

Stepparent Adoption

The process of Stepparent Adoption involves four steps:

1. Termination of Parental Rights,
2. Petition to Adopt and Order for Investigation,
3. Columbia County Department of Health and Human Services Investigation, and
4. The Hearing on Adoption.

To start the process of a Stepparent Adoption, required paperwork must be submitted to the Columbia County Circuit Court. After the initial hearing, the judge will order Columbia County Department of Health and Human Services to complete an investigation and a full home study, including a home visit and interviews with all family members. This home study is then submitted to the courts.

The cost of a Stepparent Adoption Home Study through Columbia County Department of Health and Human Services is \$300. There is an additional down payment of \$300 required at the time of filing paperwork with Columbia County Circuit Court to retain a Guardian ad Litem for the case.