

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN ADOPTION DECREE
PA.O.C. Rule 15.8

File No.: _____

- I. Final Decree (form attached)
- II. Petition (pursuant to 23Pa.C.S.A.§2908) (form attached)
- III. Verification (form attached)
- IV. Exhibits
 - A. Foreign Adoption Decree (copy)
 - B. Birth Certificate (copy)
 - i. If no birth certificate issued, copy of any other birth i.d. issued by country of birth
 - ii. If no birth certificate or birth i.d., affidavit stating the reason therefore
 - C. United States Visa (copy)
 - D. English translation of all documents not in English – with verification by translator (verification form attached)
 - E. Pennsylvania Dept. of Health, Division of Vital Records, Form HD01273F, Certificate of Adoption of a Foreign Born Child (Parts I and II and III if applicable) (see www.buckscounty.org, Orphans' Court, Forms)
 - F. Pennsylvania Dept. of Health Statement of Citizenship and Residency, Form HD01275F (see www.buckscounty.org, Orphans' Court, Forms)
 - G. Optional: U.S. Government Form N-560 and/or copy of child's U.S. Passport, Form H105.102 (with check to Vital Records for \$10 per copy of birth certificate ordered)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING
PETITION TO REGISTER FOREIGN ADOPTION DECREE
PURSUANT TO 23 Pa. C.S. § 2908

When a child is adopted in conformity with the laws of a foreign country, the adopting parent(s) may register the Foreign Adoption Decree so that the Decree is considered full and final, enforceable as if entered pursuant to the Pennsylvania Adoption Act, and a Pennsylvania birth certificate can be obtained.

Adopting parent(s) seeking to register the Foreign Adoption Decree must:

1. Complete, sign and date the Petition to Register Foreign Adoption Decree and Verification. If a Foreign Adoption Decree shows that there are two adopting parents, both parent(s) *must* execute the Petition to Register Foreign Adoption Decree.
2. Attach the following documents to the Petition:
 - A copy of the Foreign Adoption Decree;
 - A copy of the child's birth certificate. If no birth certificate was issued, a copy of any other birth identification issued by the country of birth should be attached. If no birth certificate or birth identification can be obtained, an Affidavit stating the reason should be submitted;
 - A copy of the child's United States visa;
 - An English translation of all documents not in English, with a verification by the translator that all translations are true and correct;
 - Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Vital Records Form No.
 - HD01273F, Certificate of Adoption of a Foreign-Born Child with Parts 1 and 2 (and Part 3, if applicable) completed;
 - Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Vital Records Form No.
 - HD01275F, Statement of Citizenship and Residency;
 - If available, a copy of U. S. Government Form N-560 and/or a copy of the child's U.S. Passport.
3. The Petition to Register with the attachments should be filed with the Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas in the county in which the adopting parent(s) reside(s), except for Philadelphia County resident(s), who must file with the Family Court Division. A filing fee will be charged in accordance with the fee schedule of the county court.

After the Petition to Register is filed, it will be submitted to the Court for review. If the Petition to Register and accompanying documents establish that the foreign adoption of the child is full and final, the Court will enter a Decree directing the registration of the Foreign Adoption Decree. The Clerk of the appropriate Court will then issue a certificate of adoption and transmit to the Department of Health,

Division of Vital Records Forms HD01273F and HD01275F, and if provided by the adopting parent(s), a copy of U.S. Government Form N-560 and/or a copy of the child's United States passport.

If the Court cannot determine that the foreign adoption is full and final, it will enter a Decree denying the petition. In that case, it will be necessary to proceed under Pa.O.C. Rule 15.9.

Some of the following are reasons why a foreign adoption may not be a full and final adoption eligible for registration:

- both adopting parents were not present for the adoption hearing in the foreign country and the foreign country is not a Hague Convention country; or
- the sole adopting parent was not present at the adoption hearing in the foreign country and the foreign country is not a Hague Convention country; or
- the foreign court did not enter a final adoption Decree or Order or its equivalent; or
- the child's United States visa is not the type that affords the child full United States citizenship.
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If the child has an IH-4 or IR-4 United States visa, it will be necessary to proceed under Pa.O.C. Rule 15.9.

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION**

**IN RE: FOREIGN ADOPTION OF _____
FILE NO. _____**

**PETITION TO REGISTER FOREIGN ADOPTION DECREE
PURSUANT TO 23 Pa. C.S. § 2908**

1. Petitioner(s), the Adopting Parent(s) of the above-named adopted child,
is/are _____

2. Petitioner(s) reside(s) in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, at

(Street Address)

(City, State, Zip)

3. Has any other court in this Commonwealth or in any other state reviewed,
registered, finalized or otherwise assumed jurisdiction over the foreign
adoption decree being registered here: *(circle one)*

Yes No

If yes, please provide the name of the court, the state and county, what
was previously presented to the court and the resulting decision from the
court: (Attach all court decrees). _____

4. The full name of the adopted child at birth as listed on the foreign birth certificate, if available, was _____

5. The full name of the adopted child as written on the foreign adoption decree is _____

6. The full name of the adopted child as he or she is to be known from this time forward is _____

7. The date of birth of the adopted child is _____

8. The date of the foreign adoption decree is _____

9. The type of United States visa issued to the adopted child is: *(circle one)*
IR-2 IR-3 IH-3 IR-4 IH-4
10. The following documents are attached to this Petition:
- a. Copy of child's birth certificate or other birth identification issued by country of birth; if none, an affidavit of parent(s) stating why none is available.
 - b. Copy of Decree of Adoption issued by foreign government; if Decree is not in English, an English translation certified by the translator to be correct.
 - c. Copy of adopted child's United States visa.

- d. Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Vital Records Form No. HD01273F, Certificate of Adoption of a Foreign-Born Child with Parts 1 and 2 (and Part 3, if applicable) completed.
- e. Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Vital. Records Form No. HD01275F, Statement of Citizenship and Residency. Copy of U.S. Government Form N-560, Certificate of Citizenship, and/or a copy of the child's United States passport, if either or both documents are available.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner(s) request(s) that this Court enter a Decree authorizing the registration and docketing of the attached Foreign Adoption Decree with the Clerk of the appropriate Court and decreeing that _____

_____ (Name of child as written on Foreign Adoption Decree)

_____ shall henceforth be known as

_____ (Child's name from this time forward)

and shall have all the rights of a child and heir of the Petitioner(s).

Signature of Adopting Parent¹

Signature of Adopting Parent

Daytime telephone no. for Adopting Parent(s)

¹ When there are two adopting parents, both must sign

**VERIFICATION TO PETITION TO REGISTER FOREIGN ADOPTION DECREE
PURSUANT TO 23 Pa. C.S. § 2908**

I/We, _____, verify that I/we am/are the Petitioner(s) named in the foregoing Petition, that I/we have read and understand the information set forth in the Instructions to the Petition to Register Foreign Adoption Decree, and that the facts set forth in the foregoing Petition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge, information and belief. I/We further verify that all documents attached to this Petition are true and correct copies of the originals. I/We understand that false statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: _____

Signature of Adopting Parent

Signature of Adopting Parent

VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATOR

I, _____, verify that I am _____

(occupation and employer)

and that all translations of the foreign documents which are attached to this
Petition are true and correct English translations of the originals. I understand
that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. §
4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATE: _____

Signature