



National Adoption Information Clearinghouse

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Resources for State Adoption Statutes (9/02)

Persons contemplating adoption must comply with adoption laws. For the most part, adoption issues are subject to State laws and regulations.¹ State adoption laws are primarily comprised of laws from two sources: State statutes and State case law. State statutes are provisions enacted by State legislatures that regulate the subject matter of an issue. State case law consists of rules of law that come from the written decisions of judges who hear and decide litigation. Statutes and case law of a particular jurisdiction are binding on future litigation within that jurisdiction. Additionally, administrative regulations, which are enacted by agencies that have the authority, within certain limits, to make rules that have the force of statutes, also address legal issues in adoption.

Legal research and analysis is often performed in order to understand and comply with adoption laws. This process begins with the reading and examination of relevant State statutes. To assist in this task, the Clearinghouse is providing information² on how to obtain full-text copies of pertinent State adoption statutes,³ including:

- Citations for adoption statutes in each State;
- An Internet address (when available) to access a specific State statute online;
- Contact information to order print copies of State statutes; and/or
- Notification of any fee charged for print copies.

In addition to State statutory review, legal research and analysis of an adoption issue also involves reviewing case law⁴ to determine whether any cases have interpreted a particular statute, agency regulations,⁵ and informal practices and procedures. Readers interested in the interpretation of specific statutory provisions within a particular jurisdiction should also consult with professionals within the State familiar with statutory implementation.

¹ There is some Federal statutory and constitutional law pertaining to adoptions, in such areas as adoption subsidies, adoption of Native American children, and the rights of unwed or putative fathers.

² While every effort has been made to ensure that this resource listing is as accurate and timely as possible, the Clearinghouse cannot be held responsible for the content or services offered herein.

³ While every attempt has been made to be as complete as possible, additional information on a topic may be in other sections of a State's code.

⁴ Case law can be obtained from electronic legal databases and law libraries.

⁵ Agency regulations can be obtained from agency policy manuals.

State Adoption Statutes Citations and Contacts

ALABAMA

Citation: Code of Alabama, Sections 26-10-4.1; 26-10-20 to 26-10-30; 26-10A-1 to 26-10A-38

Web Site: <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/CodeofAlabama/1975/coatoc.html>

Contact: House Bill Room
(334) 242-7600
1-800-499-3052
Senate Bill Room
(334) 242-7800
1-800-499-3051

Fee: No

ALASKA

Citation: Alaska Statutes, Sections 18.50.500; 18.50.510 and 25.23.005 to 25.23.240

Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us>

Contact: Legislative Information Office
(907) 465-4648

Fee: Yes

AMERICAN SAMOA

Citation: American Samoa Code Annotated, Sections 45.0401 to 45.0431

Web Site: <http://www.asbar.org/codes/ASCATOC.html>

Contact: American Samoa Bar Association
(684) 633-1286

Fee: Yes

ARIZONA

Citation: Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter 1, Article 1, Sections 8-101 to 8-135; 8-141 to 8-145; 8-161 to 8-166; 8-171 to 8-173

Web Site: <http://www.azleg.state.az.us>

Contact: Chief Clerk of the House
(602) 542-3032
Senate Resource Center
(602) 542-3350

Fee: Yes

ARKANSAS

Citation: Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated, Sections 9-9-101 to 9-9-103; 9-9-201 to 9-9-224; 9-9-301 to 9-9-303; 9-9-401 to 9-9-412; 9-9-501 to 9-9-508; 9-9-601

Web Site: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us>

Contact: Arkansas State Library
Reference Desk
(501) 682-2053

Fee: Yes

CALIFORNIA

Citation: West's Annotated California Code, Family Law Code Sections 8500 to 8548; 8600 to 9206; 9300 to 9340, Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16100 to 16106; 16115 to 16124; 16130 to 16131; 16135 to 16135.30; 16170 to 16177

Web Site: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>

Contact: California State Archives
Reference Desk:
(916) 653-2246
General Information:
(916) 653-7715

Fee: Yes

COLORADO

Citation: Colorado Revised Statutes, Sections 19-5-200.2 to 19-5-216; 19-5-301 to 19-5-307; 19-5-402 to 19-5-403 and 25-2-113.5

