child Welfare § [17a-112](#). Termination of parental rights of child committed to commissioner. Cooperative postadoption agreements. Placement of child from another state. Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

## **FORMS:**

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)
  - [PC-601](#). Petition/Consent Termination of Parental Rights AND Stepparent, Co-Parent, or Relative Adoption (Rev. 8/19)
  - [PC-603](#). Application/Adoption (Rev. 8/19)
  - [PC-681](#). Adoption Agreement (Rev. 4/19)
- 1A [Am Jur Legal Forms 2d Adoption](#) (2017).
  - §§ 9:27-9:40. Agreements to adopt and miscellaneous forms
    - § 9:27. Form drafting guide
    - § 9:28. --Checklist--Matters to consider when drafting adoption agreement
    - § 9:29. Custody agreement and promise to adopt
    - § 9:30. Adoption agreement--Where adopting parent and natural parent have married
    - § 9:31. --Adult
    - § 9:32. ----Parties to jointly petition court
    - § 9:33. --Between married prospective adoptive parents and pregnant natural mother--Payment of

medical and hospital costs of pregnant natural mother of prospective adoptee  
 § 9: 34. --Visitation by natural parents  
 § 9: 35. --Visitation by natural grandparents  
 § 9: 36. --Visitation with natural sibling  
 § 9: 37. Authorization for child's medical care  
 § 9: 38. Investigation of adopting parent--Authorization to divulge employment information  
 § 9: 39. Investigation of child being adopted-- Authorization to divulge medical and social history

**DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*  
 I. In General  
 115. Adoption Agreements

- Dowling’s Digest: *Adoption*

**CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Early v. Czaga](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Middlesex at Middletown, No. MMX-CV-17-5009909-S (August 6, 2019) (2019 Conn. Super Lexis 2213). **“The question before the court is whether the adoption agreement signed by the parties authorizes the defendants to cut off all contact between the plaintiff and M. Because the agreement provides the defendants with discretion to modify its terms, in accordance with the best interests of the child, and the evidence confirms that the defendants made their decision based on M’s best interest and in good faith, the defendants’ conduct is authorized under the adoption agreement. The adoption agreement, however, is not terminated, but rather remains in effect until M reaches the age of majority.”**
- [Mary Doe v. John Roe et al.](#), 246 Conn 652, 653, 717 A. 2d 706 (1998). **“The narrow question presented by this appeal is whether the Superior Court has subject matter jurisdiction to render judgment in accordance with an agreement that includes a promise by a surrogate mother to consent to the termination of her parental rights in Probate Court.”**
- [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 551 A.2d 738, 78 ALR4th 209 (1988). ***Contract between genetic and adoptive parents for visitation does not violate public policy.***

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).  
 §§ 49-64. Agreements regarding adoption  
 §§ 52-58. **Payment for adoption; “Baby Broker” acts**  
 §§ 59-64. Enforcement
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).  
 §§ 27-44. Contracts or agreements to adopt
- ***Equitable Adoption***, George A. Locke, 18 [POF2d](#) 531 (1979).

**TEXTS &  
TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5.10. Adoption agreements, visitation rights of genetic parents  
§ 5.18. Post-adoption agreements
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§ 4:2. Open adoption

## Section 6: Open Adoptions

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to contracts with the adopting parents, prior to adoption, for the continued visitation after adoption.

### **DEFINITION:**

- “An **Open Adoption** is one in which birth parents or extended family members (i.e., grandparents) and adoptive parents share identifying information prior to the adoption.” Conn. DCF Policy Manual, [25-2](#), page 2
- **Open adoption.** “The plaintiff does not seek to ‘open,’ to set aside or to diminish in any way the adoptive process that has substituted the defendants as the legal parents of the child. The plaintiff’s rights are not premised on an ongoing genetic relationship that somehow survives a termination of parental rights and an adoption. *Instead the plaintiff is asking us to decide whether, as an adult who has an ongoing personal relationship with the child, she may contract with the adopting parents, prior to adoption, for the continued right to visit with the child, so long as that visitation continues to be in the best interest of the child.*” [emphasis added] [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 412-413, 551 A.2d 738, 78 ALR4th 209 (1988).

### **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)  
Chapter 803. Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption  
§ [45a-715](#). Petition to terminate parental rights.  
Cooperative postadoption agreements.  
(Subsection (e) Amended by [P.A. 19-47](#), sec. 16)

### **PUBLIC ACTS:**

- [Public Act No. 15-199, § 18](#). *An Act Expanding Guardianship Opportunities For Children And Implementing Provisions Of The Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking And Strengthening Families Act.* (Effective October 1, 2015).  
-Postadoption sibling visitation.

### **DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)  
Open Adoptions § 48-5-5

## **LEGISLATIVE:**

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

- Katherine Dwyer, [Cooperative Postadoption Agreements](#), Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, 2017-R-0163 (August 31, 2017).
- 1A [Am Jur Legal Forms 2d Adoption](#) (2017)
  - § 9:34. --Visitation by natural parents
  - § 9:35. --Visitation by natural grandparents
  - § 9:36. --Visitation with natural sibling
- [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 551 A.2d 738, 78 ALR4th 209 (1988), footnote #1, p. 409. Excerpt from "Open Adoption and Visitation Agreement." [Table 5](#).

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - I. In General
  - 122. Open or closed adoption

- **Dowling's Digest *Adoption***

## **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [In re Christopher E.](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New London, Juvenile Matters at Waterford, No. K09CP13013387A (April 11, 2016) (2016 WL 2602565) (2016 Conn. Super. LEXIS 818). "The attorney for the boys, who is acting as their guardian ad litem as well, advocates for termination of parental rights and adoption with continued contact by the parents with the boys. The court is not in a position nor is it authorized to order an open adoption agreement but certainly would encourage one."
- [In re Azareon Y., et al.](#), 309 Conn. 626, 637, n. 7, 72 A.3d 1074 (2013). "The aunt did indicate that she was amenable to an open adoption, an arrangement that would provide the respondent with visitation, but at the aunt's discretion."
- [In re Christian C.](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Middlesex, Child Protection Session at Middletown, No. M08CP0710431A (July 18, 2013) (2013 WL 4046703) (2013 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1653). "Nevertheless, it is a phenomenon that is part and parcel of an open adoption, premised upon that rare but cherished situation wherein a parent can accept his or her own limitations as a parent and honor their children's right to healing and their need for a safe and permanent home in the care of someone else. In its discretion, DCF, as statutory parent, is empowered to determine what, if any, role the mother can play in the future of her children. What this court will not do, however, is close off any possibility of permanency and stability for these children by keeping the parents' rights intact."

- [In re Christopher G.](#), 118 Conn. App. 569, 572, n.6, 984 A.2d 1111 (2009). "A genetic parent may contract with adopting parents, prior to the adoption, for the continued right to visit the adopted child so long as visitation continues to be in the best interest of the child. See [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 551 A.2d 738 (1988). Such agreements are often referred to as 'open adoption agreements.' *Id.*, 412."
- [Pivnick v. Lasky](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, No. FA99-0720419 (Mar. 24, 2003) (34 Conn. L. Rptr. 426) (2003 Conn. Super. LEXIS 944) (2003 WL 1908248). "The court concludes that the decision of [Roth v. Weston](#) does override the prior court orders in this matter granting visitation rights to non-parent third parties against the wishes of a fit custodial parent."
- [Mary Doe v. John Roe et al.](#), 246 Conn. 652, 655, 717 A. 2d 706 (1998). "The two part agreement (agreement), which the parties filed with the court, consisted of a stipulation and an open adoption and visitation agreement that was incorporated by reference into the stipulation. The agreement provided that the petitioner would execute the documents necessary to terminate her parental rights, thereby enabling Jane Roe to adopt the child. In return, the petitioner would receive: (1) visitation rights with the child; (2) access to information concerning the child; and (3) payment for certain legal and medical expenses. The agreement also provided for confidentiality and joint counseling, and set forth the specific terms of visitation by the petitioner. Moreover, the parties agreed to withdraw all existing legal and administrative proceedings against each other."
- [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 551 A.2d 738, 78 ALR4th 209 (1988). *Contract between genetic and adoptive parents for visitation does not violate public policy.*

#### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).  
     § 166. Visitation; "open adoptions"  
     § 167. —Visitation agreements with natural parents
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).  
     § 135. Effect of adoption on natural parent  
     § 137. Open adoption; postadoption visitation
- Danny R. Veilleux, Annotation, *Postadoption visitation by natural parents*, 78 [ALR4th](#) 218 (1990).

#### **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
     Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
     § 5:10. Adoption agreements, visitation rights of genetic parents

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

§ 5:18. Post-adoption agreements

- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).  
Chapter 9. Adoption  
Part III: Navigating the Adoption Process  
§ 9.12 Determining the Post-Adoption Rights of the Biological Parents  
§ 9.14 Proceeding with an Open Adoption
- 3 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 8. Contested Adoptions: Strategy of the Case  
**§ 8.04. Settlement Alternative: The "Open Adoption"**  
Appendix 13-B. Agreements and court orders for post-adoption contact between adoptive families and birth parents or other birth relatives
- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption law, procedure and practice  
§ 64.20[2]. Open adoptions
- 1 Michael J. Dale et al. [Representing The Child Client](#) (2019).  
Chapter 4. Representing Children in Dependency Proceedings  
§ 4.15. Adoptions  
§ 4.15[4]. Open adoptions
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§ 4:2. Open adoption  
Appendix 4E. Consent to adoption (Open adoption)
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).  
Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements  
§ 6.13. Visitation rights after adoption
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).  
Chapter 14. Adoption  
§ 14.23. Open adoption
- Martin Guggenheim & Vivek Sankaran, [Representing Parents in Child Welfare Cases](#) (2015).  
14.06(b). Post-adoption contact (Open adoption)
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).



