

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH - ADOPTION**

EX PARTE IN THE MATTER OF : **Adoption Case No. A-_____**
: :
THE PETITION OF : :
: :
[Petitioners' Initials] : :
: :
JUDGE RONNA LEE BECK
: :
FOR ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD : :
_____ :

FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION

Upon consideration of the Petition for Adoption filed by [petitioner's full name]¹ for the adoption of a minor child born [date], in [place], and upon the report and recommendation of the Child and Family Services Agency of the District of Columbia [or other appropriate agency], it appears to the satisfaction of the court: (1) That the court has jurisdiction pursuant to D.C. Code Ann. § 16-301 (2001); (2) That the adoptee is physically, mentally, and otherwise suitable for adoption by the petitioner; (3) That the petitioner is fit and able to give the adoptee a proper home and education; (4) That the adoption will be for the best interests of the adoptee; (5) That the adoptee has resided with the petitioner since [date] [if this is a foreign readoption, replace with: That the adoptee has been in the legal care and control of petitioners by virtue of an adoption [or, if applicable, a guardianship] in [place] on [date], and has resided with them since that date], which is more than six months preceding the date of this Final Decree; (6) That the adoption form has been completed pursuant to Section 10 of the Vital Records Act of 1981, D.C. Code Ann. § 7-209 (Supp. 2003); and (7) That there has been compliance with the applicable provisions of the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children Authorization Act of 1989, D.C. Code Ann. §§ 4-1421 to 4-1424 (2001 & Supp. 2003).

Accordingly, it is now by the court this _____ day of _____, 2005,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

1. That a Final Decree of Adoption be and is hereby entered establishing the legal relationship of natural parent and natural child for all purposes between [petitioner's name], the petitioner, and the adoptee, to the same extent as if the adoptee had been naturally born to the petitioner;

2. That the name of the adoptee be and is hereby legally changed to [new name of child] [or that the legal name of adoptee shall remain [current name of child]]; and

3. That the Clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to furnish four certified copies of this Final Decree of Adoption to the petitioner through the petitioner's counsel of record in this matter or to the petitioner directly, if petitioner is *pro se*.

¹ If there are two petitioners, modify the order appropriately throughout.

JUDGE RONNA LEE BECK

(Signed in Chambers)

Copies to:

[Name/Address]

Counsel for Petitioner(s)

William S. Johnson, LICSW
Adoption Resources Program
Child and Family Services Agency
400 6th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

[or, if the agency is not CFSA, the address
of the appropriate agency contact person]