



Facilitating an Adult Adoption as a Pathway to Permanence for Older Youth

By the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPCF)

Authored by Lyn Ariyakulkan and edited by Tracy Serdjenian

April 2013

Introduction

Stable, supportive, permanent relationships are essential for every individual, regardless of their age.

For older youth and young adults currently or previously involved in the child welfare system, establishing these connections is especially critical given the likelihood of their having previous histories of trauma and disrupted relationships.ⁱ

Without permanent family connections, young people emancipated from the child welfare system face a number of challenges and may experience poor outcomes, including homelessness, and high rates of poverty and unemployment, and may struggle with mental health issues without necessary social supports.ⁱⁱ

For individuals involved in the child welfare system who have yet to establish permanent legal connections, adult adoption is a permanency option worth considering, whether they have already “aged out” or are in the process of transitioning out of care.

ADULT ADOPTION IS POSSIBLE!

Adult adoption is the legal process of adopting a person over the age of 18, resulting in an established legal parent-child relationship.ⁱⁱⁱ

A majority of the States and the District of Columbia permit the adoption of any person, regardless of their age and without additional stipulations.

In some States, certain requirements must be met in order for the adoption of an adult to be permitted. These requirements may include the following:^{iv}

- Age (e.g. age difference between adult adoptee and parent or maximum age limit of adult adoptee)
- Disability (e.g. Adult adoption is permitted in Alabama if the adoptee has a total and permanent disability or an intellectual disability.^v)
- Residency of Parent (e.g. Wisconsin statutes state that an adult may be adopted by any other adult who is a resident of Wisconsin.^{vi})
- Specific type of relationship (e.g. step parent, relative) and/or length

of time in which parental relationship was established and/or sustained

“Permanence is achieved with a family relationship that offers safe, stable, and committed parenting, unconditional love and lifelong support, and in most cases with legal family membership status.”
—Dr. Gerald P. Mallon, DSW, NRCPFC Executive Director

This publication provides an overview of the steps to facilitating an adult adoption.

In developing this resource, the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPFC) researched and reviewed State policies and relevant literature on adult adoption.

Additionally, the NRCPFC conducted interviews with adoptive parents and their children (adult adoptees) regarding their experiences with the adult adoption process, and also interviewed professionals at various agencies that support and advocate for permanency for older youth and young adults.

Parents that took part in NRCPFC interviews had formerly served as foster parents, guardians, or social workers to the individuals they adopted, or had established supportive relationships via other avenues.

Interviewees adopted their children as adults in the following States: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont.

“People don’t know that adult adoption is an option. They think ‘it’s not necessary.’ If adults present it like that, then there’s no conversation. People need families for life, not just until they turn 18 or 21”
—Adoptive Parent

Reasons for Adult Adoption

Adoption during adulthood may be considered for a number of reasons and is dependent upon the specific motivation and situation of the individual. Reasons for facilitating an adult adoption may include:

- To have a permanent, life-long connection and someone to call family
- Adult adoptee is ready at this point in his/her life -- feels safe and secure with parent and ready to pursue the legal process
- Legal recognition, connection, and formalization of the existing relationship between parent and child
- Inheritance issues
- Representation of a higher level of legal commitment
- Parent provides extra security and stability (e.g. serves as emergency contact, helps to raise children/ serves as grandparent, provides guidance)

- Parent provides support throughout milestones in life (e.g. birthdays, graduations, birth of children, weddings, divorce)

Some youth experience ambivalence regarding adoption that causes them to reject the idea initially, but they may later change their minds.

At that point, they may be waiting for a caseworker or foster parent to present the opportunity to them again.

Some adult adoptees had established life-long relationships with their foster parents, but decided to wait until a specific age to finalize the adoption in order to maintain access to benefits (e.g. financial, medical) and supports available to them as youth in the foster care system.

However, there are other ways in which youth who are adopted can maintain benefits. In some cases, people have been misinformed that they will lose benefits through adoption.

