

## COLLOQUIES

### Adoption Hearing Colloquy

**Note:** Pursuant to section 63.162, Florida Statutes, adoption hearings are to be held in closed court.

#### Introductory remarks.

- Everyone who is not involved in this adoption case should please exit the courtroom until notified that you may return. This is a closed hearing.
- Will everyone please identify themselves for the record?
- Will the adoptive parents and anyone offering testimony please raise their right hands and be sworn?
- Please state your name.

#### Verify the procedural posture of the case through the department attorney.

- Are there any pending appeals or other court cases regarding the child?
- Is this case ready for the adoption to be finalized?
- [Review the petition for adoption for each of the requirements of section 63.112(1).]
- Have all of the following been filed with the clerk of the court:
  - A certified copy of the judgment terminating parental rights under either chapter 39 or chapter 63?
  - A favorable preliminary home study of the department, licensed child-placing agency, or professional pursuant to section 63.092, as to the suitability of the home in which the child has been placed, unless the petition is a stepparent or a relative?
  - A copy of any declaratory statement previously entered by the court pursuant to section 63.102?
  - Documentation that an interview was held with the child, if older than 12 years of age, unless the court, in the child's best interest, has dispensed with the child's consent under section 63.062(1)(c)?
- When the adoption is complete, can both the department's and the court's supervision be terminated and the dependency file closed?
- Does the guardian ad litem agree?

#### Testimony and judgment.

- Is the adoption attorney ready to present testimony?
- [To the adoption attorney]You may proceed.

- [Hear testimony]
- Does the adoption attorney wish to present any other evidence?
- Does the adoption attorney have a proposed final judgment?
- [Enter the final judgment]
- I have entered the final judgment of adoption and the adoption is now complete.
- The adoption is official! You are officially [child's new name].

Congratulations and case closure.

- Congratulations to [address the children by their new names] on being adopted.
- Does the adoptive family wish to take pictures?
- [If applicable in your area] Are there any gifts (books, stuffed animals, etc.) that the local community has contributed for such occasion to be given to the children?
- The department's supervision is terminated.
- The guardian ad litem is discharged.
- This court's supervision and jurisdiction are terminated.
- The court requests that the clerk please take the file and come down and escort the adoptive parents and their attorney to get certified copies of the order.
- Court is adjourned.