

STEP-PARENT ADOPTIONS

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.*

Step-parent adoptions are the most common type of adoption handled in this office. This is an adoption in which a biological parent and a step-parent petition the court to adopt a child so that the child is the legal child and heir to the step-parent.

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 non-custodial parent are terminated. This termination is typically done by a consent hearing in which the non-custodial parent agrees to have his or her rights terminated so that this adoption may be granted.

The rights may also be terminated if the non-custodial parent has not paid support and has not had parenting time with the child for two years immediately preceding the filing of the petition. If you are seeking termination of rights in this fashion, you will have to file a Supplemental Petition setting forth facts to substantiate your assertion that there has been no parenting time or support paid for two years.

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

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