

Checklist for Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights

- The forms on this page may **not** be used for the relinquishment and termination of parental rights to an Indian child.
- You must complete a form before you file it. These instructions will help you complete the forms.
- The judicial services representative cannot complete a form for you.
 - Attach a copy of any document referred to in the form.
 - Keep a copy of all documents for your records.
 - Attend all court hearings.
 - Some forms may not apply in your case.
 - Check with your court about local requirements.

(1) Petition for Termination of Parental Rights Upon Voluntary Relinquishment

- Write your name and contact information at the top of the first page. Check whether you are the petitioner or the attorney for the petitioner.
- In the heading, use only the child's initials and not the child's full name. For example, if the child's name is "John Doe," refer to the child as "J.D."
- The clerk will enter the case number and judge's name.
- Complete the entire form and sign it.
- In Paragraph (5), explain why you are asking the court to terminate your parental rights.
- The Certificate of Service lists many of the people or agencies that you **might** have to serve. Each case is different, and who you have to serve depends on the circumstances of your case. In general, you will serve the people and agencies involved with your child.

(2) Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights

- Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the Petition.
- Read the form carefully.
- If you do not understand any part of it, talk with a lawyer, or ask the judge at the hearing.
- Make sure everything in the form is true. If you sign the form under oath, you are swearing that everything in the form is true.
- Complete the entire form but do not sign it until the judge says that you may.

- In Paragraph (5), explain why you are asking the court to terminate your parental rights.

(3) Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Order

- Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the Petition.
- Complete Paragraphs (1) through (5). Do not sign the form. The judge signs this form.

(4) File the forms with the court clerk.

(5) Attend the hearing.