The Process

The process of adult adoption can be relatively simple, as it involves two consenting adults.^{vii}

Policies, laws, and procedures regarding the adoption of adults vary by State, which may impact the process and experience.

This section provides general steps to facilitating an adult adoption.

1. Contact your county court. Let them know that you would like to adopt an adult and ask for information on the process. A packet containing instructions and necessary paperwork may be provided to you or you may receive directions about how to obtain legal forms. Typically, legal counsel is not necessary in adult adoptions; however, you may seek legal advice at your own discretion.

2. Prepare documentation and complete the necessary forms. Paperwork to be filed may vary by state, but the following items are commonly required:

- Petition for adoption—signed and notarized by adopting parent
- If adopting parent is married, signed consent from his/her spouse and certified copy of marriage certificate
- Certified copy of original birth certificate of adult adoptee (If the adult adoptee is not a citizen and/or the birth certificate is in another language, the original must be provided and translated into English.)
- Signed consent from adoptee
- If adoptee is married, a signed consent by his/her spouse and certified copy of marriage certificate
- Written statement from parent and adult adoptee regarding the reason for pursuing adult adoption (In some cases, this may not be necessary;

however, petitioners may be required to give a verbal statement during the court proceeding.)

3. File all paperwork with accompanying documentation with the court and pay associated filing fees. Adult adoption may be designated to specific courts (e.g. family, probate, surrogate, juvenile court) depending on jurisdiction. (NRCPFC interviewees conducted adult adoptions through probate and surrogate courts.) Processing time will vary and may take a few months to complete. Be sure to follow up with the court regarding the status of your paperwork.

4. Attend the adoption hearing and finalize the adoption. Petitioners may be contacted to attend an adoption hearing or to request a hearing date as part of finalizing the adult adoption. The parent and adult adoptee will meet with the judge and if the adoption is approved, have it finalized with the signing of a final decree. In some States, biological parents will be sent a notice/be informed of the hearing. A new birth certificate will be issued containing the adoptive parent's name. The adult adoptee may decide whether or not to change his/her last name to reflect that of their adoptive parent.

Conclusion

While many public child welfare agencies do not handle adult adoptions, it is essential for workers, and in the best interest of finding lifetime permanence for older youth and young adults, to be aware of, and discuss adult adoption as a permanency option. It is also the responsibility of adults who have made a commitment to young

people in their care to help facilitate the conversation around adult adoption, so that together, they can make informed decisions about their future. Young people may not desire adoption at specific times in their lives; however, this feeling and ambivalence may change over time. It is essential that workers and foster parents be attentive to the reasons for the youth's ambivalence, explore their feelings, and consistently revisit the conversation about adoption. Older youth and young adults should be made aware that adoption remains a permanency option available to them, and that they have not lost the opportunity to have a permanent, legal connection.

Resources

From the NRCPFC

Webcast- Unpacking the No of Permanency for Older Youth

In this webcast, Dr. Gerald Mallon, NRCPFC Executive Director, discussed the concept of permanency for older youth. He discussed APPLA and explored various permanency options – reunification, guardianship, relative care, and adoption. He provided guidance on the process of exploring adoption with adolescents, considering factors that may cause adolescents to initially reject the idea of being adopted, and providing suggestions for what workers can say instead of accepting their “No.” Dr. Mallon also discussed resources and Technical Assistance on this topic available through NRCPFC. Dr. Mallon's daughter, Leslie Fuller, shared her experience of growing up in foster care and being adopted as an adult, and offered her perspective on the topic. (December 2012) <http://www.nrcpfc.org/webcasts/27.html>

“Unpacking the ‘NO’ of Permanency for Older Adolescents”

