

**Regulation 55:** Guidelines for Adoption by Step-Parent

(1) The couple (step-parent and one of the biological parents) shall register on the CARINGS with the required documents as specified in the Schedule VI.

(2) Consent of the biological parents and the step-parent adopting the child or children shall be as provided in the Schedule XX.

(3) In case the custody of the child is under litigation, the adoption process shall be initiated only after the finalisation of the case by the court concerned.

(4) The step-parent or the couple shall receive due verification by the District Child Protection Unit.

(5) The State Adoption Resource Agency shall further refer the case to the Authority for necessary approval following which pre-approval certificate shall be issued by the State Adoption Resource Agency as provided in the Schedule XXV.

(6) If the prospective adoptive parents have a foreign passport, the case shall be referred to the Authority for expert advice.

(7) The biological parent and the step-parent shall file an application with the District Magistrate of the district through the District Child Protection Unit where the child is habitually residing, as per format provided in the Schedule XXXII, after due verification from the District Child Protection Unit and approval by State Adoption Resource Agency.

(8) The District Child Protection Unit shall obtain a certified copy of the adoption order from the District Magistrate concerned and furnish a copy of the same online to the Authority and the adoptive parents through the CARINGS Portal.

(9) In case of inter-country adoption by step parent, the process has to be followed as outlined in Intercountry relative adoption and requisite consent form has to be signed before the Child Welfare Committee as provided in the Schedule XX and further Family Background Report has to be completed as provided in the Schedule XXI.