

# LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE

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**TOPIC:** [ADOPTION](#) (includes step-parent, open adoption, and international adoption)

*Procedures for adoption in Oregon courts can vary from county to county, though all adoptions must comply with state law. Check at your County Circuit Court for local instructions. The adoption process, done correctly, is complex. Please consult an attorney for legal advice, for pro se coaching, and/or for document review.*

## 1) BOOKS/PAMPHLETS/BROCHURES (TIP: Remember, not everything is online!)

- "Family Law," an Oregon State Bar (OSB) print publication, is available at many Oregon county law libraries.
- Additional resources: [Oregon Council of County Law Libraries directory \(OCCLL\)](#)
- Ask about legal self-help books such as [Adoption Basics](#) or [Nolo Press](#) titles at your public library and local bookstores. These are not Oregon-specific, but may provide you with useful information.

## 3) ONLINE INFORMATION

- [Oregon Revised Statutes \(ORS\)](#) search keywords such as adoption, stepparent, records, vital statistics.
- [Oregon Department of Human Services](#) oversees adoptions of minors in Oregon and has information about private adoptions, children awaiting adoption, voluntary adoption registry, Indian child welfare and more.
- [Oregon Department of Human Services' Center for Health Statistics](#) has information on obtaining vital records including a pre-adoption record.
- [Linn County Circuit Court](#): an example of a Circuit Court webpage on adoption procedures.
- [U.S. Department of State](#) has information on international adoption including specific country and visas.
- [U.S. Internal Revenue Service](#) has information on adoption tax credits.
- [The Child Welfare Information Gateway Service of the Children's Bureau and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) has information on adoption, home studies, search and reunion of families and more.
- The [American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law](#) is a good source of recent developments in adoption law such as the federal Fostering Connections to Success to Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.
- [Oregon State Bar \(OSB\) Public Info](#) (503-684-3763) has basic information on adoption.

### OTHER RESOURCES

- [Legal Aid Services of Oregon \(LASO\)](#): 503-648-7163
- Oregon Judicial Department (OJD): [Self-Help Resources](#)
- A [directory of Portland Metro-Area Legal Services](#)
- [How to Find a Lawyer in Oregon and other legal research guides](#)
- Ask an Oregon librarian a question via email: [Oregon State Library / LNET](#)
- [Oregon Legal Research blog](#)

**Keywords:** stepparent, birth parent, open adoption, international adoption, adoption registry, records, vital statistics, family law, children, vital records, court records