This PowerPoint focusing on "Unpacking the "No" of Permanency for Adolescents" is a part of approved on-site Technical Assistance (TA) which NRCPFC engaged in with the State of Florida in three Regions (Ocala, Volusia and Orlando). This work supported the Permanency Roundtables Initiative by Casey Family Programs in these same Regions and underpins the framework of "Permanency Values" for the Permanency Roundtable Initiatives. NRCPFC was proud to collaborate with Casey Family Programs on this important permanency initiative. (November 2011) http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcp/info_services/download/Florida.unpacking.11.08.pdf

NRCPFC Digital Stories from the Field

Leslie Fuller—Leslie’s story helps us understand that it is never too late for permanent family connection. http://www.nrcpfc.org/digital_stories/YP_Fuller_L/index.htm

“Connect the Dots” — Casey and his father, Martin, share their adult adoption experience and journey to establishing a legally recognized relationship as father and son.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7uhbAu-MVw>

Permanency for Youth & Young Adults Hot Topic Page

This NRCPFC webpage includes the following sections: Resources from NRCPFC (including Teleconferences/Webcasts, PowerPoint Presentations, and Bibliographies); Guides and Practice Resources; Guides and Practice Resources from the States; Resources: Research, Studies, and Strategies; Teleconferences, Webinars, Webcasts, and Videos; Curricula; Bibliographies; and Websites.

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcp/info_services/youth-permanency.html

Additional Resources

A list of resources (including information and forms) and statutes pertaining to specific States is provided on the following page.^{viii}

The NRCPFC would like to thank our colleagues at The National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD), The National Resource Center for Adoption (NRCA), The National Resource Center for Diligent Recruitment, the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), You Gotta Believe, and 3P Consulting LLC for their contribution in developing this publication. We are very grateful to the adoptive parents and adoptees interviewed for their time and for sharing their experiences.

State-Specific Resources and Information

(*) denotes States/Regions/Territories where adoption of any person is permitted regardless of age of adoptee and without restrictions/additional requirements

(^) denotes States/Regions/Territories permitting adoption of adults, but under certain circumstances

Alabama [^]	<p>Code of Alabama—Title 26, Chapter 10A http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/codeofalabama/1975/coatoc.htm</p> <p>Montgomery County Probate Court—Adoption Frequently Asked Questions http://www.mc-ala.org/ELECTEDOFFICIALS/PROBATEJUDGE/PROBATEDIVISIONS/PROBATECOURT/Pages/Adoptions.aspx#whomay</p>
Alaska*	<p>Alaska Code—Title 25, Chapter 25.23 (Click “2012 Alaska Statutes” → Paper icon on bottom left [to go to next page] → Title 25) http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/folio.asp</p>
Arizona [^]	<p>Arizona Revised Statutes—Title 14, Chapter 8, Section 14-8101 http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/14/08101.htm&Title=14&DocType=ARS</p>
Arkansas*	<p>Arkansas Code—Title 9, Subtitle 2, Chapter 9, Subchapter 2 http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/arcod/Default.asp</p> <p>Arkansas Legal Services Partnership—Adoption Overview http://www.arlegalservices.org/adoption</p>
California [^]	<p>California Family Code—Division 13, Part 3, Chapters 1-3 http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/html/fam_table_of_contents.html</p> <p>Sacramento County Public Law Library—How to Adopt an Adult in California http://www.saclaw.lib.ca.us/pages/adult-adoption.aspx</p> <p>Superior Court of California, County of Orange—Adult Adoptions http://www.occourts.org/directory/probate/probate-case-types/adoptions.html</p> <p>Superior Court of California, County of San Diego—Adult Information & Forms http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/portal/page?_pageid=55,1609952&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL</p> <p>Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo—Adoption Forms</p>

