



... in pursuit of good health

(724) 656-3100

STATEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND RESIDENCY

I/we, the adoptive parent(s) of _____, by way of
(Name after adoption)

adoption in a foreign country, which foreign adoption decree is filed with the court clerk in the Pennsylvania county of residence of the adopting parent(s) pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S. §2908, hereby request Vital Records to register a Pennsylvania birth certificate for the above child pursuant to 35 P.S. §450.403. I/we declare that at the time of filing the foreign adoption decree with the court clerk, at least one of the child's adoptive parents was a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Pennsylvania county in which the foreign adoption decree was filed.

I/we understand that a false statement made herein is subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

ADOPTIVE MOTHER:

ADOPTIVE FATHER:

Printed Name

Printed Name

Signature Date

Signature Date

Only one parent of United States citizenship needs to sign this form.

SCR

Division of Vital Records P.O. Box 1528 New Castle, PA 16103-1528

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 so that the Foreign Adoption Decree is considered to be a full and final decree, 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 parents must execute the Petition to Register Foreign Adoption Decree.*
2. **Attach the following documents to the Petition:**
 - A certified copy of the **Foreign Adoption Decree;**
 - A certified copy of the **child's birth certificate.** If no birth certificate was issued, a certified 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, certified by the translator** to be true and correct;
 - Pennsylvania Department of Health **Statement of Citizenship and Residency Form.**
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 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 **OC Clerk** will then **issue a certificate of adoption H105.091** and **transmit form and Statement of Citizenship and Residency Form to the Department of Health, Division of Vital Records.**

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 the Adoption Act and any local rules of court to obtain a full and final Pennsylvania adoption decree.

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; or*
- *the sole adopting parent was not present at the adoption hearing in the foreign 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 would afford the child full United States citizenship.*

7. The **CERTIFIED ENGLISH TRANSLATION** of ALL Foreign documents, certified by counsel to be true and correct, is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

8. Originals of the Foreign Adoption Decree and related documents will be available for review by the court

WHEREFORE, Petitioner(s) request(s) that this Court enter a decree authorizing the registration and docketing of the attached foreign decree with the Clerk of the Orphans' Court and make a finding that (birth name of adoptee) shall be henceforth known as (name after adoption) and shall have all the rights of a child and heir of (Petitioner(s)).

SIGNATURE of Petitioner

PRINTED Name of Petitioner

SIGNATURE of Petitioner

PRINTED Name of Petitioner

NOTICE

Effective February 1, 2003

POST-ADOPTION BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Foreign

- **COMPLETE BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION (H105.102)**
(Application will be mailed with Decree)
- **ENCLOSE COPY OF GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO ID**
- **ENCLOSE \$10 CHECK PAYABLE TO VITAL RECORDS**
- **SIGNED CITIZENSHIP FORM**
- **MAIL 4-6 WEEKS AFTER FILING WITH ORPHANS' COURT TO:**

**PA DEPT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
POB 1528
NEW CASTLE PA 16103-1528**