

Adoption conditions

- Once granted an adoption order cannot be revoked.
- The best interest of the child should always be a priority.
- Only a **Registered Adoption** society should make arrangements for adopting of an infant.
- All matters pertaining to adoption are handled in strict confidence

MCDMCH

For more information contact;

**The Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare Department of
Social Welfare Ministry of Community Development**

Mother and Child Health

P.O Box 31958

LUSAKA

Tel/fax 235343/236968

Or

Provincial Social Welfare Office

Boma office Church Road

P.O Box 30281

LUSAKA

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 710041

MANSA

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 110023

SOLWEZI

Provincial social Welfare Office

P.O Box 410013

KASAMA

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 510075

CHIPATA

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 72081

NDOLA

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 60487

LIVINGSTONE

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 920038

MONGU

Provincial Social Welfare Office

P.O Box 800411

KABWE

**And all District Social Welfare offices through out
the country.**

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**Ministry of Community Development ,
Mother and Child Health**

Department of Social Welfare



**Basic facts about
Adoption**

WHAT IS ADOPTION

Adoption is a creation of a legal relationship between parent and child where it did not exist biologically. Adoption provides a permanent home and family for the child.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of adoption is to provide a parentless child with a permanent home and a permanent home parent/child relationship where this did not exist. This takes the effect of making an adoptive parent to have responsibilities over the adopted infant as if it were their very own biological child.

HOW IS IT PROVIDED?

Adoption is a process provided through an Act of parliament the Adoption Act CAP 54 of the Laws of Zambia.

WHO CAN BE ADOPTED?

In the Zambian context a person who has not attained the age of twenty-one and /is or has not been married can be adopted. Such a person is referred to as an infant/ a child.

WHO CAN ADOPT?

A Zambian or foreigner may adopt subject to section 4 (1) of the adoption Act CAP 54 which provides the following conditions: “An adoption shall not be made in respect of an infant unless the applicant or incase of joint application one of the applicants has:”

Attained the age of twenty five years and is at least twenty one years older than the infant.

Has attained 21(twenty one) years and is a relative of the infant.

Is the mother or father of the infant.

HOW IS ADOPTION DONE?

1. Adoption begins with the completion of the prescribed adoption forms which can be obtained from the Juvenile Inspector (District Social Welfare Officer) in a given district.
2. The District office then makes a thorough assessment of the application and submit the documentation with recommendations to the Provincial Office which will then submit the application to the Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare.
3. The commissioner will asses the application and if satisfied will recommend through an effective date of notice. Supervision of the case then commence through the district office.
3. Appointment of Guardian Ad litem

- by the court of Law.
 - Date set for hearing
 - Matter is determined in a court
4. Granted Adoption order is registered with the register of Births/ Deaths under the Ministry of Home Affairs at a fee.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTING A CHILD.

- (a) The applicant and the infant must reside in Zambia.
- (b) The infant should have been continuously in the care and possession of the applicant for at least three months and twelve months for Zambian and foreign infants respectively.
- (c) The application should have at least three months before the date of the order, notified the Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare of their intention to apply for an adoption order in respect of the infant.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS?

Subject to the provisions of Section 5 of the Adoption Act, an adoption order cannot be made:

- (a) Except with the consent of a parent or guardian of such an infant.
- (b) On the application of one of two spouses except with the consent of the other spouse.