

Adoption Release¹ Checklist (Notice of Intent to Release Expected Child for Adoption)

Note that a release may *only* be given to the DHHS or a child placing agency.² See [MCL 710.28\(5\)](#). A parent/guardian may not release his/her parental rights to the court or third party. Refer to the Michigan Judicial Institute's [Consent to Adopt Checklist](#) if a parent wants to consent to a third party adoption.

Prior to the birth of a child out of wedlock, a mother may file an ex parte petition seeking a notice of intent to release an expected child. [MCL 710.34\(1\)](#).

Upon receipt of the ex parte petition, the court *must*

- Verify the petition and ensure that the petition included:
 - approximate date and location of child's conception,
 - expected date of the mother's confinement,
 - name of the alleged putative father(s), and
 - request for the court to inform the putative father(s) of right to notice of intent to claim paternity before the birth of the child. [MCL 710.34\(1\)](#).
- Issue a notice of intent to release that must be served on the putative father with a proof of service filed with the court verifying the putative father received the notice.³ [MCL 710.34\(1\)](#); [MCR 3.802\(A\)\(1\)](#).

For court forms related to adoption proceedings, see the One Court of Justice [website](#).

¹ *Release* is "a document in which all parental rights over a specific child are voluntarily relinquished to the department or to a child placing agency." [MCL 710.22\(u\)](#).

² For a detailed discussion on Freeing a Child for Adoption, see the Michigan Judicial Institute's [Adoption Proceedings Benchbook](#), Chapter 2.

³ If the putative father is served with a notice and does not respond, he is not entitled to receive further notice of hearings involving the child. [MCL 710.34\(2\)\(d\)](#).

