

# Adoption of a child after placement by the youth welfare office

Adoption as a child (adoption) is pronounced by the family court at the request of the adopter.

## Competent Department

- [Amtsgericht Bremen](#)
- [Amtsgericht Bremen-Blumenthal](#)
- [Amtsgericht Bremerhaven](#)

## Basic information

After successful placement by the responsible adoption agency and after the foster care period has expired, you can submit an application for adoption to the responsible local court - family court.

The family court examines the application and - if the application proves to be admissible and well-founded - validly pronounces the adoption in the resolution procedure.

## Requirements

- You want to adopt a child.
- You have all the necessary documents for the local court, such as the notarized adoption application.
- The family court will carry out the investigations required to establish the facts relevant to the decision ex officio and will examine the adoption proceedings.

## What documents do I need?

- notarized adoption application
- notarized declaration of consent of the legal representative to the adoption application for a child under 14 years of age, respectively
- notarized declaration of consent of the child over 14 years of age with the consent of the legal representative
- notarized declarations of consent from the natural parents
- Evidence of earnings, assets, debts

of the acceptors

- Proof of identity (identity card/passport)

of the acceptors

- Registration certificates

of the acceptors

- Health certificates/medical certificates

of the acceptors

- Marriage certificate/partnership certificate

of the acceptors

- Professional statement of the adoption agency

of the acceptors

- Documents on the hearing/participation of the youth welfare office if it has not submitted any professional comments

of the acceptors

## Procedure

If you would like to adopt a child, you will first contact the appropriate adoption agency and go through an application process. After passing the adoption care period, the adoption application can be submitted:

- You or your notary must submit a notarized adoption application to the appropriate family court.
- The family court examines all documents, involves the adoption agency, among others, and decides on the adoption.
- The family court pronounces the adoption of the child by means of an order. When this decision is served, the adoption is effective and incontestable. The adopted child receives the surname of the adoptive family and has the same rights as a natural child.

## Legal bases

- [§ 197 Gesetz über das Verfahren in Familiensachen und in den Angelegenheiten der freiwilligen Gerichtsbarkeit \(FamFG\)](#)

## How long does it take to process

At least 3 months due to the prescribed procedure, possibly longer in more complex procedures.

## **What are the costs?**

Notary fees and court costs may be incurred.

The respective amount depends on the individual case.