ADOPTION CHECKLIST

The necessary paperwork will vary depending on the type of adoption. It is always recommended to consult with an attorney.

Forms and resources can be accessed at the Lake County Law Library or Illinois Legal Aid Online (https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/form-library/536571/forms).

The following is a list of documents you <u>may</u> need (this list is not exhaustive):

☐ Does the Indian Child Welfare Act apply

☐ Verified Petition (required in all cases)
  - Include all parties to the adoption in the caption of your petition. For example, petitioners, child to be adopted, and biological parent.
  - Your petition must allege the proper reasons as to why the court should grant adoption (i.e., biological parent is unfit and abandoned the child).

☐ Biological mother's affidavit of identification of the biological father

☐ Putative father registry search: www.putativefather.org
  - The court may need to see a copy of the Birth Certificate, Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity, or a previous court order for proof of parentage.

☐ Military affidavit

☐ At least one of the following for each biological parent who is not a petitioner:
  - **Location of parent known:** Summons and Affidavit of Service (parties must receive the petition, summons, and notice from a Sheriff's Deputy or licensed process server).
  - **Parent willing to surrender rights**: Irrevocable voluntary surrender of parental rights (to be signed in court)
  - **Rights were already terminated:** Termination of parental rights court order
  - **Parent is deceased**: Death Certificate
  - **Location of parent is unknown**: Affidavit of due diligence to locate biological parent and request to serve notice via alternative means including publication.

☐ If minor is age 14 or older**:** Consent to adoption (to be signed in court)

☐ Affidavit of Costs (**unrelated adoptions only**)

☐ Judgment for Adoption (this will need to be prepared prior to the adoption being finalized and brought to the final hearing).

Note: A Guardian Ad Litem will be appointed, and they will file their necessary paperwork. There will be fees owed to the Guardian Ad Litem assigned to your case. Agencies will also file their necessary paperwork in agency adoptions.