	<p>http://www.sanmateocourt.org/forms_and_filing/</p> <p>Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara—Adult Adoption http://www.sccourt.org/self_help/probate/adoption/adoption_adult.shtml</p>
Colorado*	<p>Colorado Revised Statutes—Title 14, Article 1, 14-1-101 (Click “View the Colorado Revised Statutes” → “Colorado Revised Statutes” in left navigation bar → Title 14 → Adoption-Adults → Article 1 → 14-1-101) http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/statutes.html</p> <p>Judicial Branch, State of Colorado—Adult Adoption Forms & Instructions http://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Forms_List.cfm?Form_Type_ID=91</p>
Connecticut^	<p>Connecticut Statute—Title 45a, Chapter 803, Sec. 45a-734 to 451-735. http://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_803.htm#sec_45a-734</p> <p>The Probate Courts of Connecticut—Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption Procedures http://www.ctprobate.gov/Documents/Termination%20of%20Parental%20Rights%20and%20Adoption.pdf</p>
Delaware*	<p>Delaware Annotated Code—Title 13, Chapter 9, Subchapter II http://delcode.delaware.gov/title13/c009/sc02/index.shtml</p> <p>Family Court of the State of Delaware—A Guide to Frequently Asked Questions About Adult Adoption http://courts.delaware.gov/Help/Adoption/AdultAdoptionPacket.pdf</p> <p>Delaware State Courts, Family Court—Forms http://courts.state.de.us/forms/List.aspx?ag=Family%20Court</p>
District of Columbia*	<p>District of Columbia Official Code— Title 16, Chapter 3 http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/dccode/</p>
Florida*	<p>Florida Statute—Title VI, Chapter 63 http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2011/Chapter63/All</p> <p>Florida’s Children First—Adult Adoption: Creating a Lifelong Family Bond and Legal Connection http://www.floridaschildrenfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Adult-Adoption-with-forms4.pdf</p>
Georgia*	<p>Georgia Code— Title 19, Chapter 8, Article 1., §19-8-21 http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode/default.asp</p>

Hawaii*	<p>Hawaii Revised Statutes—Division 3, Title 31, Chapter 578 (Click “next” on the bottom right of page for view details of statutes) http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol12_Ch0501-0588/HRS0578/HRS_0578-.htm</p> <p>State of Hawaii, Family Court, First Circuit Court—Petition for Adoption http://www.courts.state.hi.us/docs/1FP/ptn.pdf</p>
Idaho^	<p>Idaho Statutes—Title 16, Chapter 15 http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title16/T16CH15.htm</p>
Illinois^	<p>Illinois Compiled Statutes—Families (750 ILCS/) Adoption Act. http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2098&ChapterID=59</p> <p>Chicago Bar—Adoption: Basic adoption procedure, types of adoption, and how to obtain information about an adoption. http://www.chicagobar.org/AM/NavigationMenu/Public/GeneralLegalInformation/PublicInformationBrochures/Adoption.pdf</p>
Indiana^	<p>Indiana Code—Title 31, Article 19 http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title31/ar19/</p>
Iowa*	<p>Iowa Code— Title XV, Subtitle 1, Chapter 600 (Click “Iowa Code” → “2013 Iowa Code” → “2013 Iowa Code” → “Title XV” → “Subtitle 1” → “Chapter 600”) http://search.legis.state.ia.us/nxt/gateway.dll/ic?f=templates&fn=default.htm</p>
Kansas*	<p>Kansas Statute – Chapter 59, Article 21 http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2012/b2011_12/statute/059_000_0000_chapter/059_021_0000_article/</p>
Kentucky*	<p>Kentucky Revised Statutes— Title XXXV, Chapter 405.00, §405.390 http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/KRS/405-00/390.PDF</p> <p>Legal Aid Network of Kentucky—Adoption Information http://www.kyjustice.org/node/597</p>
Louisiana*	<p>Louisiana Civil Code—CC 212- 214 http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?folder=67</p> <p>Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals—Adoption Information http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/680</p>
Maine*	<p>Maine Revised Statutes—Title 18-A, Article 9 http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/18-A/title18-Ach9sec0.html</p>