Chapter 6. Adoption  
§ 6.01[J]. Open Adoption

**LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Erika Harrison, *Benefits of Post Adoption Contact Agreements*, 31 [Children's Legal Rights Journal](#) 61, issue 1 (Spring 2011).
- Laurie A. Ames, *Open Adoptions: Truth And Consequences*, 10 [Connecticut Family Law J.](#) 89 (1992).
- Lawrence W. Cook, *Open Adoption: Can Visitation With Natural Family Members Be In The Child's Best Interest?* 30 [Journal of Family Law](#) 471 (1992).
- Judy E. Nathan, *Visitation After Adoption: In The Best Interest Of The Child*, 59 [New York University Law Review](#) 633 (1984).
- Carol Amadio & Stuart L. Deutsch, *Open Adoption: Allowing Adopted Children To 'Stay In Touch' With Blood Relatives*, 22 [Journal of Family Law](#) 59 (1983-84).
- Cynthia R. Mabry, *The Psychological and Emotional Ties that Bind Biological and Adoptive Families: Whether Court-Ordered Postadoption Contact is in an Adopted Child's Best Interest*, 42 *Capital U. L. Rev.* 285 (2014).

Table 4: Cooperative Postadoption Agreement

<b>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-715 (2019) (Subsection (e) Amended by <a href="#">P.A. 19-47</a>, sec. 16)</b>
<p>“(j) A cooperative postadoption agreement shall contain the following: (1) An acknowledgment by either or both birth parents that the termination of parental rights and the adoption is irrevocable, even if the adoptive parents do not abide by the cooperative postadoption agreement; and (2) an acknowledgment by the adoptive parents that the agreement grants either or both birth parents the right to seek to enforce the cooperative postadoption agreement.</p> <p>(k) The terms of a cooperative postadoption agreement may include the following: (1) Provision for communication between the child and either or both birth parents; (2) provision for future contact between either or both birth parents and the child or an adoptive parent; and (3) maintenance of medical history of either or both birth parents who are a party to the agreement.”</p>
<p>Katherine Dwyer, <a href="#">Cooperative Postadoption Agreements</a>, Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, 2017-R-0163 (August 31, 2017).</p>
<p>Ralph H. Folsom et al., <a href="#">Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut</a> 4d (2019). Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights § 5:10. Adoption agreements, visitation rights of genetic parents § 5:18. Post-adoption agreements</p>

Table 5: Excerpts from an Open Adoption and Visitation Agreement

<b>The "Open Adoption and Visitation Agreement" provides in relevant part:</b>	
<p>"1. <u>Adoption</u>. The parties shall all cooperate fully with the state DCYS in the orderly completion of an adoption of the child by the adopting parents.</p> <p>2. <u>Termination of Rights</u>. The natural mother will withdraw here legal challenge . . . as soon as the adopting parents have approval of their adoption application by DCYS.</p> <p>3. <u>Visitation</u>. The adopting parents will cooperate fully with the natural mother in the natural mother's visits with the child both now and after the adoption takes place until the child's 18th birthday. The parties agree to be guided in carrying out this provision by the present laws of Connecticut regarding reasonable visitation, which are partly embodied in Connecticut General Statutes Section 46b-56, as they pertain to visitation rights of non-custodial parents in dissolutions of marriage. The tender age of the child and her high sensitivity to her, up to the present, state of uncertainty shall be taken into account by the parties.</p> <p>Each of the parties shall at all times in good faith endeavor to maintain in the child respect and affection for the other parties.</p> <p>The rights of visitation shall not be exercised by the natural mother at any time or in such a manner as to interfere with the education and normal social and school activities of the child.</p> <p>Visitation shall be twice a month for three (3) hours each visit at the Wawrucks' home."</p> <p><a href="#">Michaud v. Wawruck</a>, 209 Conn. 407, 409 n.1, 551 A.2d 738 (1988).</p>	

Table 6: Adoption Review Board

<b>Adoption Review Board</b>	
<b>Powers of Adoption Review Board</b>	<p>"Notwithstanding the provisions of section 45a-727, the Adoption Review Board may, upon application, notice and hearing as hereinafter provided, for cause shown that it is in the best interests of the minor child, waive the requirement that the minor child be placed by the Commissioner of Children and Families or a child-placing agency." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-764</a>(a) (2019)</p> <p>"Any judge of probate who has had presented to him an application for adoption which may not proceed because the child has not been so placed may apply in writing to the Adoption Review Board for a waiver of such requirement." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-764</a>(b) (2019)</p>

<b>Membership</b>	"An Adoption Review Board is established, to consist of the Commissioner of Children and Families or his designee, the Probate Court Administrator or his designee, and an officer of a child-placing agency which is located in the state and licensed by the Commissioner of Children and Families, who shall be appointed by the Governor to serve for a term of four years from the date of his appointment." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-763</a> (a) (2019)
<b>Qualifications of members</b>	"Each designee or officer shall be a person who is familiar with and experienced in adoption procedures, policies and practices." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-763</a> (b) (2019)
<b>Hearing</b>	"The hearing shall be held not less than ten days nor more than thirty days after the receipt of the application. The parties entitled to notice shall be given notice at least ten days prior to the hearing." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-764</a> (d) (2019)
<b>Evidence</b>	"Any party to the adoption proceedings shall have the right to present such evidence as is deemed necessary and relevant to the board. After hearing the evidence the board may deny the application or approve the application in which case the chairman shall notify the court of probate that the adoption may proceed and that the requirement of placement by the Commissioner of Children and Families or a child-placing agency is waived." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-764</a> (e) (2019)
<b>Records</b>	<b>Records to be confidential.</b> "All proceedings, documents, correspondence and findings by the board shall be returned to the probate court initiating the application and shall be confidential as required by section 45a-754." Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">45a-765</a> (2019)
<p>You can visit your local law library or search the most recent <a href="#">statutes</a> and <a href="#">public acts</a> on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.</p>	

# Section 7: Identified Adoptions

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to identified adoptions in Connecticut.

## **SEE ALSO:**

[Section 1: Adoption by Nonrelated Persons](#)

## **DEFINITION:**

- **Identified adoptions.** "The commissioner or a child-placing agency may place a child in adoption who has been identified or located by a prospective parent, provided any such placement shall be made in accordance with regulations promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to section 45a-728. If any such placement is not made in accordance with such regulations, the adoption application shall not be approved by **the Court of Probate.**" Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-727](#)(a)(3) (2019).
- **Identified adoptions:** "as permitted by Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-727, allows the adoption placement of children who have **been identified or located by prospective adoptive parents.**" Conn. DCF Policy Manual, [25-2](#), page 1.
- "An **Independent Adoption** is an adoption completed between birth parents and adoptive parents with no agency involvement. This is not permissible under **Connecticut Law.**" Conn. DCF Policy Manual, [25-2](#), page 2

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - Chapter 319a. Child Welfare
    - § [17a-93](#)(14). Prospective adoptive family, defined
  - [Chapter 803](#). Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
    - § 45a-727. Application and agreement for adoption. Investigation, report. Adoptive parents entitled to receive copy of records and other information re history of child. Assessment of fees. Hearing and decree.
    - § 45a-728. Regulations concerning adoption placement of children identified or located by prospective parents
    - § 45a-728a. Participation in birth and visitation of newborn identified or located by prospective parents
    - § 45a-728b. Discharge of newborn identified for adoption from hospital. Prospective adoptive parents permitted to attend hospital programs re infant care.
    - § 45a-728c. Payment of expenses of birth mother by prospective adoptive parents

§ 45a-728d. Advertising by birth parent and prospective adoptive parent for purpose of identified adoption

§ 45a-729. Penalty for violation of provisions re adoption placement

**LEGISLATIVE:**

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

- Michelle Kirby, [Identified Adoptions](#), Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research Report, 2015-R-0286 (December 15, 2015).

**“An ‘identified adoption’ in one in which an unrelated child is identified for adoption by prospective adoptive parents before the child’s placement in the home (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 45a-728-2(k)). There are strict requirements for identified adoptions...”**

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

- 1985 Conn. Acts 285 (Reg. Sess.)  
**“Presently [1985] in the State of Connecticut all adoptions go through agencies exclusively. This [bill] would allow for identified adoptions. Individuals may identify a certain individual who may be pregnant, and they would go through the agency nevertheless, but that child would be earmarked for that person or that family.” Rep. Wollenberg, vol. 28 pt.14 House Proceedings p. 5089 [fiche 93 of 244]**

**REGULATIONS:**

- Conn. Agencies Regs. [§ 45a-728-1 et seq.](#)  
Adoption placement of children who have been identified or located by prospective adoptive parents [see [Table 7](#)]

**DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)  
Identified Adoptions § 48-5-4

**PROBATE COURT USER GUIDE:**

- [Termination Of Parental Rights And Adoptions \(2018\)](#)  
-What is an identified adoption and when is it permitted? (page 7).

