

Tab 10:

**Basic Introduction to Uncontested Independent, Stepparent and Domestic
Partner Adoptions**

Presenters

Lucia Reyes
Levitt-Quinn Family Law Center

Sharon Hulse
Levitt-Quinn Family Law Center

Frank Burcelis
Department of Children and Family Services

Kristen Jackson
Public Counsel

Basic Introduction to Uncontested Adoptions

LAAC
2010 FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE

Speakers:

Frank Burcelis, Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services
Kristen Jackson, Public Counsel
Sharon Hulse, Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center
Lucia Reyes, Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center

Types of Adoptions

- Independent

- Stepparent/Domestic Partner

Overview of the Adoption Process

- Step 1: Adoption Request

- Step 2: Home Study Investigation/Report

- Step 3: Termination of Parental Rights

- Step 4: Finalization Stage

Adoption Request

- Relative vs. Non-Relative
 - Role of the Adoption Services Provider (ASP)
- Court
- Filing Fee

Home Study Investigation/Report

- Documents Needed to Start the Case
 - Certified copies of the birth certificates, marriage certificates/RDP, divorce decrees, death certificates, and Letters of Guardianship
 - DCFS Adoption Questionnaire(s)
 - Conformed copy of Adoption Request
- Role of the Social Worker/Investigation
- Fee for Home Study Report

Termination of Parental Rights

- Consent vs. Court Order
- Alleged Father vs. Presumed Father

Termination of Parental Rights
(continued)

- Family Code Sections most commonly used for Termination of Parental Rights
 - 7662 (alleged father)
 - 8604 (presumed parent)
 - 7820 (presumed parent)

Termination of Parental Rights
(continued)

- Identify/Locate Parent(s)
 - Due Diligence Search
 - Parentage Letters
 - Military Search
- Service by Publication

Finalization Stage

- When are you ready to proceed to finalization?
- How do you schedule a hearing date?
- What to expect at the finalization hearing?

Tips

- If proceeding by publication for multiple children with the same parents, consolidate the cases
- All TPR proceedings heard at the Children's Court in Monterey Park
- Foreign born children must satisfy the Hague Adoption Requirements
- Honesty with Social Worker re criminal record (Adam Walsh Act)
- Consistency in names throughout documents
- Terminate all possible alleged & presumed parents
- Probation Officer Investigation with Independent Adoptions
- Tax Credit/Exclusion with Independent Adoptions
- Follow-up, Follow-up, Follow-up
- New Birth Certificate

Contact Information

- Department of Children and Family Services
Independent & Stepparent Adoptions Unit
3530 Wilshire Blvd., 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tao Dam, Independent Adopt. Asst. (213)351-0162
Raul Ortega, Stepparent Adopt. Asst. (213)351-0163
- www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/PG164.htm (CDSS Forms)
- www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/ASPContact.pdf (ASP List)
- adoption.state.gov (Hague Adoption Info)

Adoptions

Presenter: Frank Burcelis , LCSW,ASP
213-276-2619

1. Independent Adoption
 - a. Relative Adoption
 - b. Non Relative Adoption
 - c. Expense re. Home Study
 - d. Termination of parental rights, consents etc.

2. Dependency Adoption
 - a. Foster Care Adoption
 - b. AAP Funding

3. Adoption Service Providers
 - a. CDSS website for listings
 - b. Who are they and what services they provide
 - c. Who are their clients?
 - d. ICWA(American Indian Clearance)

4. Stepparent adoption
 - a. Home Study not required
 - b. Expense
 - c. Termination of Parental rights.