Maryland*	Maryland Family Law §§5-331; 5-3A-39; 5-3B-13 http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/Statute_Web/gfl/gfl.pdf
Massachusetts^	Massachusetts Law— Part II, Title III, Chapter 210 http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartII/TitleIII/Chapter210 Bristol County Probate & Family Court—Adoption of an adult http://bristolcountyprobate.com/adoption-adult.htm
Michigan*	Michigan Compiled Law- Probate Code, Chapter X http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(hcl4lu55jqeezfeh435emv))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-288-1939-X Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan—Filing Instructions for Adult Adoption https://www.3rdcc.org/Documents/FamilyJuvenile/Adoptions/Non%20Agency%20Filings/Adult%20Adoption%20Instructions.pdf Michigan Department of Human Services—Adopting a Child in Michigan http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-PUB-0823_221566_7.pdf Washtenaw County Trial Court—Adult Adoption Checklist: http://washtenawtrialcourt.org/forms/probate_forms/checklist_adult_adoption.pdf Montcalm County Probate Court—Adult Adoption http://www.montcalm.org/adultadoption.asp
Minnesota*	Minnesota Statutes—Chapter 259, Section 241 https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=259.241 Minnesota Judicial Branch—How Do I Adopt? http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=1649
Mississippi*	Mississippi Code Annotated— Title 93, Chapter 17 (Click “Title 93” → “Chapter 17” → “In General”) http://www.sos.ms.gov/education_and_publications_mscode.aspx
Missouri*	Missouri Revised Statutes— Title XXX, Chapter 453 http://www.moga.mo.gov/ (See left navigation bar, click “MO STATUTES”- View All Statutes) 7 th Judicial Circuit Court, Clay County, Missouri—Adoptions in Clay County http://www.circuit7.net/juvenile/adoption.aspx Missouri Bar—Adoption

	http://www.mobar.org/uploadedFiles/Home/Publications/Legal_Resources/Brochures_and_Booklets/Family_Law_Conference/Adoption.pdf
Montana*	Montana Code Annotated—Title 42, Chapter 1, Part 1 http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/42_1_1.htm
Nebraska^	Nebraska Revised Statutes – Chapter 43 http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/laws/browse-chapters.php?chapter=43
Nevada^	Nevada Revised Statutes—Chapter 127, §§127.190 to 127.20 http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-127.html#NRS127Sec190
New Hampshire*	New Hampshire Statutes—Chapter 170-B http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-XII-170-B.htm New Hampshire Judicial Branch—Instructions for Completing Petition for Adoption of an Adult http://www.courts.state.nh.us/forms/nhjb-2519-p-instructions.pdf New Hampshire Checklist and Forms: http://www.courts.state.nh.us/probate/servicecenters/checklists/checklistfiles/031Adopt-Adult.pdf
New Jersey^	New Jersey Statute—Title 2A, 2A:22-1 to 2A:22-3 (Click on arrow at bottom right to view additional details) http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=127144119&Depth=4&TD=WRAP&advquery=adult%20adoption&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&rank=&record={81B}&softpage=Document42&wordsaroundhits=2&x=0&y=0&zz= New Jersey Courts, Rule 5:11 http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/rules/r5-11.htm Middlesex County Surrogate Court http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/surrogate/adoptions.asp Mercer County Surrogate Court—Adoption http://nj.gov/counties/mercercourts/officials/surrogate/s_adoption.html
New Mexico^	New Mexico Statute—Chapter 40, Article 14 http://www.nmonesource.com/nmnxtadmin/NMPublic.aspx (After entering the public access site, under first section “Targeted search in a specific database,” select “Search New Mexico Statues.” Enter search term “Article 14 Adult Adoptions” in quotations to retrieve statute.)