**FORMS:**

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)  
[PC-603](#). Petition/Adoption (Rev. 8/19)  
[PC-610](#). Affidavit/Custody of Minor Child (Rev. 4/18)  
[PC-611](#). Birth Mother’s Financial Affidavit/Identified Adoption (Rev. 3/03)  
[PC-612](#). Adoptive Parents Financial Affidavit/Identified Adoption (Rev. 3/03)  
[PC-613](#). Agency or Department Financial Affidavit/Identified Adoption (Rev. 3/03)  
[PC-681](#). Adoption Agreement (Rev. 4/19)

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - I. In General
  - II. Grounds, Factors, and Considerations in General
  - III. Consent to Adoption
  - IV. Actions and Proceedings
  - V. Evidence
  - VI. Operation and Effect of Adoption
  - VII. Setting Aside or Revoking Adoption
- Dowling's Digest: *Adoption*

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).
- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).

## **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).
  - Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights
    - § 5:11. Procedure on adoption of minors, identified and hard-to-place children
    - § 5:40. Birth mother's financial affidavit, identified adoption (PC-611)
    - § 5:41. Adoptive parent's financial affidavit, identified adoption (PC-612)
    - § 5:42. Agency or department financial affidavit, identified adoption (PC-613)
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).
  - Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
    - Identified Adoptions, pp. 561-562
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 9. Adoption
    - Part III: Navigating the Adoption Process
      - § 9.13 Proceeding with an Identified Adoption
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).
  - Chapter 4. Adoption
    - §§ 4:9-4:13. Adoption services
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).
  - Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).
  - Chapter 14. Adoption
    - § 14.18. Agency adoption and placement

Table 7: Regulations on Identified Adoptions

<b>Regulations on Identified Adoptions</b>	
<b>Scope of regulations.</b> "The Commissioner or a Child Placing Agency may place a child in adoption who has been identified or located by a prospective adoptive parent provided any such placement shall be made in accordance with these regulations. If any such placement is not made in accordance with these regulations, the Probate Court shall not approve the adoption application." (Effective February 1, 1994).	<a href="#">45a-728-1</a>
Definitions	<a href="#">45a-728-2</a>
Restricted activities and penalties	<a href="#">45a-728-3</a>
Permissible activities for non-approved child placing agencies	<a href="#">45a-728-4</a>
Prospective adoptive parents—homestudy	<a href="#">45a-728-5</a>
Prospective adoptive parents—permissible activities	<a href="#">45a-728-5a</a>
Advertising	<a href="#">45a-728-6</a>
Birth parent counseling	<a href="#">45a-728-7</a>
Permissible payments by prospective adoptive parents and/or child placing agencies involved in identified placements (a) Living expenses of birth mother (b) Transportation, lodging, food expenses (c) Counseling expenses (d) Foster care expenses (e) Maternity home expenses (f) Medical expenses	<a href="#">45a-728-8</a>
Provision for less affluent to participate	<a href="#">45a-728-9</a>
Financial affidavits	<a href="#">45a-728-10</a>
<p>You can visit your local law library or browse the <a href="#">Connecticut eRegulations System</a> on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.</p>	



## Section 8: Special Needs Adoptions

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to adoption of special needs children including adoption subsidies

### **DEFINITION:**

- **A “special needs” child** “is a child who is a ward of the Commissioner of Children and Families or is to be placed by a licensed child-placing agency and is difficult to place in adoption because of one or more conditions including, but not limited to, physical or mental disability, serious emotional maladjustment, a recognized high risk or physical or mental disability, age or racial or ethnic factors which present a barrier to adoption or is a member of a sibling group which should be placed together, or because the child has established significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in their care as a foster child and has been certified as a special needs child by the Commissioner of Children and Families.” **Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-116](#)** (2019).
- Adoption Assistance Program, **[42 U.S.C. § 673](#)**(a)(2)(C)
- **“Connecticut has enacted an adoption subsidy program that in large part is federally funded and regulated. 42 U.S.C. § 673. The purpose of the legislation is evident by its initial limitation of such subsidies to ‘hard-to-place’ children. Public Acts 1986, No. 86-330, § 2 (rewriting General Statutes § 17a-116 to substitute ‘special needs’ for ‘hard-to-place’). The purpose was and is clearly to assist in moving children from foster care to adoptive homes.”** ***Genn v. Connecticut Dep’t of Children***, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford, No. CV97-0569090 (Dec. 4, 1997) (1997 WL 771560) (1997 Conn. Super. LEXIS 3234).
- **“A special needs child** means a child who is a ward of DCF or is to be placed by a licensed child-placing agency, and is difficult to place in an adoptive home because of one or more of the following conditions:
  1. physical or mental disability;
  2. serious emotional maladjustment;
  3. a recognized high risk of physical or mental disability;
  4. age which presents a barrier to adoption;
  5. racial or ethnic factors which present a barrier to adoption;
  6. is a member of a sibling group which should be placed together, including a child who should be placed with a previously adopted sibling for whom DCF was once a statutory parent; and
  7. because the child has established significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in their care as a foster child.

The child must be certified as a special needs child by the commissioner.” Conn. DCF Policy Manual, [25-2](#), page 3

**STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library, [search the most recent U.S. Code](#) on the U.S. Code website or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date laws.

- [42 U.S.C. § 670](#) et seq. Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act
  - § 670. Congressional declaration of purpose; authorization of appropriations
  - § 671. State plan for foster care and adoption assistance
  - § 672. Foster care maintenance payments program
  - § 673. Adoption and guardianship assistance program
    - eligibility [42 U.S.C. § 673](#)(a)(2)(A),(B)
  - § 673b. Adoption and legal guardianship incentive payments
  - § 674. Payments to States
  - § 675. Definitions
  - § 675a. Additional case plan and case review system requirements
  - § 679. Collection of data relating to adoption and foster care
  - § 679a. National Adoption Information Clearinghouse
  
- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - [Chapter 319a](#). Child Welfare
    - § 17a-116. “Special needs” child defined
    - § 17a-116a. Information handbook re adoption of children with special needs
    - § 17a-116c. Minority recruitment specialist for foster and adoptive families. Duties. Cultural sensitivity training
    - § 17a-116d. Interstate Compact On Adoption And Medical Assistance
    - § 17a-117. Subsidies for adopting parents
    - § 17a-118. Review and change in subsidy. Adoption assistance agreement and subsidy payment
    - § 17a-119. Moneys for subsidies. Regulations
    - § 17a-120. Medical expenses subsidy for blind, physically or mentally disabled, emotionally maladjusted or high risk children
    - § 17a-121. Prior subsidies not affected. Increases
  
  - [Chapter 801b](#). Probate Court Procedures.
    - § 45a-111(b). Exemptions, waivers and reduction of fees and expenses

**REGULATIONS:**

You can visit your local law library or [search the most recent C.F.R.](#) on the e-CFR website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date regulations.

- [45 CFR § 1356.40](#) (2019). Adoption assistance program: Administrative requirements to implement section 473 of the Act.
  
- Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ [17a-116-6 to 17a-116-14](#) (Effective. March 22, 1994) Subsidized Adoption of Special Needs Children
  - § 17a-116-8 Criteria for certification as a special needs child
  - § 17a-116-9 Type and duration of subsidy

§ 17a-116-11 When subsidy is granted

You can visit your local law library or browse the [Connecticut eRegulations System](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

- [Connecticut Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines](#), effective July 1, 2015, pages 2-3  
“(11) **“Gross income”** means the average weekly earned and unearned income from all sources before deductions, including but not limited to the items listed in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but excluding the items listed in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.  
(A) Inclusions  
The gross income inclusions are: . . .  
(xx) adoption subsidy benefits received by the custodial parent for the child whose support is being determined.”

**DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)  
Subsidized Adoptions §§ 48-18-2 – 48-18-18

**FORMS:**

- Adoption Assistance Agreement, [42 U.S.C. § 675\(3\)](#)  
Description and content.

**CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Nancy G. v. Dep't of Children & Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 685-686, 733 A.2d 136, 145 (1999). “Thus, although children from other jurisdictions may be ‘placed’ for adoption by an ‘approved’ out-of-state child-placing agency; see General Statutes § 45a-727 (a) (3); those children do not qualify as ‘special needs’ children within the meaning of § 17a-116 because their ‘placement’ for adoption is not made by a licensed child-placing agency. Consequently, their adoptive parents are not eligible to receive an adoption subsidy from the state of Connecticut pursuant to § 17a-117.” (pp. 685-686)

“The language of § 17a-116, moreover, specifically excludes from the definition of “special needs children” children who are not placed for adoption in Connecticut by a licensed agency. Thus, the language of § 17a-116 excludes children who are placed by an out-of-state child-placing agency—a clear indication that the legislature intended that Connecticut not provide adoption subsidies for children from other jurisdictions.” (pp. 686-687)

- [Collado v. Vega](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport, No. FA98-0355397 (Mar. 9, 1999) (24 Conn. L. Rptr. 214, 215) (1999 Conn. Super. LEXIS 768). “The subsidy recognizes that there are additional costs that will be incurred by families who adopt children with special needs. These costs are beyond the ordinary cost of raising a child. There is still the responsibility of the parents to provide for the ordinary and every day care of the child.”