Web Site: <http://www.colorado.gov/>

Contact: Bradford Publishing
(303) 292-2500

Fee: Yes

CONNECTICUT

Citation: General Statutes of Connecticut, Sections 45a-706 to 45a-770

Web Site: <http://www.cga.state.ct.us>

Contact: Connecticut State Library
Law and Legislative Reference Unit
(860) 757-6590

Fee: No

DELAWARE

Citation: Delaware Code, Title 13, Sections 901 to 932; 951-956; 961 to 965
Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.de.us/DelCode>
Contact: Law Librarian-Ruth Ann Nelson
 Division of Research Legislative Council
 (302) 744-4308
Fee: Printed copies of statutes are not available for sale, but free copies are available via www.lexis.com

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Citation: District of Columbia Code, Title 16 Particular Actions, Proceedings and Matters, Chapter 3, Sections 16-301 to 16-315; Chapter 14, Sections 4-1401 to 1410; 4-1421 to 1424
Web Site: <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us>
Contact: Legislative Services Division
 (202) 724-8050
Fee: No

FLORIDA

Citation: Florida Statutes (1998), Sections 63.012 to 63.235
Web Site: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>
Contact: State Law Library
 Legislative Information Division
 (850) 488-4371
 1-800-342-1827
Fee: Yes

GEORGIA

Citation: Georgia Code, Sections 19-8-1 to 19-8-26
Web Site: <http://www.ganet.org/services/leg>
Contact: State of Georgia Law Library
 (404) 656-3468
Fee: No

GUAM

Citation: Guam Code, Title 19, Sections 4201 to 4221
Web Site: <http://www.guam.net/gov/guam-law/nindex.html>
Contact: Guam Bar Association
 (671) 477-7010
Fee: Yes

HAWAII

Citation: Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 578-1 to 578-17
Web Site: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>
Contact: Legislative Reference Bureau Library
 (808) 587-0690
Fee: Yes

IDAHO

Citation: Idaho Statutes, Sections 16-1501 to 16-1515 and 39-258 to 39-259A
Web Site: <http://www.state.id.us/legislat/legislat.html>
Contact: Legislative Services Office
 (208) 334-3175
Fee: No

ILLINOIS

Citation: Illinois Compiled Statutes, 750, 50/0.01 to 750, 50/24
Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.il.us/>
Contact: Illinois State Law Library
 (217) 782-7596
Fee: Yes

INDIANA

Citation: Indiana Code, Sections 31-19-1-1 to 31-19-29-6
Web Site: <http://www.state.in.us/legislative>
Contact: Office of Legislative Information
 (317) 232-9856
Fee: Yes

IOWA

Citation: Iowa Code, Sections 600.1 to 600.25
Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IALaw.html>
Contact: Printing and Imaging Services
 Division of General Services
 (515) 281-3873
Fee: Printed copies of individual statutes not available. Must use website to access.

KANSAS

Citation: Kansas Statutes (1998), Sections 59-2111 to 59-2144
Web Site: <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/statutes/index.cgi>
Contact: State Law Library
 Legislative Reference Desk
 (785) 296-2149
Fee: Yes

KENTUCKY

Citation: Kentucky Revised Statutes,
Sections 199.470 to 199.590
Web Site: <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us>
Contact: Legislative Research Commission
(502) 564-8100
Fee: Yes

LOUISIANA

Citation: Louisiana Revised Statutes,
Sections 40:72 to 40:79;
Children's Code Title XII, art. 1167
to 1278; 1281.1 to 1283.17
Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.la.us>
Contact: House Docket Room
(225) 342-6458
Fee: Yes

MAINE

Citation: Maine Revised Statutes, Title 18-A,
Sections 9-101 to 9-108; 9-201 to 9-
205; 9-301 to 9-315; 9-401 to 9-404;
Title 22, Sections 2706-A; 2765;
4171 to 4176; 8201 to 8206
Web Site: [http://janus.state.me.us/legis/ros/
meconlaw.htm](http://janus.state.me.us/legis/ros/meconlaw.htm)
Contact: State Law Library
Reference Desk
(207) 287-1600
Fee: Yes, for statutes.
No, for Laws of Maine.

