

# RELATIVE ADOPTIONS

A relative adoption is an adoption of a child by a person related within the 5<sup>th</sup> degree by blood, marriage. These can also be an adoption by a full guardian with authority to consent to the adoption of the adoptee.

Once the petition has been filed, the petitioners have an investigation completed, known as a home study. When the home study is completed and approved, approximately three months after the filing of the petition, the rights of the biological parents are terminated. This termination is typically done by a consent hearing in which the biological parents agree to have his or her rights terminated so that this adoption may be granted.

If the consent of the biological parents cannot be obtained, termination of their rights would need to be completed in another method and it is strongly recommended that the assistance of an attorney is sought.

After the rights of the biological parents are terminated, there is a waiting period of 21 days, during which the parent has the right to appeal the termination decision. After the 21 days have elapsed, the adoption may be finalized.

Montcalm County Probate Court  
Hon. Charles W. Simon, III  
Montcalm County Court Complex  
625 North State Street  
Stanton, Michigan 48888  
(989) 831-7316

Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Court and the Court's staff are prohibited by law (Section 1211 of the Estates and Protected Individual's Code [EPIC]) from providing legal advice and assistance in completing forms. The information, forms, and instructions are intended to provide general information concerning filing procedures and may be useful as a guide. This is the only assistance that can be provided by the court's staff. *If, after reviewing this information, you have any questions or need assistance in completing the forms consider contacting an attorney for assistance.*

## PROBATE COURT FEE SCHEDULE Effective March 25, 2009

Copies.....	\$1.00/page
Certified copies.....	\$10.00 for the certification and \$1.00/ea for each page of same document
Subsequent Petitions, Motions, Objections...	\$20.00
Adoptions.....	\$160.00 plus certified copy fee for Order of Adoption
Adoption Investigations.....	\$150.00
Petition for Adoption Inquiry.....	\$20.00

**Fees may be paid by cash, check or money order payable to: Montcalm County Probate Court**

**\$40.00 fee for returned checks**