New York*	<p>Laws of New York—DOM- Domestic Relations http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/LAWSSEAF.cgi?QUERYTYPE=LAWS+&QUERYDATA=@SLDOM0A7T1+&LIST=LAW+&BROWSER=EXPLORER+&TOKEN=27433306+&TARGET=VIEW</p> <p>New York Family Court—Adoption Forms http://www.nycourts.gov/forms/familycourt/adoption.shtml</p> <p>Youth In Progress—OCFS, Adoption Rights: http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/MAIN/PUBLICATIONS/Pub5097.pdf</p> <p>Genesee County 7th Circuit Court—Adult Adoption Information & Forms http://www.gc4me.com/departments/circuit_court_7th/docs/Adult_Adoption.pdf</p> <p>Westchester County—Private Adoption Petitions, Adult http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/9jd/westchester/family/pdfs/Private_Adoption_Petition_Adult.pdf</p>
North Carolina*	<p>North Carolina General Statutes—Chapter 48, Article 5 http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_48/Article_5.pdf</p> <p>North Carolina DHHS Online Manual—Chapter VI: Adoption Services, Adult Adoption Checklist and forms: http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-50/man/appendixi.htm</p> <p>North Carolina Court System, Cumberland County Clerk’s Office—Adult Adoption Checklist http://www.aoc.state.nc.us/district12/Divisions/adultadoption.htm</p>
North Dakota*	<p>North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 14-15 http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t14c15.pdf?20130227222045</p>
Ohio^	<p>Ohio Revised Code, Title XXXI, Chapter 3107 http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3107</p> <p>Ohio State Bar Association https://www.ohiobar.org/ForPublic/Resources/LawYouCanUse/Pages/LawYouCanUse-475.aspx</p> <p>Erie County Probate Court—Adoption Forms http://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/departments-and-agencies/legal-resources/probate-court/welcome/probate-forms/adoption-forms/</p>

	<p>Franklin County Probate Court- Adoption Information http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate/departments/adopt.cfm</p> <p>Mahoning County – Adoption Information and Forms http://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/DepartmentsAgencies/Departments/ProbateCourt/TypesofCases/Adoptions/tabid/1169/Default.aspx</p> <p>Montgomery County: http://www.mcoho.org/government/probate/adult.html</p>
Oklahoma*	<p>Oklahoma Annotated Code—Title 10, §10-7507-1.1 http://www.oklegislature.gov/osStatuesTitle.aspx</p> <p>Oklahoma Adoption Coalition: http://www.oklahomaadoptioncoalition.org/eight_kinds.html</p>
Oregon^	<p>Oregon Revised Statute—Volume 3, Chapter 109, §109.329 http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/109.html</p> <p>Oregon State Bar—Adoptions http://www.osbar.org/public/legalinfo/1136_Adoptions.htm</p> <p>Oregon DHS- Independent (Private) Adoptions in Oregon, Adult Adoption http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/adoption/indadoptions/pages/overview.aspx#adult</p>
Pennsylvania*	<p>Pennsylvania Code—Title 23, Part III http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/PDF/23/23.PDF</p>
Rhode Island*	<p>Rhode Island General Laws, Title 15, Chapter 15-7 http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE15/15-7/INDEX.HTM</p> <p>Rhode Island, Probate Court—Adult Adoption Petition http://sos.ri.gov/documents/probate/PC8.2.pdf</p>
South Carolina*	<p>South Carolina Code of Laws—Title 63, Chapter 9, Article 1 http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t63c009.php</p>
South Dakota^	<p>South Dakota Codified Laws—Chapter 25-6, §§25-6-18 to 25-6-20 http://legis.state.sd.us/statutes/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=25-6</p>
Tennessee*	<p>Tennessee Code—Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1 http://www.state.tn.us/tccy/tnchild/t36/t_36_ch_1_p_1.htm</p>