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - I. In General
    - 129. Public stipends and subsidies; adoption assistance benefits
- Dowling's Digest: *Adoption*

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).
  - §§ 31-35. Federal adoption programs and assistance
- 81 [C.J.S. Social Security and Public Welfare](#) (2015).
  - §§ 227-230. Assistance for Foster Care, Adoption, and Guardianship

## **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).
  - Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights
    - § 5:11. Procedure on adoption of minors, identified, and hard-to-place children
    - § 5:21. Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).
  - Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
    - Special needs/Subsidized adoptions, pp. 562-563
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 9. Adoption
    - Part V: Subsidizing Adoptions for Special Needs Children
- 2 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 9. Adoption assistance for children with special needs
    - § 9.02. Overview of Adoption Assistance Programs
    - § 9.03. Eligibility
    - § 9.04. Adoption Assistance Benefits
    - § 9.05. The Adoption Assistance Agreement
    - § 9.06. Interstate Adoption Protections
    - § 9.07. Structure of Agencies Involved in Adoption Assistance
    - § 9.08. Enforcement
  - Chapter 9A. State and federal materials relating to adoption of children with special needs
    - § 9-A.01. State Adoption Subsidy Statutes
    - § 9-A.02. Selected Sections of Title IV-E, The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act
    - § 9-A.03. Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

§ 9-A.04. Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance Directory of Designated Contact Persons  
§ 9-A.05 Checklist: Adoption Assistance issues

- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption Law, Procedure and Practice  
§ 64.04[5]. Special needs adoptions
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§§ 4:41-4:47. Adoption assistance  
§ 4:44. – Special needs children
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2015-2016 ed.).  
Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements  
§ 6.12. Adoption subsidies; Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (AACWA)
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).  
Chapter 14. Adoption  
§ 14.24. Subsidized adoption
- 1 Michael J. Dale et al. [Representing The Child Client](#) (2019).  
Chapter 4. Representing Children in Dependency Proceedings  
§ 4.15. Adoptions  
§ 4.15[5]. Adoption subsidy
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).  
Chapter 6. Adoption  
§ 6.01[F]. Subsidized Adoptions and Children With Special Needs
- Susan L. Brooks, *Rethinking Adoption: a Federal Solution to the Problem of Permanency Planning for Children with Special Needs*, 66 [New York University Law Review](#) 1130 (1991).

### **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries.](#)

# Section 9: Foster Parents and Adoption

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the role and rights of foster parents in adoption

## **DEFINITION:**

- **Foster Care:** "means care provided for a foster child by a person licensed, approved or certified to provide such care pursuant to sections 17a-145-130 through 17a-145-160, inclusive, or sections 17a-150-51 through 17a-150-123, inclusive, or sections 17a-114-14 through 17a-114-25, inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies)." Conn. Agencies Regs. § [17a-126-2](#). (Adopted effective Sept. 1, 1998.)
- **Legal Risk Home:** "is defined as one which is licensed for adoption, but provides foster care for a child who is not legally free for adoption." Department of Children and Families Policy Manual § [23-3](#), [page 6](#)
- Department of Children and Families Policy Manual Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies

[Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)

§ [48-9-2](#). (no longer in effect)

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)

[Chapter 319a](#). Child Welfare.

§ 17a-96. Custodians of children to file reports. Placing of child in foster homes

§ 17a-98. Supervision of children under guardianship or care of commissioner

§ 17a-110. Permanency planning for children. Contracts with private child-placing agencies. Funding

[Chapter 815t](#). Juvenile Matters.

§ [46b-129](#). Commitment of child or youth. Petition for neglected, uncared for or abused child or youth. Hearing re temporary custody, order to appear or petition. Review of permanency plan. Cost of care and maintenance of child or youth; reimbursement. Revocation of commitment. Legal guardianships and permanent legal guardianships. Applicability of provisions re placement of child from another state and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

Social Security Act, Part IV-E ([42 U.S.C. §§ 670-679c](#)). Federal Payments for Foster Care, Prevention and Permanency

## **LEGISLATIVE:**

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

- Jessica Callahan, [College Tuition Assistance for Adopted Students](#), Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, 2018-R-0282 (October 29, 2018).  
"Do other states have laws similar to the Massachusetts program that awards tuition waivers for instate public higher education institutions to certain adopted children? Is a student required to live in the same state in which they were adopted to use the tuition waiver?"
- Robin K. Cohen, [Adoptions by Foster Parents](#), Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, 2012-R-0506 (December 14, 2012).  
"You asked what (1) process foster parents must follow to adopt the child they are caring for and (2) recourse is available to them if they are denied the opportunity to adopt."

## **REGULATIONS:**

You can visit your local law library or browse the [Connecticut eRegulations System](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

- Conn. Agencies Regs. [§ 17a-145-130 - § 17a-145-160](#).  
Foster Homes and Adoptive Homes/Family Day Care Homes  
§ 17a-145-132. Assessment of foster or prospective adoptive parents and members of the household  
§ 17a-145-133. Issuance of license or granting of approval. Not transferrable or assignable  
§ 17a-145-137. Physical requirements of foster and prospective adoptive homes  
§ 17a-145-151. General requirements of foster and prospective adoptive parents  
§ 17a-145-160. Limitations to number of placements in one foster or prospective adoptive family

## **DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)  
[25-1](#). Adoption Overview  
[25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)  
Foster Parent Assessment § 48-12-3  
Foster Family Considered as Adoptive Applicants § 48-14-3  
Supervision When Foster Home Becomes Adoptive Home § 48-16-5

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*  
I. In General  
159. Foster parents
- Dowling's Digest: *Adoption*

## **CASES:**

- [In re Nevaeh W.](#), 317 Conn. 723, 733, 120 A.3d 1177 (2015).  
"Termination of a biological parent's rights, by preventing further litigation with that parent, can preserve the stability a child has acquired in a successful foster placement and, furthermore, move the child closer toward securing

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

permanence by removing barriers to adoption.”

- [In re Brayden E.-H. et al.](#), 309 Conn. 642, 648-649, 72 A.3d 1083 (2013). “The court further concluded that, in accordance with General Statutes § 46b-129 (k), the petitioner had established by a preponderance of the evidence that the proposed plan of termination and adoption was in the best interests of the children. In so concluding, the court acknowledged the respondent’s regular communication with her children while she was incarcerated, as well as her appropriate interactions with them when they visited her monthly. The court also noted, however, significant gains made by both children during the past year that they had been in foster care with Jane and John, who had expressed a willingness to adopt the children.”
- [In re Joshua S.](#), 260 Conn. 182, 211, 796 A.2d 1141 (2002). “First, as the trial court correctly pointed out, the regulations of the department prohibit foster and prospective adoptive parents from using corporal punishment.”
- [Hunte v. Blumenthal](#), 238 Conn. 146, 167, 680 A.2d 1231 (1996). “Under our well established ‘right to control’ test, we conclude that the plaintiffs, in their role as foster parents, were ‘employees’ of the state as that term is used in §§ 4-141, 4-165 and 5-141d.”
- [Smith v. Organization of Foster Families for Equality & Reform](#), 431 U.S. 816, 97 S.Ct. 2094, 53 L.Ed. 2d 14 (1977). *Due process rights of foster parents*

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).
  - § 25. Persons who may adopt. Foster parents
  - § 26. Persons who may be adopted. Generally
  - § 135. Factors Affecting Determination
    - Foster parents
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).
  - § 17. Persons who may adopt. Tutor or guardian

### **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 9. Adoption
    - Part II: Conducting Adoptions in Connecticut
      - § 9.08 **Determining Adults’ Eligibility to Adopt a Child**
        - [5] Adopting a Child by Foster Parents
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).
  - Chapter 14. Adoption
    - § 14.10. Rights of foster parents



- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
- 1 Michael J. Dale et al. [Representing The Child Client](#) (2019).  
Chapter 4. Representing Children in Dependency Proceedings  
§ 4.15. Adoptions  
§ 4.15[6]. Long-term foster care

**LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Anarida Delaj et al., *Adoption and Foster Care*, 19 *Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law* 157 (2018).
- Mitchell W. Pearlman, *Foster Parents Rights In Connecticut*, 5 [Connecticut Law Review](#) 36 (1972).
- Matthew R. Asman, Notes, *The Rights of a Foster Parent Versus the Biological Parent Who Abandoned the Child: Where Do the Best Interest of the Child Lie?* 8 [Connecticut Probate Law Journal](#) 93 (1993).

# Section 10: International and Out-of-State Adoptions in Connecticut

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to recognition of foreign or out-of-state adoptions by Connecticut courts

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - [Chapter 319a](#). Child Welfare
    - § [17a-152](#). Placement of child from another state
    - § [17a-175](#). Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
  - Chapter 803. Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
    - § [45a-727](#)(a)(5). Application and agreement for adoption. Investigation, report. Adoptive parents entitled to receive copy of records and other information re history of child. Assessment of fees. Hearing and decree.
    - § [45a-730](#). Validation of foreign adoption. Petition filed in probate court

## **DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Department of Children and Families Policy Manual Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)
  - [25-1](#). Adoption Overview
  - [25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies Foreign-Born Children, page 10

## **FORMS:**

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)
  - [PC-604](#). Petition/Validation of Foreign Adoption (Rev. 7/18)
  - [PC-604A](#). Petition/Determination of Age and Date of Birth of Adopted Person Born Outside of the Country (New 7/15)
  - [PC-608](#). Application RE: Placement for Out-of-State Adoption (New 10/2011)

## **WEB PAGES:**

- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services [Adoption](#)
- United State Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs [Intercountry Adoption](#)
- Connecticut Council on Adoption - [Important Information Regarding US Citizenship of Children Adopted by American Citizens](#) – October 31, 2018
- Connecticut State Department of Public Health, [How Do I Request a Certificate of Foreign Birth for Persons Born Out of the Country and Adopted by Connecticut Residents?](#) (accessed on September 27, 2019)

