

**Instructions for Completing  
Notice to Intervene in an Adoption Proceeding  
OR  
Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene in an Adoption Proceeding**

**General Information**

- Court personnel **cannot** help you fill out these forms.
- You may wish to speak with a lawyer if you do not know how to answer the questions on these forms.
- You **must** fill out all forms included with this packet and you **must** follow the instructions included with this packet.
- Type your answers or print neatly using black (not blue) ink.

**Who May Intervene as a Matter of Right (Automatically)**

Certain people have an automatic right to intervene as a party in an adoption case. Unless an existing party objects, the people listed below will be granted party status simply by providing notice of intervention to the court and other parties:

- The child, regardless of your age, who is the subject of the adoption matter.
- The child's Indian tribe, if the child to be adopted is an Indian child.
- The Social Services Agency (if not the petitioner).

**Who May Intervene Only if the Court Grants Permission**

Individuals not listed above do not have an automatic right to intervene as a party. Instead, such individuals must ask the Court's permission to intervene. Existing parties to the case have a right to object to such intervention. Use the forms in this packet to ask the Court's permission to intervene as a party.

**Intervention Prohibited**

A parent who has executed a valid consent to the adoption, or whose rights to the child have been terminated, shall not be permitted to intervene in the adoption matter.

**What You Must Do to Ask Permission to Intervene**

**A. Select the appropriate form**

Using the information above, determine whether you need to file a Notice of Intervention OR a Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene.

**B. Contact the Court Administrator's Office in the county where your case is located.**

1. Tell the Court Administrator that you will be filing a “Motion to Intervene” in an adoption case and that you need a date, time, room number, and address for a motion hearing. The hearing date must be at least 8 days after the date you plan to mail or deliver the documents to the other parties.
2. Also ask the court administrator for a list of the names and addresses of all parties, participants, and attorneys involved in the case so that you can notify them of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

**C. Fill out the Attached “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” Form**

1. On the top part of the attached “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form, print the county name, judicial district number, court file number, and the case caption title where indicated. This information is on the Notice you received from the Court.
2. Using the information you received from the Court Administrator, on the “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form fill in the date, time, and address where the motion hearing will take place.
3. On question 1 on the “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form, print your name and mailing address.
4. On question 2, explain your relationship to the child(ren), such as foster parent, relative, school district, family friend, or other relationship.
5. On question 3, explain why you wish to intervene as a party and why your intervention is in the best interests of the child(ren).
6. Sign your name and print your mailing address.

**D. Make Copies of the completed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form**

1. Make copies of the completed and signed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form. Make enough copies for each party, participant, and attorney, as well as one copy for you to keep.
2. For each party, participant, and attorney, prepare an envelope with the person’s name and mailing address on it, and put one **copy** of the completed and signed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form in each envelope.

**E. Serve the completed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form upon the parties, participants, and attorneys.**

1. At least **5 days** before the date of the hearing, have someone else who is at least 18 years of age and who is not a party to the case **hand deliver** the envelopes to each of the parties, participants, and attorneys. You cannot hand deliver the envelopes.

**OR**

At least **8 days** before the date of the hearing, have someone else who is at least 18 years of age and who is not a party to the case place the envelopes in the **U.S. mail**. You cannot mail the envelopes.

2. Keep one **copy** of the completed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form for your files and bring it with you to the hearing.

**F. Complete the “Affidavit of Service” form.**

1. Have the person who hand delivered or mailed the envelopes to the parties, participants, and attorneys fill out the “Affidavit of Service” form included with this packet. They must list the name and address of each person who received an envelope. That person must sign the form, but can sign it only in front of the court administrator or a notary public (who can be found at banks).
2. Make one **copy** of the completed and signed “Affidavit of Service” form and keep it for your files.

**G. File the Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene and the Affidavit of Service with the Court Administrator**

1. At least **5 days** before the date of the hearing, **hand deliver** the **original** completed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form and the **original** “Affidavit of Service” form to the court administrator.

**OR**

At least **8 days** before the date of hearing, mail the **original** completed “Notice of Motion and Motion to Intervene” form and the **original** “Affidavit of Service” form in an enveloped addressed to the court administrator.

2. You must be prepared to pay any court fee, if applicable, at the time of filing. If you cannot afford to pay the fee, you may qualify to have the filing fee waived by the court. To have the fees waived, you will need to fill out an In Forma Pauperis application (available from the Court Administrator) and file it with the Court Administrator. Your application will be reviewed by a judge who will decide whether you must pay the fees. If the judge does not sign an order that waives the fees, you must be prepared to pay the fee or the clerk cannot accept your forms.

**H. Attend the Hearing**

1. Attend the hearing.
2. Bring copies of your papers with you to the hearing
3. Come prepared to explain why you should be permitted to become a party.

Helpful materials may be found at your public county law library. For a directory, see <http://mn.gov/law-library/research-links/county-law-libraries.jsp>. For more information, contact your court administrator or call the Minnesota State Law Library at 651-296-2775.