

Washington County (Oregon) Law Library

LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE

DISCLAIMER: *It is against state law for library staff members to engage in any conduct that might constitute the unauthorized practice of law (ORS 9.160, 9.166, and 9.21). They may not interpret statutes, cases, or regulations, perform legal research, recommend or assist in the preparation of forms, or advise patrons regarding their legal rights. They may, however, assist patrons in locating materials or links that would aid in individual research.*

TOPIC: **ADOPTION** (*includes stepparents, open adoption, and international adoption*)

QUICK RESEARCH TIP: 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!)

- Many legal research resources are not online. Ask at your [county](#) or [state](#) law library for titles.
- *Family Law* is an Oregon State Bar (OSB) print publication that is available at many Oregon county law libraries.
- Ask about legal self-help books such as *The Complete Adoption and Fertility Legal Guide* from [Sphinx Legal](#) or [Nolo Press](#) titles at your public library and local bookstores. While these are not Oregon-specific, they may provide you with useful information.
- Oregon public library links [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

2) ONLINE INFORMATION

- [Lane County \(Oregon\) Legal Research Guide on Adoption](#)
- [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 and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.
- [Oregon State Bar \(OSB\) Public Info](#) (503-684-3763) has basic information on adoption.

3) OTHER RESOURCES

- [Oregon Law Center](#) (503-640-4115) – Hillsboro Regional Office
- [Legal Aid Services of Oregon](#) (LASO) and [Oregon Law Help](#)
- Locate your local county law library: [Oregon Council of County Law Libraries directory \(OCCLL\)](#)
- [Oregon Judicial Department \(OJD\) Self-Help Resources](#)
- A directory of [Portland Metro Area Legal Services](#)
- [How to Find a Lawyer in Oregon](#)
- Ask an Oregon law librarian a question via email: [Oregon State Library/L-net](#)
- [Oregon Legal Research blog](#)
- Other [Washington County Law Library legal research guides](#)

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