MARYLAND

Citation: Maryland Statutes, Family Law,
Sections 5-301 to 5-330; 5-3A-01-
5-3A-07; 5-401 to 5-415; 5-4A-01 to
5-4A-08; 5-4B-01 to 5-4B-12; 5-4C-
01 to 5-4C-07
Web Site: <http://mlis.state.md.us>
Contact: Information Desk, Library Division
Sara Albert
(410) 946-5400
Fee: Yes

MASSACHUSETTS

Citation: Massachusetts General Laws,
Chapter 210, Sections 1 to 11A
Web Site: <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/>
Contact: Reference Desk
(617) 727-2590
Fee: Copy fee

MICHIGAN

Citation: Michigan Compiled Laws,
Sections 710.21 to 710.70;
722.954b to 722.960
Web Site: <http://www.libraryofmichigan.org>
<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>
Contact: State Law Library
(517) 373-0630
Fee: Yes

MINNESOTA

Citation: Minnesota Statutes, Sections
259.20 to 259.89
Web Site: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>
Contact: State Law Library
(651) 296-2775
Fee: Yes

MISSISSIPPI

Citation: Mississippi Code of 1972,
Sections 93-17-1 to 93-17-223
Web Site: <http://www.mscode.com/>
Contact: Reference Bureau
(601) 359-3135
Fee: No

MISSOURI

Citation: Missouri Revised Statutes,
Chapter 453, Sections 453.005 to
453.503
Web Site: <http://www.moga.state.mo.us/>
Contact: Contact your nearest local county
library.
Fee: Yes

MONTANA

Citation: Montana Code Annotated,
Sections 42-1-101 to 42-8-108; 42-
10-101 to 42-10-128
Web Site: [http://www.leg.state.mt.us/services/
legal/laws.htm](http://www.leg.state.mt.us/services/legal/laws.htm)
Contact: Legislative Services Division
(406) 444-3064
Fee: Yes

NEBRASKA

Citation: Nebraska Revised Statutes,
Sections 43-101 to 43-165
Web Site: <http://statutes.unicam.state.ne.us/>
Contact: Court Administrator's Office
(402) 471-3730
Fee: Yes

NEVADA

Citation: Nevada Revised Statutes,
Sections 127.003 to 127.186;
127.220 to 127.420

Web Site: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>

Contact: Publications Section
Legislative Counsel Bureau
(775) 684-6835

Fee: Yes

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Citation: New Hampshire Revised Statutes,
Sections 170-B:1 to 170-B:26

Web Site: <http://www.state.nh.us>

Contact: Reference and Information Services
State Library
(603) 271-2239

Fee: Yes

NEW JERSEY

Citation: New Jersey Revised Statutes,
Sections 9:3-38 to 9:3-56

Web Site: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us>

Contact: Legislative Information and Bill
Room
State House Annex
(609) 292-6395

Fee: No

NEW MEXICO

Citation: New Mexico Statutes (1999),
Sections 32A-5-1 to 32A-5-45

Web Site: <http://legis.state.nm.us>

Contact: Legislative Council Services
(ask for library)
(505) 986-4600
Compilation Commission
(505) 827-4821

Fee: Yes

NEW YORK

Citation: New York State Consolidated
Laws, Domestic Relations
Chapter 14, Article 7, Title 1-4;
Social Services Chapter 55,
Article 6, Title 1, Sections 372-
374a; Public Health Chapter 45,
Article 41, Title 3, Section 4138,
Section 4138 (c) and (d)

Web Site: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/>

Contact: State Library
(518) 473-1189

Fee: Yes

NORTH CAROLINA

Citation: North Carolina General Statutes,
Sections 48-1-100 to 48-4-105; 48-
6-100 to 48-6-102; 48-9-101 to 48-
10-105

Web Site: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us>

Contact: Printed Bills Room
State Legislative Building
(919) 733-5648

Fee: No

NORTH DAKOTA

Citation: North Dakota Century Code,
Sections 14-15.1-01 to 14-15.07

Web Site: <http://www.state.nd.us/lr/>

Contact: Legislative Council
(701) 328-2916

Fee: Yes

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Citation: Northern Mariana Commonwealth
Code Title 8, Chapter 4 Sections
1401-1420

Web Site: <http://www.cnmilaw.org>

Contact: House of Justice
(670) 236-9820

Fee: Yes

OHIO

Citation: Ohio Revised Code (1999),
Sections 3107.01 to 3107.99

Web Site: <http://www.state.oh.us>
<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/revisedcode/>

Contact: Bill Room
Legislative Services Commission
(614) 466-9745

Fee: No print copies available.

