

What Is Readoption and Why Should I Do It?



Congratulations! You have finally brought your child home after what may seem like a lifetime of waiting.

You may be thinking your life is changing everyday and you don't have time to do something new. But the readoption process is also a crucial piece of your adoption journey.

In this post 9/11 world, establishing U.S. Citizenship and getting a U.S. birth certificate is more important than ever. What, exactly, is readoption? Isn't it the same as the adoption finalization? What are the advantages?

The Readoption Process

In Wisconsin, readoption is a process in which the court in your county reviews the details of the adoption done in the child's birth country. The judge then issues a new adoption decree, which is independent from the foreign decree and states that your child has been adopted in agreement the laws in Wisconsin.

Readoption vs. Adoption Finalization

Adoption finalization is done when a child is coming to the U.S. to be adopted and the adoption was not completed abroad. *Readoption*

is done in your state of residence when your adoption had already been completed in the child's birth country.

Advantages of Readoption

There are many advantages for readoption for your child. You may not run into too many

situations when your child is still young, but as he or she gets older and wants to start a part-time job or get married, you may run into some unexpected complications. It's usually best to do the

readoption process as soon as possible when you get home. Following are some of the reasons why:

- Your child will receive a U.S. birth certificate issued by your state.
- It will be easier to obtain multiple copies of your child's birth certificate.
- It will be easier for others to read, since it will be in English as opposed to your children's original from their birth country which would might need to be translated.



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- If you wish to legally change your children's name, now is the perfect opportunity and your children's future documents will reflect their new name.
- A state-issued adoption decree will be easier to replace if you ever lose the original.
- Obtaining a U.S. passport for vacations out of the United States will be simpler.
- Obtaining survivors benefits (social security) down the road will be easier.
- If your children want to get a permit for a part-time job, driver's license, and eventually a marriage license, they will need to show their birth certificate.

How do I Readopt in the State of Wisconsin?

Each state has its own laws and procedures related to readoption. Different counties may have different procedures, as well. Contact your agency and ask for the procedure and what forms you will have to fill out for court.

The readoption court hearing should not take long and will likely, save you much stress and questions in the years to come! Congratulations again on finally adding your new child to your loving family!



Resources

Child Welfare Information Gateway

www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/intercountry.cfm

“Readoption” What Is It? Do You Need To Do It? Should You Do It? What Does It Involve?

Some Things to Consider Regarding

Readoption by CJ Lyford, Esq. <http://www.fwcc.org/readotion.htm>

Handbook for Persons Thinking About International Adoption by the Division of Children and Family Services

<http://wiadoptioninfocenter.org/library/553/internationaladoptionhandbook.pdf>

ARW Resources

You can find the following resources by calling us at: 800.762-8063 or by going to our library at:

<http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org/plugins/library/advancedsearch.asp>

How to Adoption Internationally –A Guide for Agency-Directed and Independent Adoptions

by Jean Nelson-Erichsen and Heino R. Erichsen

The Complete Book of International Adoption – A Step-by-Step Guide to Finding Your Child

by Dawn Davenport

The International Adoption Handbook- How to Make Foreign Adoption Work for You

by Myra Alperson