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DivorceInKentucky.com

ADOPTION OF A STEPCHILD

Dear Prospective Client:

We understand you are interested in talking with us about adoption of your stepchild. Please keep in mind that even the simplest adoption procedure can develop complications. These problems usually revolve around a natural parent's refusal to relinquish all parental rights or the Court being convinced that the adoptive home is suitable.

Evaluation of your case will require an initial personal consultation so that we can understand the facts of your case and advise you about your rights and duties. We charge \$200 for an initial consultation, during which we expect to give you a really good idea of what you can expect to happen in your case.

Before we can begin representing you, we will require (1) a signed contract which explains our respective obligations and (2) receipt of an engagement fee, the size of which will be based on our estimation of the amount of time needed to resolve your case. *There is no guarantee, however, that all of your legal expenses will be covered by this Engagement Fee.*

You will be billed for the amount of professional time required to adequately represent your interests in this matter. Anything and everything you do to complete the attached **STEPCHILD ADOPTION DATAPACK** and to provide any supporting documentation will help to reduce the amount of attorney and paralegal time required in this action.

Any information you provide will, of course, be kept confidential and you are under no obligation until we each execute a written Engagement Agreement.

Very truly yours,

JAMES K. MURPHY
RUTH J. WILKERSON
WILLIAM L. HOGE, III
Attorneys at Law

This is an advertisement.

Attorneys at Law

Concentrating in Family Law Representation
throughout Greater Metropolitan Louisville

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT.

Email: HogePartners@DivorceInKentucky.com

Website: DivorceInKentucky.com

Hoge Partners, PLLC is the successor to Hoge & Associates, a law practice with a four-decade history of providing legal services throughout Metropolitan Louisville, including Jefferson, Oldham, Hardin and Bullitt Counties.

JAMES K. MURPHY

Jim Murphy is the Managing Partner of **Hoge Partners, PLLC**. He began practicing law in Kentucky in 1993. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Washington & Lee University and *cum laude* from the Lewis School of Law at Washington & Lee University.

Prior to joining Hoge & Associates in 2014, Jim's practice with another Louisville firm focused in commercial transactions, real estate and business. Since then, he has refocused his practice on Family Law matters with a special emphasis on associated business and real estate factors. Jim's caseload includes a variety of Family Law matters including domestic violence actions and criminal defense in child support matters as well as processing divorces, child support, child custody and post-divorce litigation. He also has significant appellate experience.

RUTH J. WILKERSON

Ruth Wilkerson is a Partner of **Hoge Partners, PLLC**. She has been practicing law in Kentucky since 2010. A graduate of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky and the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia, Ruth has a varied legal background which included estate planning, workers compensation, personal injury litigation, employment law, civil rights discrimination and sexual harassment.

Ruth has focused on Family Law matters since joining the firm in 2014. She handles both contested and uncontested divorce actions, post-divorce litigation, modifications of child support and maintenance/alimony, disputed parenting matters such as visitation schedules and primary residence, adoption proceedings, child custody and domestic violence proceedings.

WILLIAM L. HOGE, III

Bill Hoge has been practicing law in Louisville since 1972 and focused on Family Law for better than half of that period. He retired from active practice in 2017. Bill remains of counsel to the firm of **Hoge Partners, PLLC**, providing advice and guidance to attorneys Jim Murphy and Ruth Wilkerson and handling a limited number of cases. He is still a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and formerly served as the Chair of the Family Law Sections for both the Kentucky Bar Association and the Louisville Bar Association. The majority of Mr. Hoge's legal career has been dedicated to Family Law and being of service to people going through the divorce process in Kentucky, individuals needing assistance with post-divorce matters (child support, custody, visitation, etc.), victims of domestic violence, international parental abductions and others situations relating to Domestic Relations law.

STEPCHILD ADOPTION DATAPACK

(Please Print)

PROPOSED ADOPTIVE STEP-PARENT:

ADOPTIVE FATHER or MOTHER: _____

YOUR SPOUSE'S NAME (Natural Parent): _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S ADDRESS: _____

City County State Zip

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S TELEPHONE: _____

Pager or other contact number: _____

E-mail address: _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT AND NATURAL PARENT HAVE BEEN MARRIED SINCE: _____

*THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
 Please complete the remaining pages of this form*

Date of Initial Interview: _____ Interviewed by: _____

Engagement Agreement signed? _____ Date Signed: _____ Engagement Fee Paid: \$ _____

Initial Documents Required: _____ Draft *Petition for Adoption*
 Service by: Sheriff Certified Mail Other: _____

Initial Motions: _____ Draft Response to Petition for Adoption
 _____ Motion for Temporary Restraining Order with Client's Affidavit
 _____ Motion for Hearing (with Client's Affidavit) regarding: _____

Discovery: _____ Other: _____
 _____ Interrogatories _____ Request for Admissions
 _____ Request for Production of Documents
 _____ Notice of Deposition of _____

Scheduled Execution Date: _____ BY VIDEO OR COURT REPORTER?
 Other: _____

For use only by potential clients of Hoge Partners, PLLC

CONFIDENTIAL -- Attorney/Client Work Product

2nd Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Child's Social Security Number: _____

Place of Birth (including County): _____

Where does the Child attend school or pre-school? _____

With whom and where has Child lived?

Birth to age ___ Years: Lived with _____

Address: _____

_____ to _____ Years: Lived with _____

Address: _____

_____ to _____ Years: Lived with _____

Address: _____

3rd Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Child's Social Security Number: _____

Place of Birth (including County): _____

Where does the Child attend school or pre-school? _____

With whom and where has Child lived?

Birth to age ___ Years: Lived with _____

Address: _____

_____ to _____ Years: Lived with _____

Address: _____

_____ to _____ Years: Lived with _____

Address: _____

**{PLEASE USE SEPARATE SHEET IF YOU NEED
MORE SPACE TO LIST ADDITIONAL CHILDREN}**

Do any of the children have any special health problems or other special needs? Please explain.

What have you done to "incorporate" this child or these children into your family and household?

Children's pediatrician:

Street Address

City County State Zip

Have any of the Children ever been seen or treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, therapist or social worker? If so, please identify, including address and telephone number.

CHILD(REN)'S NATURAL PARENTS:

**Natural Mother's
Full Legal Name:**

Current Address:

Telephone:

Home -- _____ Work -- _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Place of Birth (including County): _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Education: _____

**Natural Father's
Full Legal Name:**

Current Address:

Telephone:

Home -- _____ Work – _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Place of Birth (including County): _____

**Legal status of relationship
between Natural Mother
and Natural Father:**

Divorced Never married Paternity established?
When? _____ When? _____
Other: _____

Has the non-custodial Natural Parent agreed to give up all of his/her parental rights and to permit you to adopt this child? Please explain.

Please describe the relationship today between you and the non-custodial Natural Parent as well as the current relationship between your spouse and the Child(ren)'s other Natural Parent.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Are there any special circumstances which we need to be aware of in investigating this potential adoption?

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