

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS  
APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**STANDING ORDER**

**IN RE: PETITIONS FOR ADOPTION**

At the time of filing a Petition for Adoption with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Petitioner is responsible for providing a copy of the Petition for Adoption to the Judicial Law Clerk along with a blank Rule Nisi. If Petitioner seeks to waive the home investigation, a Motion to Waive Home Investigation with Order must accompany the Petition.

Pursuant to OCGA Section 19-8-16, Petitioners in stepparent, relative, and third party adoption cases shall complete a National Crime Investigation (NCIC) and Georgia Crime Investigation (GCIC) fingerprint search. The attached Order for Criminal Background Search (Exhibit "A") shall be completed by the assigned judge, filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court, with a copy provided to the Petitioner. The Petitioner is responsible for taking a copy to the Sheriff's office at the time he or she requests the criminal background search. Said search shall be performed by the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff is directed to use all available resources to perform a thorough and sifting background search. Pursuant to PL 92-544 and OCGA Section 19-8-16, the results of said search and any derogatory finding, including, but not limited to, any conviction data, shall be transmitted directly to the Superior Court Judge who ordered the search. The Judge's office will file the original results and distribute a copy to the investigating agent, if any, and the attorney for Petitioner.

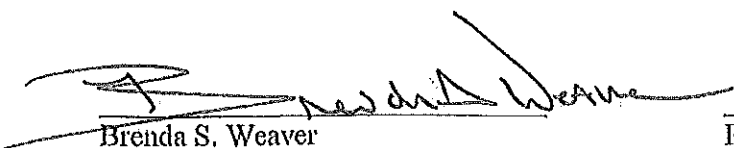
In stepparent adoptions (OCGA Section 19-8-6) and relative adoptions (OCGA Section 19-8-7), the Court will review the criminal background search results. At the Court's discretion, a home evaluation will be ordered or waived.

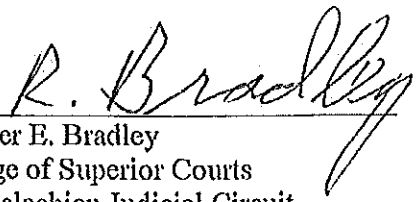
In agency adoptions (OCGA Section 19-8-4) and in the domestication of foreign adoption decrees (OCGA Section 19-8-8), the Petitioner shall submit to a criminal background check unless he or she files an Affidavit of an authorized agent of the child placing agency which attests to the date the criminal background search was completed, the type of search conducted, and the results of the same. Additional home studies are waived unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The Court reserves the right to request a copy of the criminal background check.

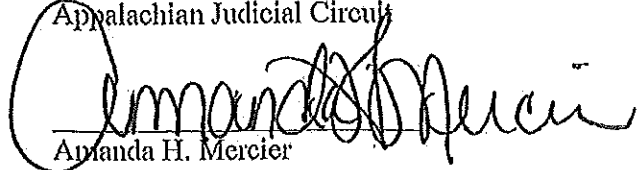
In third party adoptions (OCGA Section 19-8-5), a home evaluation shall be ordered by this Court in addition to the criminal background search.

No criminal background search or home evaluation shall be required for adult adoptions (OCGA Section 19-8-21) unless otherwise ordered by this Court.

So ORDERED, this 19 day of May, 2011.

  
Brenda S. Weaver  
Chief Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

  
Roger E. Bradley  
Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

  
Amanda H. Mercier  
Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

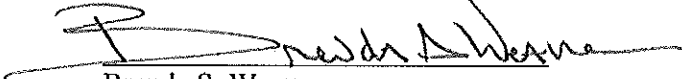
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Petition of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
For the Adoption of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
a minor child. )  
 )  
 ) Case Number \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )

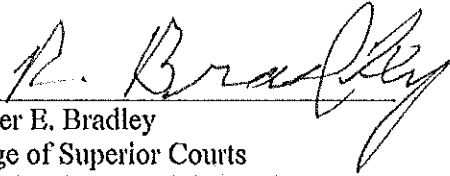
**ORDER FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SEARCH**  
**OF ADOPTION PETITIONERS**

The above-styled case came before this Court as a Petition for \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption. Pursuant to the *Standing Order Re: Petitions for Adoption* and OCGA Section 19-8-16, the Sheriff's office shall use all available resources to conduct a **fingerprint** National Crime Investigation Center (NCIC) and Georgia Crime Investigation Center (GCIC) search on Petitioner(s) and return any derogatory finding, including, but not limited to, conviction data, directly to Superior Court Judge \_\_\_\_\_. Petitioners shall take a copy of this Order to the Sheriff's office to expedite the background search.

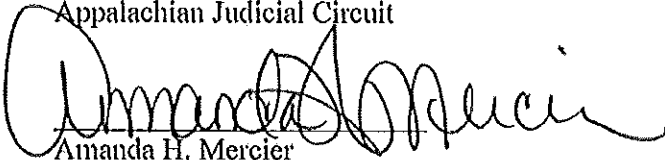
So ORDERED, this 19 day of May, 2011.



Brenda S. Weaver  
Chief Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Roger E. Bradley  
Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



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