## **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [In re Santiago G.](#), 318 Conn. 449, 475, n.17, 121 A.3d 708 (2015). "The process of international adoption is highly regulated under federal law. See 42 U.S.C. § 14901 et seq. A **major purpose of such regulation is 'to protect the rights of, and prevent abuses against, children, birth families, and adoptive parents involved in adoptions (or prospective adoptions) ... and to ensure that such adoptions are in the children's best interests....'** 42 U.S.C. § 14901 (b) (2). Maria G. and the respondent knowingly agreed to engage in a subterfuge to evade the strictures of these adoption laws and achieve more expeditiously their own goals, albeit admirable ones. For the trial court, or this court, to somehow fashion a special rule to respect their wishes as to who should be Santiago's mother would amount to the enforcement of an illegal agreement, contrary to the public policies underlying the adoption laws of both this country and of Guatemala."
- [In re Yarisha F.](#), 121 Conn. App. 150, 163, 994 A. 2d 296 (2010). "In sum, none of the cases cited by the respondent support the proposition that a sending agency, in this case a court, may rely on an independent determination of the best interest of the child, to deliberately disregard the requirement of article III (d). We agree with the court in [In re Adoption of Infants H.](#), supra, 904 N.E.2d 208, that '[t]he conditions for placement set forth in article III of the Compact are designed to provide complete and accurate information regarding children and potential adoptive parents from a sending state to a receiving state and to involve public authorities in the process in order to ensure children have the opportunity to be placed in a suitable environment.'"
- [Nancy G. v. Department of Children and Families](#), 248 Conn. 672, 733 A.2d 136 (1999). *Appeal from decision of Adoption Subsidy Review Board on a child adopted from India.*

## **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - VIII. Interstate and International Adoptions
    - 391. In general
    - 392. Foreign decrees and orders
    - 393. Jurisdiction of forum court
    - 394. Actions and proceedings
- Dowling's Digest: *Adoption*

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).
  - §§ 40-45. Interstate Compact on Placement of Children
  - §§ 46-48. Intercountry adoptions
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).
  - § 14. In general. Intercountry Adoption Act
  - § 47. Prerequisites to adoption in general. Intercountry adoptions
  - § 136. Effect of adoption. Foreign adoption

**TEXTS & TREATISES:**

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).
  - Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights
    - § 5:16. Out-of-state and out-of-country adoptions
    - § 5:21. Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).
  - Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin
    - Out of State Adoptions – p. 563
    - International Adoptions – pp. 563-565
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 9. Adoption
    - Part IV: Participating in Interstate and International Adoptions
- 2 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 10. International Adoption: Overview
    - § 10.02. The Phenomenon of International Adoption
    - § 10.03. International Adoption from the Perspective of Adoptive Parents
    - § 10.04. The Politics of International Adoption
  - Chapter 11-SA. Special Intercountry Adoption Alerts
    - Benin
    - Democratic Republic of the Congo
    - Guatemala
    - Japan
    - Ukraine
  - Chapter 11. Intercountry Adoption: Legal Requirements and Practical Considerations
    - § 11.02. Locating an Adoptable Child
    - § 11.03. United States Immigration Law Requirements
    - § 11.04. Processing an Orphan Petition and Visa Application
    - § 11.05. Obtaining Citizenship for Foreign-Born Adopted Children
    - § 11.06. Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption
    - § 11.07. United States Ratification and Implementation of Hague Convention: Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) of 2000
  - Appendix 11-A. International Adoption: Forms and Directories
  - Chapter 16. Liability of Adoption Agencies and Attorneys for Misconduct in the Disclosure of Health-Related Information
    - § 16.03A Liability Claims in International Adoptions
- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).

Chapter 64. Adoption Law, Procedure and Practice  
§ 64.04[6]. International adoptions  
§ 64.21. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children  
§ 64.22. Indian Child Welfare Act

- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§§ 4:72-4:74. Interstate adoptions  
§§ 4:75-4:77. International adoption  
§ 4:78. Uniform Adoption Act
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).  
Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements.  
§ 6.5. Adopted child's right to inherit
- 1 Michael J. Dale et al. [Representing The Child Client](#) (2019).  
Chapter 4. Representing Children in Dependency Proceedings  
§ 4.16. The Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children
- 2 Ann M. Haralambie, [Handling Child Custody, Abuse and Adoption Cases](#) 3d (2018).  
Chapter 14. Adoption  
§ 14.20. Interstate adoption  
§ 14.21. International adoption  
§ 14.22. Hague convention on protection of children and cooperation in respect of intercountry adoption  
Appendices: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, ICPC Form 100A and Instructions, Uniform Adoption Act, Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

#### **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Herma H. Kay, *Adoption In The Conflict Of Laws: The UAA, Not The UCCJA, Is The Answer*, 15 [Connecticut Family Law Journal](#) 37 (1997).
- Pamela R. Zeller, Notes, *Latin American Adoptions In Connecticut—Is There Any Room For Lawyers?* 10 [University Of Bridgeport Law Review](#) 115 (Winter 1989).
- Mary Ann Candelario McMillan, [International Adoption: A Step Towards a Uniform Process](#), 5 Pace Int'l L. Rev. 137 (1993).
- Peter H. Pfund, [Intercountry Adoption: The 1993 Hague Convention: Its Purpose, Implementation and Promise](#), 28 [Family Law Quarterly](#) 53 (Spring 1994).

# Section 11: Adult Adoptions

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to adoptions of adults in Connecticut.

## **DEFINITION:**

- **Adult adoption:** "Any person eighteen years of age or older may, by written agreement with another person at least eighteen years of age but younger than himself or herself, unless the other person is his or her spouse, brother, sister, uncle or aunt of the whole or half blood, adopt the other person as his or her child, provided the written agreement shall be approved by the Probate Court for the district in which the proposed adoptive parent resides or, if the proposed adoptive parent does not reside in this state, for the district in which the adopted person resides." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-734](#)(a) (2019).

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)  
Chapter 803. Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption  
§ [45a-734](#). Adoption of adults. Inheritance  
§ [45a-735](#). Husband or wife of adopted adult to consent

## **PUBLIC ACTS:**

- Public Act [No. 14-104](#). *An Act Concerning Probate Courts*

## **PROBATE COURT RULES:**

- Connecticut Probate Court Rules of Procedure (2017)  
Rule **40. Children's Matters: General Provisions**  
[Sec. 40.13](#) Notice in adult adoption proceeding

## **PROBATE COURT USER GUIDE:**

- [Termination Of Parental Rights And Adoptions \(2018\)](#)  
- May an adult be adopted by another adult? p. 8

## **FORMS:**

- 1A [Am Jur Legal Forms 2d](#) (2017).  
§ 9:31. Adoption Agreement --Adult  
§ 9:32. ----Parties to jointly petition court
- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)  
[PC-603A](#). Petition and Agreement of Adult Adoption (Rev. 1/18)

## **CASES:**

- [Eder's Appeal From Prob.](#), 177 Conn. App. 163, 178-79, 171 A.3d 506, 514-15 (2017). "The court found that the settlor's financial gifts to the Richter brothers continued after he adopted them. The court concluded that such gifts were further evidence of the continuing close relationship between the

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

settlor and the Richter brothers. The court concluded that the settlor gave the funds to the Richter brothers because they were in need of them, which underscored the court's finding that they were the natural objects of his bounty and confirmed the familial relationship that had existed for years and was independent of a desire to harm David Eder. The court found that the settlor's problems with David Eder may have been a catalyst for him to consider adopting them given his long relationship with the Richter brothers and David Eder's wealth. The court reasoned that common sense, as described in [Davis v. Neilson](#), supra, 871 S.W.2d at 38, seemed to dictate the adoptions were not a sham or subterfuge just to hurt David Eder, but were consistent with the settlor's affectionate and long-term relationship with the Richter brothers.”

- [Riether v. Perrotti](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New Haven at New Haven, No. CV10-6010980 (Jan. 24, 2011) (2011 WL 522890) (2011 Conn. Super. LEXIS 121). “Though there are no Connecticut cases directly addressing aggrievement in the context of an appeal to an adult adoption, Connecticut law does not consider the expectancy of an inheritance to be a legally protected interest to establish **standing**. ‘The mere possibility of future inheritance cannot support an appeal by one who is not otherwise directly aggrieved ... The allowance of such appeals, which would invite actions based on speculation rather than on actual fact, would be directly contrary to the principle that an appellant must **have a real interest in the matter in controversy.**’ (Citations omitted.) [Maloney v. Taplin](#), 154 Conn. 247, 250–51, 224 A.2d 731 (1966) (nephew and former ward lacked standing as a potential heir to challenge the appointment of conservator for aunt's estate).”
- [Strakosch v. Connecticut Trust & Safe Deposit Co.](#), 96 Conn. 471, 114 A. 660 (1921).

**DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*  
I. In General  
173. Adult children
- Dowling’s Digest: *Adoption*

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d](#) *Adoption* (2014).  
§ 27. Persons Who May Be Adopted - Adults  
§ 28 —Effect of purpose of adoption of adult
- 2 [C.J.S.](#) *Adoption of Persons* (2013).  
§ 23. Persons who may be adopted. Minors or adults

**TEXTS & TREATISES:**

- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5:3. Adoption of minors or adults

You can click on the links provided to see which law libraries own the title you are interested in, or visit our [catalog](#) directly to search for more treatises.

