



# ADOPTION IN MISSOURI



BARDOL LAW FIRM, LLC  
FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS



## STEP 1 FILING

A Missouri adoption lawyer files a petition for your family with the local Circuit Court which opens your adoption case in the Court system.



## THE ADOPTION PROCESS IN MISSOURI



## STEP 5 FINALIZATION

After 6 months have passed from the transfer of custody, the Court finalizes the adoption at a finalization hearing.

## STEP 2 SERVICE

The other natural parent who will be losing their parental rights must be served with the adoption pleadings.



## STEP 4 TRANSFER OF CUSTODY

In all non-Stepparent Adoptions, temporary custody of the minor child must be transferred to the adoptive parents.

## STEP 3 BACKGROUND

A suitability study, as well as background checks, must be completed and submitted to the Court. A Guardian ad Litem is also appointed to investigate and provide a recommendation to the Court.

**13,000 TO 17,000**

NONRELATIVE INFANT ADOPTIONS OCCUR EACH YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES.



**1,000,000**

USA FAMILIES TRYING TO ADOPT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.



CHILDREN THAT ENTER THE MISSOURI FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.\*

**7,000+**

CHILDREN THAT EXIT THE MISSOURI FOSTER CARE SYSTEM BY RETURNING HOME, GUARDIANSHIP OR ADOPTION.\*

**6,600+**

CHILDREN ADOPTED OUT OF FOSTER CARE IN 2021.

**1,513**

\* Annual Averages



MISSOURI ADOPTION LAWYER:  
(314) 918-0100 | bardollaw.com

34 North Gore Ave., Suite 203 St. Louis, MO 63119



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SOURCES:

[www.apnews.com/hub/foster-care](http://www.apnews.com/hub/foster-care)

- [www.adoptioncouncil.org](http://www.adoptioncouncil.org)

- Lutheran Family and Children Services

- Missouri Children's Division