OKLAHOMA

Citation: Oklahoma Statutes Annotated,
Title 10, Sections 7501-1.1 to
7506-1.2; 7509-1.1 to 7510-3.3

Web Site: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us>

Contact: Bill Distribution
State Capitol
(405) 521-5515

Fee: No

OREGON

Citation: Oregon Revised Statutes (1999),
Sections 109.304 to 109.507;
432.415 to 432.420

Web Site: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors>

Contact: Legislative Council
State Capitol
(503) 986-1243

Fee: Yes

PENNSYLVANIA

Citation: Pennsylvania Consolidated
Statutes (1999), Title 23, Sections
2101 to 2910

Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

Contact: Legislative Reference
State Capitol Building
(717) 787-7385

Fee: No

PUERTO RICO

Citation: Puerto Rico Laws, Title 31,
Sections 531 to 539; Title 32,
Sections 2699 to 26995

Web Site: Not available.

Contact: Departamento de Estada
Venta de Leyes
(787) 722-2121 ext. 4383

Fee: Yes

RHODE ISLAND

Citation: General Laws of Rhode Island,
Sections 15-7-2 to 15-7-26; 15-7.1-
1 to 15-7.1-4; 15-7.2-1 to 15-7.2-15

Web Site: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us>

Contact: Public Information Center Library
(401) 222-2473

Fee: Yes

SOUTH CAROLINA

Citation: Code of Laws of South Carolina,
Sections 20-7-1650 to 20-7-1897;
20-7-1900 to 20-7-1970; 20-7-
1980 to 20-7-2070

Web Site: [http://www.scstatehouse.net/
code/statmast.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/statmast.htm)

Contact: Local County Library

Fee: Yes

SOUTH DAKOTA

Citation: South Dakota Codified Laws,
Sections 25-6-1 to 25-6-23; 25-6A-
1 to 25-6A-14

Web Site: <http://legis.state.sd.us/index.cfm>

Contact: Legislative Research Council
State Capitol
(605) 773-3251

Fee: No. Printed copies not available
except through county libraries.

TENNESSEE

Citation: Tennessee Code, Sections 36-1-
102 to 36-1-305

Web Site: <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>

Contact: Office of Legislative Services
(615) 741-3511

Fee: No

TEXAS

Citation: Texas Family Code (1999),
Sections 162.001 to 162.025;
162.101 to 162.107; 162.201 to
162.206; 162.301 to 162.309;
162.401 to 162.422

Web Site: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

Contact: Local County Library

Fee:

UTAH

Citation: Utah Code Annotated, Sections
78-30-1 to 78-30-19

Web Site: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/>

Contact: Legislative Bill Room
(801) 538-1588

Fee: Yes

VERMONT

Citation: Vermont Statutes, Title 15A,
Sections 1-101 to 4-113; 6-102 to
7-105

Web Site: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>

Contact: Legislative Council
(802) 828-2231

Fee: No

VIRGINIA

Citation: Code of Virginia, Sections 63.2-
1200 to 63.2-1405

Web Site: <http://legis.state.va.us>

Contact: Legislative Information
(804) 698-1500

Fee: No

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Citation: Virgin Islands Code, Title 16,
Sections 141-147

Web Site: <http://www.senate.gov.vi/>
http://198.187.128.12/virginislands/lp_ext.dll?f=templates&fn=fs=main.html&2.0

Contact: Chief Archivist of the Legislature
(304) 774-0880

Fee: Yes

WASHINGTON

Citation: Revised Code of Washington,
Sections 26.33.020 to 26.33.901;
26.34.010 to 26.34.080

Web Site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/default.htm>

Contact: State Library Reference Desk
(360) 704-7821

Fee: Yes

WEST VIRGINIA

Citation: West Virginia Code, Sections
48-22-102 to 48-22-803; 48-23-
101 to 48-23-801

Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

Contact: Clerk of the House
(304) 340-3200

Fee: Yes

WISCONSIN

Citation: Wisconsin Statutes, Sections
48.81 to 48.978; 48.98 to 48.989;
48.9985

Web Site: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>

Contact: Legislative Reference Room
(608) 266-2011

Fee: Yes

WYOMING

Citation: Wyoming Statutes, Sections
1-22-101 to 1-22-203

Web Site: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/>

Contact: Legislative Service Office
State Capitol
(307) 777-7881

Fee: Yes. Statutes also available on
diskette or CD-ROM.