

MINNESOTA RULES OF ADOPTION PROCEDURE

Rules effective January 1, 2005
With amendments effective through January 1, 2024

TABLE OF HEADNOTES

RULE 1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.01 Scope
- 1.02 Purpose

RULE 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.01 Definitions

RULE 3. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RULES AND STATUTES

- 3.01 Rules of Civil Procedure
- 3.02 Rules of Evidence
- 3.03 Rules of Guardian Ad Litem Procedure
- 3.04 Indian Child Welfare Act and Other Minnesota Statutes
- 3.05 Court Interpreter Statutes, Rules, and Court Policies
- 3.06 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- 3.07 Human Services Licensing Act
- 3.08 Review of Progress Toward Adoption of Children Under State Guardianship
- 3.09 General Rules of Practice for the District Courts

RULE 4. TIME; TIMELINES

- 4.01 Computation of Time
- 4.02 Additional Time After Service by U.S. Mail or Other Means

RULE 5. CONTINUANCES

- 5.01 Findings
- 5.02 Notice of Continuance
- 5.03 Existing Orders; Interim Orders

RULE 6. REFEREES AND JUDGES

- 6.01 Referee Authorization to Hear Matter
- 6.02 Objection to Referee Presiding Over Matter
- 6.03 Transmittal of Referee's Findings and Recommended Order
- 6.04 Review of Referee's Findings and Recommended Order
- 6.05 Order of the Court

6.06 Removal of Judge

RULE 7. ACCESS TO ADOPTION CASE RECORDS AND BIRTH RECORD INFORMATION

- 7.01 Access to Adoption Case Records Limited
- 7.02 Petition to Access Adoption Case Records and Birth Record Information
- 7.03 Stepparent Adoption
- 7.04 Disclosure to Employer and Military Prohibited
- 7.05 Protective Order
- 7.06 Suitability of Proposed Adoptive Parents
- 7.07 Release of Identifying Information
- 7.08 Access to Original Birth Record Information; Decision
- 7.09 Information to Adopted Persons and Others About Access to Birth and Adoption Records

RULE 8. PRESENCE AT HEARINGS

- 8.01 Attendance at Hearings
- 8.02 Absence Does Not Bar Hearing
- 8.03 Exclusion of Persons Who Have Right to Attend Hearings
- 8.04 Record of Exclusion and Right to Continued Participation

RULE 9. EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

- 9.01 Ex Parte Communication Prohibited
- 9.02 Disclosure

RULE 10. ORDERS

- 10.01 Written or Oral Orders
- 10.02 Immediate Effect of Oral Order
- 10.03 Service
- 10.04 Notice of Filing of Order and Adoption Decree

RULE 11. RECORDING AND TRANSCRIPTS

- 11.01 Procedure
- 11.02 Availability of Transcripts
- 11.03 Expense

RULE 12. USE OF TELEPHONE AND REMOTE TECHNOLOGY

- 12.01 Motions and Conferences
- 12.02 Adoption Proceedings

RULE 13. SUBPOENAS

- 13.01 Subpoena for a Hearing or Trial
- 13.02 Form; Purpose; Notice
- 13.03 Service
- 13.04 Motion to Quash a Subpoena
- 13.05 Objection
- 13.06 Subpoena for Taking Deposition; Place of Deposition
- 13.07 Expenses
- 13.08 Failure to Appear

RULE 14. CONTEMPT

- 14.01 Initiation
- 14.02 Supporting and Responsive Affidavits
- 14.03 Hearing
- 14.04 Sentencing

RULE 15. MOTIONS

- 15.01 Form
- 15.02 Service and Notice of Motion
- 15.03 Ex Parte Motion

**RULE 16. SIGNING OF PLEADINGS, MOTIONS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS;
SANCTIONS**

- 16.01 Signing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Documents
- 16.02 Sanctions

RULE 17. DISCOVERY

- 17.01 Applicability
- 17.02 Regulation of Discovery

RULE 18. DEFAULT

- 18.01 Procedure

RULE 19. SETTLEMENT

- 19.01 Generally
- 19.02 Partial Settlement
- 19.03 Content of Settlement Agreement
- 19.04 Procedure

RULE 20. PARTIES

- 20.01 Party Status
- 20.02 Rights to Parties
- 20.03 Parties' Addresses

RULE 21. INTERVENTION

- 21.01 Intervention of Right
- 21.02 Parent Intervention Prohibited
- 21.03 Permissive Intervention
- 21.04 Effect of Intervention

RULE 22. JOINDER

- 22.01 Procedure

RULE 23. RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION; APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

- 23.01 Right to Representation
- 23.02 Appointment of Counsel
- 23.03 Representation of Responsible Social Services Agency
- 23.04 Biological Parent Counsel in Direct Placement Adoption
- 23.05 Certificate of Representation
- 23.06 Withdrawal of Counsel
- 23.07 Appointment of Counsel in Adoption Involving an Indian Child

RULE 24. GUARDIAN AD LITEM

- 24.01 Appointment
- 24.02 Responsibilities
- 24.03 Reimbursement

RULE 25. METHODS OF FILING AND SERVICE

- 25.01 Types of Filing
- 25.02 Types of Service
- 25.03 Service by Electronic Means
- 25.04 Service Upon Counsel; Social Services Agency
- 25.05 Service of Subpoena
- 25.06 Completion of Service
- 25.07 Proof of Service

RULE 26. COMMENCEMENT OF ADOPTION MATTER

- 26.01 Commencement of an Adoption Matter
- 26.02 Post-Permanency Review Hearings Continue

RULE 27. STEPPARENT ADOPTION**RULE 28. AGENCY ADOPTION****RULE 29. DIRECT PLACEMENT ADOPTION**

- 29.01 Notice of Motion and Motion for a Preadoptive Custody Order
- 29.02 Timing
- 29.03 Content
- 29.04 Decision and Order