	<p>Southeast Tennessee Legal Services—Adoption http://www.selegal.org/Self-Help/Booklets/ADOPTION%20%20BOOKLET.pdf</p>
Texas^	<p>Texas Family Code—Title 5, Subtitle B, Chapter 162, Subchapter F http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/FA/htm/FA.162.htm</p>
Utah*	<p>Utah Code—Title 78B, Chapter 6, Sections 115 and 116 http://le.utah.gov/UtahCode/section.jsp?code=78B-6</p>
Vermont*	<p>Vermont Statute—Title 15A, Article 5 http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullchapter.cfm?Title=15a&Chapter=005</p> <p>Vermont Probate Division, Adoption Proceedings—Adult Adoption Information and Forms http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/gtc/Probate/adoptions.aspx</p>
Virginia^	<p>Code of Virginia, Title 63.2, Chapter 12, § 63.2-1243 http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+63.2-1243</p> <p>Virginia DSS- under section “About Adoption” http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/ap/index.cgi</p>
Washington*	<p>Revised Code of Washington—Title 26, Chapter 26.33 http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=26.33</p> <p>Washington State Department of Social & Health Services—Adoptions in Washington State (see p. 2) http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/Publications/22-1096.pdf</p>
West Virginia^	<p>West Virginia Code, Chapter 48, Article 22, Part 8, §48-22-801 http://www.legis.state.wv.us/WVCODE/ChapterEntire.cfm?chap=48&art=22&section=801#22#22</p>
Wisconsin^	<p>Wisconsin Annotated Statutes—Chapter 882 https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/882/_3</p> <p>“Adoption Has No Age Limit” http://wiadopt.org/Portals/WIAdopt/Tipsheets/Getting%20Started/AdultAdoption.pdf</p> <p>Wisconsin Courts- forms http://www.wicourts.gov/forms1/circuit/ccform.jsp?FormName=&FormNumber=&beg_date=&end_date=&StatuteCite=&Category=3</p> <p>Ozaukee County—Adoptions—Adult Adoptions</p>

	http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/clerkcourts/NewPages/Adoptions/AdultAdoption.htm
Wyoming [^]	Wyoming Statute—Title 1, Chapter 22 http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title1/T1CH22.htm
American Samoa [^]	American Samoa Annotated Code—Title 45, Chapter 4 http://www.asbar.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=717&Itemid=172
Guam	N/A
Northern Mariana Islands [^]	
Puerto Rico [^]	Laws of Puerto Rico Annotated—Title 31, Subtitle 1, Part VI, Chapter 65 http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lawsopuertorico/
Virgin Islands	N/A

End Notes

ⁱ Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. (2011). “Never Too Old: Achieving Permanency and Sustaining Connections for Older Youth in Foster Care.” Retrieved February 28, 2013 from http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications/2011_07_21_NeverTooOld.pdf; NRCPCF interviews

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Youth In Progress, New York State Foster Care Youth Leadership Advisory Team. (2011). Need to Know Series: Adoption Rights for Foster Care Youth Who Are 14 Years Old and Older. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/MAIN/PUBLICATIONS/Pub5097.pdf>; Sacramento County Public Law Library. (2012). Adult Adoption in California: How to Adopt an Adult in California. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from <http://www.saclaw.lib.ca.us/pages/adult-adoption.aspx>; The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. (n.d.). Adult Adoption. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from http://www.scscourt.org/self_help/probate/adoption/adoption_adult.shtml

^{iv} Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2012). Who May Adopt, Be Adopted, or Place a Child for Adoption? Retrieved February 28, 2013 from https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/parties.cfm

^v Alabama Code § 26-10A-6. Who may be adopted. Retrieved March 13, 2013 from <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/codeofalabama/1975/26-10A-6.htm>

^{vi} Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 882 Adoption of Adults, Section 882.01 Adoption of Adults. Retrieved March 13, 2013 from https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/882/_3

^{vii} Adoption Resources of Wisconsin & Wisconsin DCF (2012). “Adoption Has No Age Limits: Adult Adoptions.” Retrieved March 7, 2013 from <http://wiadopt.org/Portals/WIAadopt/Tipsheets/Getting Started/AdultAdoption.pdf>; NRCPCF interviews

^{viii} This list was compiled via internet research, as well as through consultation of the Child Welfare Information Gateway publication cited above; Adoptingback.com. (2012). Adult Adoption Law in the United States. Retrieved March 11, 2013 from <http://adoptingback.com/adopting-back/united-states-adult-adoption-law/>