§ 5:10. Adoption agreements  
§ 5:13. Procedure and limitations on adoption of adults  
§ 5:15. Legal consequences of adoptions

- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin  
Adult adoptions – p. 562
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).  
Chapter 9. Adoption  
Part II: Conducting Adoptions in Connecticut  
§ 9.08 Determining Adults' Eligibility to Adopt a Child  
[6] Adopting Adults
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§ 4:7. Adoption of adults
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).  
Chapter 6. Adoption  
§ 6.01[G]. Adult Adoption
- Brynne E. McCabe, *Adult Adoption: The Varying Motives, Potential Consequences, and Ethical Considerations*, 22 [Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal](#) 300 (2009).
- Sarah Ratliff, *Adult Adoption: Intestate Succession and Class Gifts Under the Uniform Probate Code*, 105 [Northwestern University Law Review](#) 1777 (2011).

#### **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).



# Section 12: Adoption and Birth Records

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Availability and confidentiality of birth and adoption records in Connecticut including original birth certificate

## **DEFINITIONS:**

- “It is the policy of the state of Connecticut to make available to adopted and adoptable persons who are adults (1) information concerning their background and status; to give the same information to their adoptive parent or parents; and, in any case where such adopted or adoptable persons are deceased, to give the same information to their adult descendants, including adopted descendants; (2) to provide for consensual release of additional information which may identify the biological parents or relatives of such adult adopted or adoptable persons when release of such information is in the best interests of such persons; (3) except as provided in subdivisions (1) and (4) to (6), inclusive, of this section, to protect the right to privacy of all parties to termination of parental rights, statutory parent and adoption proceedings; (4) to make available to any biological parent of an adult adopted or adult adoptable person, including a person claiming to be the father who was not a party to the proceedings for termination of parental rights, information which would tend to identify such adult adopted or adoptable person; (5) to make available to any adult biological sibling of an adult adopted or adult adoptable person information which would tend to identify such adult adopted or adult adoptable person; and (6) to make available to any adult adopted person eighteen years of age or older or such adopted person’s adult child or grandchild a copy of an original birth certificate, as provided in section 7-53 or 45a-751c.” **Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-744](#)** (2019).

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - Chapter 14. Freedom of Information Act
    - § [1-210](#)(b)(14). Access to public records (Amended by [P.A. 19-43](#), sec. 1)
  - [Chapter 93](#). Registrars of Vital Statistics
    - § 7-42. Duties of Registrar of Vital Statistics
    - § 7-44. When authenticated copies of certificates to be transmitted to other towns. Use of electronic vital records system
    - § 7-45. Preparation of certificates (Amended by [P.A. 19-32](#), sec. 2)
    - § 7-48. Birth certificates: Filing requirements
    - § 7-48a. Filing of original certificate of birth.  
Gestational agreement: Replacement certificate of birth
    - § 7-49. Failure to file birth certificate

- § 7-50. Restrictions on content of birth certificates. Exceptions. Removal or changing of paternity information. . . Access to copies restricted
- § 7-51. Access to and examination and issuance of certified copies of birth and fetal death records or certificates restricted. Access to and disclosure of confidential information restricted
- § 7-51a. Copies of vital records. Access (Amended by [P.A. 19-98](#), sec. 15)
- § 7-52. Certification of birth registration
- § 7-53. Birth certificates of adopted persons born in this state
- § 7-53a. Reports re issuance of original birth certificates to adopted persons and certain other persons and filing of contact preference and health history forms
- § 7-54. Certification of birth registration of persons born outside the country and adopted by state resident
- § 7-55. Certification of birth to have force and effect of original
- § 7-57. Delayed registration of births
- § 7-58. Record of birth of child born outside United States
- § 7-59. Report of foundling children

[Chapter 803](#). Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption  
[Part IV](#). Availability And Confidentiality of Adoption  
 Records

- § 45a-743. Definitions
- § 45a-744. Legislative policy
- § 45a-745. Adoption record
- § 45a-746. Information available to adoptive parents and adult adopted or adoptable person
- § 45a-747. Information regarding adoption completed before October 1, 1977
- § 45a-748. Agency or department to make effort to obtain information
- § 45a-749. Request for information
- § 45a-750. Identifying information
- § 45a-751. Release of identifying information by child-placing agency or department
- § 45a-751a. Conditions re release of information. Counseling
- § 45a-751b. Disclosure of identifying information. Consent required. Exception
- § 45a-751c. Order directing issuance of uncertified copy of original birth certificate
- § 45a-753. Obtaining consent of person whose identity is requested. Petition to court.
- § 45a-754. Records related to termination of parental rights, removal of parent as

- guardian, appointment of statutory parent, adoption matters, temporary guardianship and emancipation of minors. Confidentiality. Exceptions
- § 45a-755. Registries. Filing of registration
- § 45a-756. Agreement to release identifying information. Notification. Fee
- § 45a-757. Records maintained on a permanent basis

**PUBLIC ACTS:**

- [Public Act No. 14-133](#). *An Act Concerning Access To Birth Certificates And Parental Health Information For Adopted Persons*. (Effective July 1, 2015).

**LEGISLATIVE:**

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

- Katherine G. Dwyer, [Gestational Agreements](#), Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research Report, 2014-R-0074 (March 10, 2014).
- [Summary of HB 5144](#) (2014), (An Act Concerning Access to Birth Certificates and Parental Health Information for Adopted Persons, P.A. 14-133), 2014-R-0070, prepared by James Orlando (February 21, 2014).
- Kristin Sullivan, [Access to Information in Birth Certificates](#). Office of Legislative Research Report, 2014-R-0030 (January 31, 2014).
- [Sealed Adoption Records](#), Report of the Connecticut Law Revision Commission to the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, prepared by David D. Biklen (February 17, 1999).
- [Bibliography](#), Connecticut Legislative Revision Commission (February 17, 1999).
- Lawrence K. Furbish, [Adult Adoptees' Access to Information Identifying Their Biological Parents](#), Connecticut General Assembly. Office of Legislative Research Report 98-R-0436 (October 7, 2003).

**REGULATIONS:**

You can visit your local law library or browse the [Connecticut eRegulations System](#) on the Secretary of the State website to check if a regulation has been updated.

- Conn. Agencies Regs.
  - Procedures for Creating and Indexing Confidential Adoption Records for Adopted Persons Born in this State (effective July 19, 2005)
    - § [7-53-1](#). Procedures for creating and indexing confidential adoption records
    - § [7-53-3](#). Procedure with regard to certified copies
  - Child Placing Agency Licensing and Responsibilities (effective February 20, 1997)
    - § [17a-150-83](#). Case records
    - § [17a-150-84](#). Maintenance of confidential records
    - § [17a-150-85](#). Transfer of case records

**DCF POLICY  
MANUAL:**

- Chapter 25: Adoption (effective January 2, 2019)
  - [25-1](#). Adoption Overview
  - [25-2](#). Adoption Subsidies
    - Records of Adoptions, p. 4
    - Requests for Information, p. 4
    - Information Provided, p. 4
    - Request for Information in Medical Emergencies, p. 5
    - Adoption Reunion Registry, p. 5
    - Medical Information to be Maintained, p. 5
- [Chapter 48: Adoptions](#) (no longer in effect)
  - Content of Closed Adoption Record § 48-19-4
  - Change of Birth Certificate § 48-19-5
  - Birth Certificate Change By the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services § 48-19-6

**AGENCY  
WEBSITES:**

- [Requesting a Birth Certificate for a Person Who Was Adopted](#), Connecticut State Department of Public Health (accessed on September 27, 2019)

**PROBATE COURT  
RULES:**

- Connecticut Probate Court Rules of Procedure (2017)
  - Rule 16. Public Access to Hearings and Records
    - [Sec. 16.2\(c\)](#) Statutorily confidential matters in general
  - Rule 41. Children’s Matters: Regional Children’s Probate Courts**
    - [Sec. 41.3](#) Files and reports of probate court officer
  - Rule 72. News Media Coverage
    - [Sec. 72.2\(a\)\(14\)](#) News media coverage not permitted -- Adoption

**PROBATE COURT  
USER GUIDE:**

- [Termination Of Parental Rights And Adoptions](#) (2018)
  - Are adoption proceedings open to the public?
  - May an adopted person access his or her original birth certificate? pp. 8-9

**FORMS:**

- [Conn. Probate Court Forms](#)
  - [PC-607](#). Petition for Order Directing Department of Public Health to Issue Original Birth Certificate (Rev. 7/15)

**DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - I. In General
    - 123. Adoption records
- Dowling’s Digest: *Adoption*

**CASES:**

- [In re Santiago G.](#), 318 Conn. 449, 471-472, 121 A.3d 708 (2015). “Additionally, although Maria G. was in possession of a birth certificate naming her as Santiago's mother, she ultimately conceded that that birth certificate was fraudulent. As we previously have explained, '[a] birth certificate is a vital

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

record that must accurately reflect legal relationships between parents and children—it does not create those relationships.”