RULE 30. INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

- 30.01 Adoption of a Child by a Resident of Minnesota Under the Laws of a Foreign Country
- 30.02 Adoption Under the Laws of Minnesota of a Child Born in Another Country
- 30.03 Post-Adoption Report

RULE 31. NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING OR TRIAL

- 31.01 Notice
- 31.02 Notice Not Required
- 31.03 Content of Notice of Hearing
- 31.04 Service of Notice of Hearing

RULE 32. MINNESOTA FATHERS' ADOPTION REGISTRY

- 32.01 Requirement to Search Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry Before Adoption Petition Granted; Proof of Search
- 32.02 Fees for Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry

RULE 33. CONSENT TO ADOPTION

- 33.01 Persons and Agencies Required to Consent
- 33.02 Notice of Intent to Consent to Adoption
- 33.03 Execution of Consent to Adoption
- 33.04 Timing of Consent
- 33.05 Failure to Execute Consent
- 33.06 Agreement Conferring Authority to Place for Adoption
- 33.07 Consent to a Direct Placement Adoption Under Minnesota Statutes, Section 259.47
- 33.08 Revocation of Consent to Adoption of a Non-Indian Child Under Minnesota Statutes, Section 259.24

33.09 Consent to Adoption of an Indian Child

RULE 34. COMMUNICATION OR CONTACT AGREEMENT

34.01 Persons Who May Enter Into a Communication or Contact Agreement

34.02 Filing of Agreement

34.03 Written Order Required

34.04 Timing

34.05 Requirements for Entry of Order

34.06 Service of Order

34.07 Enforcement

34.08 Failure to Comply with Order

34.09 Modification

RULE 35. PETITION

35.01 Who May Petition; Residency of Petitioner

35.02 Residency of Child to be Adopted

35.03 Timing

35.04 Conditions for Filing Petition for Adoption of a Child; Exceptions

35.05 Content

35.06 Verification; Signatures

35.07 Amendment

35.08 Statement of Expenses

RULE 36. ACTIONS UPON FILING OF PETITION

RULE 37. ADOPTION STUDY AND BACKGROUND STUDY

37.01 Adoption Study and Background Study Required; Exception

37.02 Adoption Study Report

37.03 Direct Placement Adoption; Background Study Incomplete

37.04 Background Study; Timing

37.05 Updates to Adoption Study Report; Period of Validity

37.06 Filing of Adoption Study Report

37.07 Foster Parent Assessment May be Used for Adoption Study

RULE 38. POST-PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

38.01 Timing

38.02 Content

38.03 Background Study

38.04 Waiver by Court

38.05 Contested Adoptive Placement for Children Under Guardianship of the Commissioner of Human Services

RULE 39. ANSWER WHEN CONTESTED ADOPTION MATTER

39.01 Answer When Contested

39.02 Notice of Contested Adoption

39.03 Pretrial Conference

RULE 40. VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL; INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL; SUMMARY JUDGMENT

40.01 Voluntary Withdrawal of Petition

40.02 Involuntary Dismissal of Petition

40.03 Summary Judgment

RULE 41. FINAL HEARING IN UNCONTESTED MATTERS

41.01 Generally

41.02 Commencement

41.03 Hearing Procedure

41.04 Standard of Proof

41.05 Timing of Decision

RULE 42. CONSOLIDATION; BIFURCATION

42.01 Consolidation Generally

42.02 Consolidation with Other Proceedings; Competing Petitions

42.03 Bifurcation

42.04 Rule Does Not Apply to Children Under Guardianship of the Commissioner of Human Services

RULE 43. PRETRIAL CONFERENCE IN CONTESTED MATTERS

43.01 Timing

43.02 Purpose

43.03 Pretrial Order

RULE 44. TRIAL IN CONTESTED MATTERS

44.01 Generally

44.02 Commencement

44.03 Trial Procedure

- 44.04 Standard of Proof
- 44.05 Motion for Judgment at Conclusion of Trial
- 44.06 Timing of Decision; Delay of Issuance of Order if Adoption Assistance Not Yet Acted Upon

RULE 45. FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER FOR JUDGMENT, AND ADOPTION DECREE

- 45.01 Dismissal and Denial of Adoption Petition
- 45.02 Granting Adoption Petition
- 45.03 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order for Judgment, and Adoption Decree
- 45.04 Filing and Service

RULE 46. POST-TRIAL MOTIONS

- 46.01 Motion for Amended Findings
- 46.02 Motion for New Trial
- 46.03 Timing of Decision

RULE 47. RELIEF FROM ORDER

- 47.01 Clerical Mistakes
- 47.02 Mistakes; Inadvertence; Excusable Neglect; Newly Discovered Evidence; Fraud
- 47.03 Invalidation of District Court Action - Indian Child Cases
- 47.04 Vacation of Adoption Decree - Indian Child Cases

RULE 48. APPEAL

- 48.01 Applicability of Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure
- 48.02 Procedure
- 48.03 Application for Stay of Trial Court Order
- 48.04 Right to Additional Review
- 48.05 Transcript of Proceedings
- 48.06 Time for Rendering Decisions

RULE 49. VENUE

- 49.01 Venue
- 49.02 Request to Transfer Venue
- 49.03 Transfer of Venue Procedures

RULE 50. ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS - INDIAN CHILD

- 50.01 Placement Preferences

- 50.02 Tribal Resolution for Different Order of Preference; Personal Preference Considered; Anonymity in Application of Preferences
- 50.03 Social and Cultural Standards Applicable
- 50.04 Record of Placement

TEXT OF RULES