

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

ADOPTION STANDING ORDER

At the time of filing a Petition for Adoption with the Clerk of Superior Court, the Petitioner(s) is (are) responsible for providing a copy of the Petition for Adoption to the staff of the assigned Judge, including a blank Rule Nisi for the Judge's signature.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-8-16, each Petitioner in any agency (O.C.G.A. § 19-8-4), third party (O.C.G.A. § 19-8-5), stepparent (O.C.G.A. § 19-8-6), or relative (O.C.G.A. § 19-8-7) adoption shall submit to and complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check by both the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and shall cause the results to be submitted electronically to the assigned Judge's office. However, in the event a Petitioner for third-party adoption under O.C.G.A. § 19-8-5 has submitted to criminal background checks within the 12 months immediately preceding the filing of the Petition for the purpose of completing the home study, and whose results have been included in the home study report, and which home study report has been made available to the Court, that Petitioner shall not be required to submit to a new background check.

In each case in which a new fingerprint-based background check is required, the background check shall be conducted as provided by law at a Georgia Applicant Processing Service (GAPS) location. Each Petitioner or their attorney should follow the instructions listed at www.cherokeecountyga.gov/Court-Administrators-Office/Adoption.

Upon receipt of the results of a background check, the Judge will review the results *in camera* and the Judge WILL NOT file a copy of the results upon the case record.

In Petitions for the domestication of foreign adoption decrees (O.C.G.A. § 19-8-8) and in adult adoptions (O.C.G.A. § 19-8-21), no background check shall be required.

All inspections, investigations, home studies, evaluations, background checks, and verifications of the allegations contained in any Petition for Adoption shall comply with the provisions of Title 19, Chapter 8, of the Official Code of Georgia.

SO ORDERED, this 4th day of February, 2025.



David L. Cannon, Jr., Chief Judge
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit



M. Anthony Baker, Judge
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

Shannon Wallace

Shannon Wallace, Judge
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

Jennifer L. Davis

Jennifer L. Davis, Judge
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit