



## ADOPTION - YAP

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An adoption carried out under Yapese custom is valid and recognized in Yap.

However, if an adoptive parent(s) realizes the need to document the customary adoption and have the state court confirm a customary adoption because an agency or institution on Yap or abroad requires a customary adoption to be reflected on a legal document, the adoptive parent(s) may call the Yap office of Micronesian Legal Services at 350-2193 for help in getting advice on what is required for petitioning the court to issue a decree confirming the customary adoption.

The same advice and assistance is available for a person or couple who wish to adopt a child and no customary adoption has been carried out by the person or couple regarding the child. The person or couple interested in adopting a child may call the Yap office of Micronesian Legal Services for help in getting advice on what is required for petitioning the court to issue a decree approving the adoption intended for the child.

In both types of adoptions, those made under custom and confirmed by the court and those approved by the court without the preceding customary rites, the biological parent(s) are generally deemed to give up and to transfer their legal parental responsibility for the adopted child to the adoptive parents. The degree of transfer of parental responsibility between biological and adoptive parents and the degree of severance of the tie between biological parents and the child normally remain as a private understanding and agreement between the biological parents and adoptive parents as is the practice in Yapese adoptions.

The legal information we provide here is general information to help you decide how to handle legal issues. It is not advice about what you should or should not do. For advice, or for more legal help, please contact your local MLSC office and request legal assistance.

Caution!--laws are different in different locations. The information here applies only in this jurisdiction. Do not use the information here for legal issues in other jurisdictions.