- [Raftopol v. Ramey](#), 299 Conn. 681, 698, 12 A.3d 783 (2011). “We conclude that § 7-48a allows an intended parent who is a party to a *valid* gestational agreement to become a parent without first adopting the children, without respect to that intended parent’s genetic relationship to the children. . . . No one should misunderstand this opinion to state that the **department, by placing Hargon’s name on the replacement birth certificate, or by refusing to do so, confers or declines to confer parental status on Hargon.** In this particular case, that relationship was created by the valid gestational agreement, and that relationship is accurately reflected by naming Hargon as a parent to the children on the replacement birth certificate. A birth certificate is a vital record that must accurately reflect legal relationships between parents and children—it does not create those relationships. General Statutes §§ 19a-40 and 19a-42.”
- [Martin v. Martin](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford, FA93-0530304 (Jun. 6, 1995) (1995 WL 357653) (1995 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1697). *Husband’s name put on birth certificate of child born prior to marriage not issue of husband.*
- [Sherry H. v. Probate Court](#), 177 Conn. 93, 411 A.2d 931 (1979). *Inspection of original birth certificate*
- 23 Op.Atty.Gen. 336 (March 29, 1944). Age of adopting parents
- 23 Op.Atty.Gen. 444 (October 20, 1944). Adopting parent included in birth certificate
- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014). §§ 196-200. Access to adoption records
- 66 [Am. Jur. 2d Records and Recording Laws](#) (2011). § 9. Correction or change
- 39A [C.J.S. Health & Environment](#) (2014). §§ 69-70. Registration of births and deaths
- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019). Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights § 5:14. Change of name, birth certificate and other adoption-related records § 5:17. Confidentiality, access to adoption records
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers’ Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS:**

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

**TEXTS & TREATISES:**

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Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin

Change of name; Birth certificate – p. 560

Confidentiality of adoption records – p. 560

Adoption searches – p. 560

Necessary documents for adoptive child's file – p. 568

- 6 Arnold H. Rutkin, ed., [Family Law and Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 64. Adoption Law, Procedure and Practice  
§ 64.23. Birth certificates
- 3 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 13. The Aftermath of Adoption: Legal and Social Consequences  
§ 13.01. Access to Adoption Records
- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§§ 4:48-4:53. Access to adoption records
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).  
Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements  
§ 6.14. Access to adoption records by adoptees and biological parents
- Gloria L. Kelly, *Getting to Know You: Disclosure of Information Contained in Sealed Adoption Records Under Connecticut Public Act 87-555*, 5 [Connecticut Probate Law Journal](#) 81 (1989).
- Michael H. Hanley, *A Reasonable Approach To The Adoptee's Sealed Records Dilemma*, 2 Ohio Northern University L. Rev 542, issue no. 3 (1975).

#### **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

# Section 13: Adoption and Inheritance

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to right to inheritance of adopted persons including from and through adopting parent and person.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

- **"The adoptive parent and the adopted person shall have rights of inheritance from and through each other and the biological and adopted relatives of the adoptive parent. The right of inheritance of an adopted person extends to the heirs of such adopted person, and such heirs shall be the same as if such adopted person were the biological child of the adoptive parent."** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-731\(2\)](#) (2019).
- **"The adopted person and the biological children and other adopted children of the adoptive parent shall be treated, unless otherwise provided by statute, as siblings, having rights of inheritance from and through each other. Such rights of inheritance extend to the heirs of such adopted person and of the biological children and other adopted children, and such heirs shall be the same as if each such adopted person were the biological child of the adoptive parent."** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-731\(3\)](#) (2019).
- **"The adopted person shall, except as hereinafter provided, be treated as if such adopted person were the biological child of the adoptive parent for purposes of the applicability of all documents and instruments, whether executed before or after the adoption decree is issued, which do not expressly exclude an adopted person in their operation or effect."** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-731\(4\)](#) (2019).
- **Stranger to the adoption doctrine:** "doctrine under which a testator or settlor other than the adopting parent is presumed not to intend to share his bounty with adopted child." [Schapira v. Connecticut Bank & Trust Co.](#), 204 Conn. 450, 458, 528 A.2d 367 (1987). *Statutorily extinguished by §45-65a [now 45a-731] in 1959 (applicable to wills and trusts instruments subsequent to October 1, 1959).*
- **Issue:** "In 1959, the legislature enacted the predecessor to General Statutes § 45-64a (4), which reversed the common law presumption that adopted children are not included in the term 'issue,' but restricted the application of this statute to any will or trust instrument executed after October 1, 1959. 1959 Public Acts, No. 106. The statute provides that in documents executed after that date the word 'issue,' as well as other similar words, 'shall include legally adopted persons unless such document clearly indicates a contrary intention.'" [Connecticut Bank & Trust Co. v. Coffin](#), 212 Conn. 678, 686, 563 A.2d 1323 (1989).

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.

## **PUBLIC ACTS:**

## **DIGESTS:**

## **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2019)
  - Chapter 802a. Wills: Execution and Construction
    - § [45a-257b](#). Failure of testator to provide for children born or adopted after execution of will
  - Chapter 803. Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
    - § [45a-731](#). Effects of final decree of adoption. Surviving rights
    - § [45a-734](#). Adoption of adults. Inheritance
- Public Act [No. 14-104](#). *An Act Concerning Probate Courts.*
- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - VI. Operation and Effect of Adoption
    - 342. Status and rights of adopted person
    - 345. Parental rights, duties, and liabilities
- **Dowling’s Digest: *Adoption***
- [Eder’s Appeal From Prob.](#), 177 Conn. App. 163, 174–75, 171 A.3d 506, 512–13 (2017). “**The court cited and analyzed numerous cases from other jurisdictions involving trust or will contests involving the adoption of adults. ‘Adult adoptions in estates and trusts cases have been rife with controversy. This controversy has led to three lines of cases among the jurisdictions in deciding the effect of an adult adoption on the construction of a testamentary instrument. The oldest line presumes all adult adoptees to be included in class gifts to children. A second line presumes all adult adoptees to be excluded from class gifts to children. A third line takes the middle ground by allowing exceptions to presumptive inclusion or exclusion depending on particular circumstances.’** [Davis v. Neilson](#), 871 S.W.2d 35, 38 (Mo. App. W.D. 1993).

In resolving the appeal, the court adopted what it called the commonsense test articulated in [Davis](#). “[C]ommon sense tells us that a donor would normally expect anyone partaking of his bounty to be a true family member and not just some willing adult adopted for the purpose of reducing or defeating a gift-over to others.... Common sense tells us that [the testator], by inserting adopted children in the class described as [the settlor’s] issue, intended to include only individuals with some familial bond to her family—individuals to whom [the settlor] felt a familial bond of love and duty, such as adult stepchildren.”

- [Dansker v. Whittaker](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New Haven at Meriden, No. CV13-6006086-S (May 22, 2015) (60 Conn. L. Rptr. 412) (2015 WL 3686636) (2015 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1254). “**The Probate Court held that as a result of that adoption the plaintiff could not prevail upon her claim for a share of Whittaker’s estate because General Statute § 45a-731(6) provides in pertinent part that no ‘adopted person have**



any rights of inheritance from or through the biological parent ...”

- [Riether v. Perrotti](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of New Haven at New Haven, No. CV10-6010980 (Jan. 24, 2011) (2011 WL 522890) (2011 Conn. Super. LEXIS 121). “Though there are no Connecticut cases directly addressing aggrievement in the context of an appeal to an adult adoption, Connecticut law does not consider the expectancy of an inheritance to be a legally protected interest to establish **standing**. ‘The mere possibility of future inheritance cannot support an appeal by one who is not otherwise directly aggrieved ... The allowance of such appeals, which would invite actions based on speculation rather than on actual fact, would be directly contrary to the principle that an appellant must **have a real interest in the matter in controversy**.’ (Citations omitted.) [Maloney v. Taplin](#), 154 Conn. 247, 250–51, 224 A.2d 731 (1966) (nephew and former ward lacked standing as a potential heir to challenge the appointment of conservator for aunt’s estate).”
- [Connecticut Bank & Trust Co. v. Coffin](#), 212 Conn. 678, 693, 563 A.2d 1323 (1989). “In [Stamford Trust Co. v. Lockwood](#), 98 Conn. 337, 119 A. 218 (1922), this court held that a child who had been adopted out of the family of her deceased natural father, the son of a life tenant of a testamentary trust established by the child’s great grandfather, could not participate in a distribution of the remainder of the trust as one of the ‘lawful issue’ of her grandfather, the life tenant, because she had no vested interest in the remainder at the time of her adoption and had ceased to be the child of her natural father by virtue of a statutory predecessor of § 45-64a(6) providing **that an adopted child ‘shall not inherit estate from its natural parents or their relatives.**’ General Statutes (1918 Rev.) § 4879. The present case may be distinguished on the ground that the interest of Kathryn Blaire Greenhalgh as one of the income beneficiaries of the trust vested upon her birth. To the extent that the opinion in [Stamford Trust Co.](#) may have relied upon a statute plainly applicable only to intestate distributions **in construing the term ‘lawful issue’ not to include an adopted-out child, however, it is overruled.**”
- [Rauhut v. Short](#), 26 Conn. Supp. 55, 212 A.2d 827 (1965).
- [Killen v. Klebanoff](#), 17 Conn. Supp. 223 (1951).

**A.G. OPINIONS:**

- 24 Op. Atty Gen. 380 (Sept. 18, 1946).

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).  
§§ 174-195. Inheritance; Other means of disposing of property
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).

