



Confirmatory Adoption Checklist For Same-Sex Couples in California

Make sure the non-biological parent becomes a legal parent for life.

Before You Begin:

- ☐ Baby has been born in California
- ☐ You and your spouse/partner are legally married
- ☐ Only one parent is biologically related to the child
- ☐ You conceived via assisted reproduction (IUI, IVF, donor sperm/egg, etc.)

Documents to Gather:

- ☐ Child's original California birth certificate
- ☐ Marriage certificate
- ☐ Consent forms (if required by your county)
- ☐ Any sperm/egg donor agreement or fertility clinic documents (optional but helpful)

Legal Process:

- ☐ Hire an adoption lawyer experienced in LGBTQ+ adoptions
- ☐ File a Petition for Stepparent Adoption (confirmatory adoption)
- ☐ Request waiver of home study and background check (California allows this)
- ☐ Submit signed declarations from both parents confirming intent
- ☐ Schedule and attend court hearing (if required in your county)
- ☐ Receive the official Adoption Order

After the Court Order:

- ☐ Request a new birth certificate with both parents listed (optional)
- ☐ Store your certified adoption order in a safe place
- ☐ Share the legal update with your child's school, pediatrician, and insurance provider

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