Second-Parent Adoption in the U.S.

This map has required no update since: November 4, 2008

A second parent adoption is a legal procedure that allows a same-sex parent to adopt his or her partner's biological or adoptive child without terminating the legal rights of the first parent. States must honor second-parent adoptions judgments from other states.*


1 CAL. FAM. CODE § 9000(f) (2004) (registered domestic partners only); Sharon S. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, 73 P.3d 554 (Ca. 2003) (state's adoption law extends to same-sex couples not registered as domestic partners).


4 In re Adoption of Luke, 640 N.W.2d 374 (Neb. 2002); In re Adoption of Doe, 719 N.E.2d 1071 (Ohio Ct. App. 1998); Interest of Angel Lace M., 516 N.W.2d 678 (Wis. 1994).

# Adoptions restrictions in Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi and Utah have the effect of also prohibiting second-parent adoptions.