

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Information RE Forms for Publication of Citation or for Personal Service  
ABANDONMENT - TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS  
FAMILY CODE § 7820 & PROBATE CODE § 1516.5

Please read the requirements carefully. Omission of any of the requirements may result in rejection, delayed processing, and/or denial of termination of parental rights.

By way of: PERSONAL SERVICE

- Original and three (3) copies of **PETITION FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL [FAMILY CODE § 7820]** with copy of minor's **birth certificate**, and **Family Law Case Cover Sheet- Certificate for Grounds for Assignment to District (FAM-020)**.
- Original and three (3) copies of **CITATION FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL (ABANDONMENT) (Re: ADOPTION)**.
- Original and three (3) copies of **JUDGMENT FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL** (prepared and ready to be signed by Judge).
- Self-addressed stamped envelope** for return of your conformed copies.
- Allow four (4) weeks for the court to process before you call for a status.
- Proof of Service** must be made at least 10 days before the time stated in the citation for appearance (pursuant to FC 7881(d)).

PUBLICATION

- Original and three (3) copies of **PETITION FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL [FAMILY CODE § 7820]** with copy of minor's **birth certificate**, and **Family Law Case Cover Sheet- Certificate for Grounds for Assignment to District (FAM-020)**.
- Original and three (3) copies of **APPLICATION FOR ORDER FOR PUBLICATION**, with attached **Mother's Declaration (AD880)**, and all evidence of due diligence search.
- Original and three (3) copies of **ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS, CITATION OR NOTICE OF HEARING**.
- Original and three (3) copies of **CITATION FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL (ABANDONMENT) (Re: ADOPTION)**.
- Original and three (3) copies of **JUDGMENT FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL** (prepared and ready to be signed by Judge).
- Self-addressed stamped envelope** for return of your conformed copies.
- Allow four (4) weeks for the court to process before you call for a status.
- The **DECLARATION OF MAILING OR OF INABILITY TO ASCERTAIN ADDRESS** must be submitted and executed seven (7) days after the publication.
- The **CERTIFICATE/DECLARATION RE MILITARY SERVICE in adoption and related matters** or a military affidavit is to be filed the day of the hearing.

After the citation is served or publication is made for four (4) consecutive weeks:

- Original and one (1) copy of **Proof of Service/Publication** must be filed prior to the citation hearing. Mail (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of your conformed copy) or bring the Proof of Service/Publication to: LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT, EDMUND D. EDELMAN CHILDREN'S COURT, 201 CENTRE PLAZA DR #2100, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754.

**ALL TERMINATION FILINGS MAY BE SUBMITTED IN PLEADING FORMAT WITH SIMILAR TITLES.**

- After you are given a hearing date, a Deputy Probation Officer will be assigned to your case to prepare a **Probation Report** granting or denying adoption. If you are NOT contacted, please call the court at the above number to verify notice. Agency filings are exempt from this requirement.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING  
APPLICATION FOR ORDER FOR PUBLICATION

When the citee (or parent in question) cannot be found after due diligence, the **APPLICATION FOR ORDER OF PUBLICATION OF CITATION** must allege and/or include the following information:

1. The last known address of citee or parent.
2. Print-out of online efforts of searches and printouts obtained in searching for citee or parent.
3. The fact and result of inquiries or mailing to the citee at the last known address.
4. The names and addresses of all known relatives of the citee (FC § 7820 and § 8606), if any, and the results of inquiries or mailings to such.
5. If the citee has ever resided in Los Angeles County, a local search of telephone directories, voter registration rolls and property tax rolls will be required. Legal newspapers will conduct such a search and furnish a Declaration of Search for submission to the court.
6. Letters or telephone calls must be directed to all addresses disclosed in the Declaration of Search. Likewise, letters need not be sent to persons, even though they bear the same name as the citee, if the age, race, physical description or other facts disclosed in the search are clearly divergent from those known to describe the citee. The Petitioner shall list all addresses to which letters were sent and the telephone numbers to which calls were made, and set forth the nature of all responses in the Application for Order for Publication.