



A Family For Every Child

Varying Northwest State Adoption Laws

Northwest Adoption Laws

[Oregon Laws](#)

[Washington Laws](#)

[Idaho Laws](#)

Dear Members and Co-Workers,

Adoption laws often vary from state to state. Unless an adoptive family is prepared for these discrepancies, they can hinder or prolong the adoption process. So this week we would like to highlight some helpful information about foster child adoption laws in three Northwest states.

INFORMATION

- [National Adoption Center](#)
- [Oregon Adoption Information](#)
- [Adoption in Washington State](#)
- [Idaho Adoption Information](#)
- [Indian Child Welfare Act](#)
- [Time-line of Adoption History](#)

Adoption Laws

First, the laws governing an adoption are typically those of the state in which the child is born. Federal legislation sets the framework for adoption in the United States, and States pass laws to comply with Federal requirements and become eligible for Federal funding. Thus, adoption is regulated by State laws, and these laws vary from State to State.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/laws/>

Prospective parents must complete assessment and licensing requirements that vary from state to state and may include: a minimum age, verification of income to meet your expenses, a criminal record check at local, state and federal levels including finger printing and no prior record of child abuse or neglect; a reference from a doctor (although prospective parents do not need to be in perfect health) and; letters of reference from an employer and others who know you. A typical application process would include the parent(s) attending an orientation and then following the steps listed above while attending free preparation classes (often about 40 hours spread over several weeks).

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/resourcecenter/howtoadopt.aspx>

<http://www.lanecountyheartgallery.org/HeartGallery/whatistheprocedure.html>

Foster Care Adoption: Myths vs. Reality

Myth: Less than half of Americans believe a single parent raising an adoptive child can definitely provide a healthy and loving

environment.

Reality: 1/3 of kids adopted from foster care in 2005 were adopted by single parents or unmarried couples. *2

Myth: Only 1/3 think same sex parents can definitely provide a healthy and loving environment.

Reality: An estimated 65,000 children (4 percent of adopted children) are living with a lesbian or gay adoptive parent(s). *3

Myth: Only 37% think a person over the age of 55 can definitely provide a healthy and loving environment for a child.

Reality: 23% of adopted children live with an adoptive parent 55 years or older. *2

*1 National Foster Care Adoption Attitudes Survey, November 2007. Available at: DaveThomasFoundationforAdoption.org

*2 The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, AFCARS Report 13, FY 2005 Est. (Sept. 2005)

*3 Urban Institute. (March 27, 2007) Adoption and Foster Care by Lesbian and Gay Parents in the United States. <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411437>



Oregon

- Age that child's consent is needed - 14 years +
- Who may adopt - Any person who is a resident of Oregon for 6 months. If petitioner is married, spouse must join. Compliance with Indian Child Welfare Act required if applicable.
- Home Residency Required Prior to Finalization of Adoption? - Not required.
- State Agency/Court - Dept. of Human Services/Probate or Circuit
- Statute of Limitations to Challenge - 1 year
- Code Section - 109.304, et seq.



[Tera's Biography Page](#)

Washington

- Age that child's consent is needed - 14 years +
- Who may adopt - Any legally competent person, 18 years of age or over.
- Home Residency Required Prior to Finalization of Adoption? - Not required.
- State Agency/Court - Social & Health Services /Superior
- Statute of Limitations to Challenge - 1 year
- Code Section - 26.33.140



[Israel's Biography Page](#)

Idaho

- Age that child's consent is needed - 12 years +
- Who may adopt? - Any adult resident of Idaho for at least 6 consecutive mos. prior to filing who is either 15 years older than child or 25 years of age or older; except spouse of natural parent or person adopting adult who has shown a substantial relationship as a parent has been maintained in excess of 1 yr. may adopt without above age restriction. No married person can adopt without consent of spouse.
- Home Residency Required Prior to Finalization of Adoption? - No
- State Agency/Court - Dept. of Health & Welfare/Magistrate's



Division or District

- Statute of Limitations to Challenge - 6 mos. except for fraud
- Code Section - 16-1501, et seq.

[Casey's Biography Page](#)

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hancock
A Family For Every Child