§§ 146-160. Effect of adoption. Inheritance

- *Cause of Action to Probate Will Presumptively Revoked or Altered as Result of Marriage, Divorce, Birth, or Adoption*, George Chamberlin, JD, 28 [COA](#) 563 (1992).
- Determination of Heirship, Thomas R. Kellogg, 68 [POF3d](#) 93 (2002).  
§§ 10-10.5. Adoption. Adult adoption
- Ralph H. Folsom et al., [Incapacity, Powers Of Attorney and Adoption in Connecticut](#) 4d (2019).  
Chapter 5. Adoption and Parental Rights  
§ 5:15. Legal consequences of adoptions
- Lewis K. Parker, ed., [Connecticut Lawyers' Deskbook: A Reference Manual](#) 3d (2008).  
Chapter 22. Adoption: Law and Practice by Hon. Dianne E. Yamin  
Legal impact and consequences of adoption – p. 565
- Louise Truax, ed., [LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law](#) (2019).  
Chapter 9. Adoption  
Part III: Navigating the Adoption Process  
§ 9.11 Determining the Legal Effect of Adoption
- 1 Thomas R. Young, [Legal Rights Of Children](#) 3d (2018 ed.).  
Chapter 6. Adoption of Children and Other Arrangements.  
§ 6.5. Adopted child's right to inherit
- 3 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).  
Chapter 12. The aftermath of adoption: The economic consequences – Support, inheritances and taxes  
Appendix 12-A. State table of intestate inheritance rights  
Appendix 12-B. State table of intestate inheritance rights
- John Dewitt Gregory et al, [Understanding Family Law](#), Fourth Edition (2013).  
Chapter 6. Adoption  
§ 6.01[K]. Effects of Adoption
- William H Wood, Jr. et al, *Treatment Of Adopted Individuals Under Laws Of Descent And Distribution In Connecticut*, 14 [Connecticut Family Law Journal](#) 1 (1995) or 9 [Connecticut Probate Law Journal](#) 211 (1995).

## **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

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# Section 14: Wrongful Adoption

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the emerging tort of wrongful adoption.

## **SEE ALSO:**

- [Conception and Birth in Connecticut](#)  
Section 3: Wrongful Birth or Life

## **DEFINITIONS:**

- **Wrongful adoption:** “. . . fraudulent concealment by intermediaries (adoption agencies . . .) of material facts about a child or her biological family—usually a hereditary physical or mental condition—which, if disclosed to the prospective adoptive parents, would have resulted in the adoption not taking place.” [Juman v. Louise Wise Services](#), 608 N.Y.S.2d 612, 614-615 (1994).

## **CASES:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Mallete v. Children’s Friend and Service](#), 661 A.2d 67 (R.I. 1995). “According to the Mallettes' amended complaint, at this time employees of CFS negligently misrepresented and omitted material information concerning Christopher's medical and family history.”

“Unfortunately, courts and commentators have injected some confusion into this area by employing the term ‘tort of wrongful adoption’ to encompass a variety of distinct common law causes of action. See, e.g., [Juman v. Louise Wise Services](#), 211 A.D.2d 446, 620 N.Y.S.2d 371 (1995) (fraud and misrepresentation) . . . . Recently courts have begun to discard the term, realizing that the question of whether to recognize causes of action for ‘wrongful adoption’ simply requires the straightforward application and extension of well-recognized common-law actions, such as negligence and fraud, to the adoption context and not the creation of new torts. See [Roe](#) . . . . ([r]ecognition of this cause of action is not a dramatic, radical departure from the well-established common law \* \* \* [i]t is rather an extension of the doctrine of the common law fraud’); [Gibbs v. Ernst](#), 538 Pa. 193, 647 A.2d 882, 886 (1994) (‘causes of action for wrongful adoption are no more than an extension of common law principles to the adoption setting’).” (p. 69)

“With these elements in mind, the narrow issue confronting this court, which is one of first impression, becomes whether to recognize the tort of negligent misrepresentation in the adoption context.” (p. 70)

“In the adoption context, several of our sister states have specifically imposed a duty to use due care on adoption agencies when they begin *volunteering* information to potential adopting parents. See, e.g., [M.H. v. Caritas Family Services](#), 488 N.W.2d 282, 288 (Minn. 1992) (adoption agencies have duty to use due care ‘when they undertake to disclose

information about a child's genetic parents and medical history'); [Gibbs](#), 538 Pa. at 216, 647 A.2d at 893 (an 'adoption agency has assumed the duty to tell the truth when it volunteers information to prospective parents'); [Meracle v. Children's Service Society of Wisconsin](#), 149 Wis.2d 19, 32, 437 N.W.2d 532, 537 (1989) (adoption agencies are under no duty to disclose health information, but once they voluntarily undertake to supply such information, a duty to use due care arises). We note that the imposition of a duty in these cases appears predicated not on the varying disclosure statutes of the particular jurisdiction but rather on the adoption agencies' **voluntary** dissemination of health information concerning the child to potential adopting parents." (p. 70)

"We note that among the courts that have been faced with similar factual situations there is a split on the question of whether to extend the common-law tort of negligent misrepresentation to the adoption context." (p. 71)

**"We are in complete agreement with these cases** in holding that public policy does not preclude the Mallettes from maintaining a claim for negligent misrepresentation against CFS. In fact **recognition of such a tort would promote public policy.**" (p. 72)

**"We are of the opinion that in order to avoid liability, an** adoption agency needs simply to refrain from making representations, or if it does begin making representations it must do so in a nonnegligent manner. See [Gibbs](#), 538 Pa. at 211, 647 A.2d at 891 ('agencies may refrain from making any representations at all'); [Meracle](#), 149 Wis.2d at 32, 437 N.W.2d at 537 (agencies have no preexisting duty to disclose health information). We caution that our opinion in no way renders adoption agencies guarantors or insurers of a child's future health. *Id.* To guard against such a result, we note that traditional principles of negligence require that the child's condition be reasonably predictable at the time of the adoption. [Gibbs](#), 538 Pa. at 213-15, 647 A.2d at 892 (citing [Richard P. v. Vista Del Mar Child Care Service](#), 106 Cal. App.3d 860, 867, 165 Cal. Rptr. 370, 373 (1980))." (p. 73)

- [Juman v. Louise Wise Services](#), 608 N.Y.S.2d 612 (1994), aff'd 620 N.Y.S.2d 371 (1995). *Includes history of wrongful adoption.*
- [Roe v. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois](#), 588 N.E.2d 354, 356 (1992). "The adoptive parents brought suit based on fraud, breach of contract and negligence."
- [Meracle v. Children's Service Society of Wisconsin](#), 149 Wis.2d 19, 437 N.W.2d 532, 533 (1989). "We conclude that the Meracles' claim for future, extraordinary medical expenses is not barred by either the statute of limitations or by public policy. We also hold, however, that the Meracles' claim for emotional

distress must be dismissed because the alleged emotional distress was **not manifested by physical injury.**"

- [Michael J. v. County of Los Angeles, Department of Adoptions](#), 247 Cal. Rptr. 504 (1988).

### **DIGESTS:**

- West Key Numbers: 17 *Adoption*
  - I. In General
    - 130. Wrongful adoption
    - 131. Offenses and prosecutions

#### **184 Fraud**

- 16. Fraudulent Concealment
- 28. Fraud in particular transactions of for particular purposes
- 58(2). Falsity of representations and knowledge thereof

- Dowling's Digest: *Adoption*

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 2 [Am. Jur. 2d Adoption](#) (2014).
  - §§ 151-160. Equitable relief, annulment, or wrongful adoption
- 2 [C.J.S. Adoption of Persons](#) (2013).
  - § 13. In general. Adoption or placement agencies. Liability of agency; wrongful adoption
- Harriet Dinegar Milks, Annotation, *"Wrongful Adoption" Causes of Action Against Adoption Agencies Where Children Have or Develop Mental or Physical Problems That are Misrepresented or Not Disclosed to Adoptive Parents*, 74 [ALR5th](#) 1 (1999).
- Damian Edward Okasinski, Annotation, *Attorney Malpractice In Connection With Services Related To Adoption Of Children*, 18 [ALR5th](#) 892 (1994).
- Kathleen M. Door, Annotation, *Liability Of Public Or Private Agency Or Its Employees To Prospective Adoptive Parents In Contract Or Tort For Failure To Complete Arrangement For Adoption*, 8 [ALR5th](#) 860 (1992).

### **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

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- 3 Joan H. Hollinger et al., [Adoption Law And Practice](#) (2019).
  - Chapter 16. Liability of Adoption Agencies and Attorneys for Misconduct in the Disclosure of Health-Related Information
    - § 16.02. What Conduct is Actionable
    - § 16.03. A Closer Look at Theories of Liability: Possibilities and Pitfalls
    - § 16.04. Suits Against Governmental Defendants: Additional Claims and Defenses
    - § 16.05. Damages
    - § 16.06. Disciplinary Proceedings and Other Sanctions

§ 16.07. Precautionary Measures to Minimize Risk of Liability

- 1 Thomas A. Jacobs, [Children and the Law: Rights & Obligations](#) (2018).  
Chapter 4. Adoption  
§§ 4:57-4:65. Wrongful adoption
- Malinda L. Seymore, [Adopting Civil Damages: Wrongful Family Separation in Adoption](#), 76 Washington and Lee Law Review 895 (Spring 2019).
- Blair, [Getting the Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth: The Limits of Liability for Wrongful Adoption](#), 67 [Notre Dame L. Rev.](#) 851 (1992).
- Notes, *When Love is Not Enough: Toward a Unified Wrongful Adoption Tort*, 105 [Harvard Law Review](#) 1761-1779 (May 1992).
- Mary E. Schwartz, Notes, [Fraud in the Nursery: Is the Wrongful Adoption Remedy Enough?](#) 26 Valparaiso University Law Review 807 (Summer 1992).
- Janet Hopkins Dickson, Comments, *Emerging Rights of Adoptive Parents: Substance or Specter?* 38 UCLA Law Review 917 (April 1991).
- Susan Kempf LeMay, *The Emergence Of Wrongful Adoption As A Cause Of Action*, 27 Journal of Family Law 475 (Feb. 1989).

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