

STATE OF VERMONT  
DISTRICT OF \_\_\_\_\_

PROBATE COURT

IN RE ADOPTION OF \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**ADOPTION DECREE - STEPPARENT ADOPTION OF A MINOR**  
15A V. S. A. 4-101 et seq.

The Court has considered a petition for adoption of the above-named minor filed under Title 15A V. S. A. (The Adoption Act). Based upon the documents on file and the evidence submitted at a hearing held on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, the Court makes the following findings of fact:

1. The original name of the minor adoptee is:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. A petition for adoption of the minor was filed by \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

3. The minor was born on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
The time of birth was \_\_\_\_\_ (A.M./P.M.).

4. The petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ is not married.

5. The petitioner is a stepparent of the adoptee or is a person who is treated as a stepparent of the adoptee pursuant to 4-101(b) of the Adoption Act.

6. Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ A new birth certificate shall not be issued because either the petitioner, or the minor, who is over the age of 14, has requested that a new birth certificate not be issued.

\_\_\_\_\_ A new birth certificate shall be issued by the Supervisor of Vital Records with the following information set forth therein:

Father: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name by Which Mother is Known: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

7. The adoptee shall be known by the name of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ upon issuance of this decree.

8. The adoptee has been in the physical custody of the petitioner for at least 180 days.

9. Notice of this proceeding for adoption has been served or dispensed with as to those persons entitled to receive notice under Part 3 of Article 3 of the Adoption Act and 4-109 of the Adoption Act.
10. Each necessary consent, relinquishment, waiver, disclaimer of parental interest, judicial order terminating parental rights, including any order issued under Part 5 of Article 3 of the Adoption Act as required by the Adoption Act, has been filed with the court.
11. Any evaluation required by the Adoption Act has been filed with, and considered by the court or has not been required by the court pursuant to 4-110 of the Adoption Act.
12. The court has obtained the information required by 203-(d)(7)-(9) of the Adoption Act.
13. Each item required by 3-305(a) of the Adoption Act, which the court has determined is relevant to this adoption has been filed with the court or, if any of the said items is unavailable, the person responsible for furnishing it has filed an affidavit explaining its absence.
14. All applicable requirements of the Adoption Act governing an interstate or inter-country placement for this adoption have been met.
15. The Indian Child Welfare Act 25 U. S. C. 1901 et seq., is not applicable to this proceeding, or, if applicable, its requirements have been met.
16. The accounting and affidavit required by 3-702 of the Adoption Act have been reviewed by the court and the court has denied, modified, or ordered reimbursement of any payment or disbursement which is not authorized under Article 7 of the Adoption Act with respect to this adoption.
17. The petitioner has received each report required by 2-105 of the Adoption Act.
18. The petitioner is a suitable adoptive parent for the minor.
19. It is in the best interest of the minor to grant the petition for adoption.

Upon this decree becoming final:

- A. The legal relationship between the adoptive parent and the adoptee shall be set forth in 1-104 of the Adoption Act;
- B. The decree shall not affect:
  1. The legal relationship between the parent who is the adoptive stepparent's spouse or deceased spouse and the adoptee shall remain the same as it was prior to the adoption.
  2. An existing court order for visitation or communication with a minor adoptee by a person related to the adoptee through the parent who is the adoptive stepparents's spouse or deceased spouse; or

3. A court order of agreement for visitation or communication with a minor adoptee approved by the court pursuant to 4-112 of the Adoption Act.

C. The legal relationship between the parent who is not the spouse or the deceased spouse of the stepparent and the adoptee shall be as set forth in 1-105 of the Adoption Act, EXCEPT THAT:

1. The minor and any descendant of the minor will retain rights of inheritance from and through this parent; and

2. A court order for visitation or communication with the minor by this parent or by a person related to the minor through this parent, or an agreement or order concerning another person who is approved by the court pursuant to 4-112 of the Adoption Act survives the decree of adoption, but failure to comply with the terms of the order or agreement is not a ground for revoking or setting aside the adoption.

3. This parent remains liable for arrearage of child support unless released from that obligation by the other parent, and any guardian al litem of the minor and any governmental entity providing public assistance to the minor.

THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED AND DECREED that the minor, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, is adopted by, and made the child of,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and shall hereafter bear the name of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Probate Judge  
Probate Court, District of \_\_\_\_\_