

**LOCAL RULE 94.1            ADOPTIONS**

(A) Expense Hearing.

In all adoptions, except by a stepparent, legal custodian, guardian, grandparent or where the child was permanently surrendered and/or placed by an Ohio licensed adoption agency, the petitioners shall appear in open court, before the Judge or Magistrate of the Probate Court, and swear under oath as to any and all expenses incurred and being paid by them to any party or parties involved in the adoption matter before the Court.

(B) All R.C. 3107.10 preliminary estimate accountings and R.C. 3107.083 birth parent forms shall be filed with the Court on or before the date of the scheduled placement hearing.

(C) Only forms currently in use by the Probate Court or standard probate court forms will be accepted.

(D) Confidentiality.

All adoption proceedings in the Court are confidential and are not available online. Access or information contained in the adoption case file will only be provided pursuant to statute.

(E) Record of Proceedings.

All hearings in adoption cases will be recorded by the Court. If a party wishes for a court reporter to be present, they must arrange for a court reporter at their own expense.

(F) Adoption Assessors.

For all private adoption cases using the Court's adoption assessors, the birth parent(s) and their attorney must meet with the assigned adoption assessor to complete the birth parent assessment.

(G) Placement for Adoption.

Except in step-parent adoption proceedings, there must be a lawful placement of the child before the filing of the Petition for Adoption. In all private placement adoptions, where this Court is approving and ordering the placement, a Pre-Placement Application shall be filed at the time of the opening of the case.

(H) Petitioner's Account.

Pursuant to R.C. 3107.055, a petitioner must file a Petitioner's Account with the Court listing the expenses paid by the petitioner in connection with the adoption proceeding. In the final accounting, the petitioner must itemize all birth parent expenses.

(I) In any adoption that originated in this Court but was finalized by any other court, the petitioner(s) must file with this Court a copy of the Final Decree of Adoption.

(J) If there is an existing child support order for the minor being adopted, it is the responsibility of the Petitioner(s) to notify the appropriate child support enforcement agency upon the filing of the Final Decree of Adoption.

(K) Attorney Representation.

Representation by an Attorney is mandatory for all parties pursuant to R.C. 3107.011. Birth parent(s) and Petitioner(s) must be represented by separate attorneys. Attorney fees for the birth parent(s) are the responsibility of the Petitioner(s). Notices of appearance must be filed.

(L) Consent

In addition to the Consent to Adoption (Form 18.3), the Addendum to Consent to Adoption must also be filed. The Addendum to Consent to Adoption is not required from the custodial Agency, minor over 12 years of age, the custodial parent in a stepparent adoption or an adult adoption.