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# Applying for the adoption of an adult

Heruntergeladen am 22.07.2025

<https://fimportal.de/xzufi-services/109387807/L100041>

Modul	Sachverhalt
Leistungsschlüssel	99013010170000
Leistungsbezeichnung I	Applying for the adoption of an adult
Leistungsbezeichnung II	Applying for the adoption of an adult
Typisierung	2/3 - Bund: Regelung (2 oder 3), Land/Kommune: Vollzug
Quellredaktion	Brandenburg
Freigabestatus Katalog	unbestimmter Freigabestatus
Freigabestatus Bibliothek	fachlich freigegeben (gold)
Begriffe im Kontext	
Leistungstyp	Leistungsobjekt mit Verrichtung
Leistungsgruppierung	Adoption (013)
Verrichtungskennung	Aussprache (170)
SDG-Informationsbereich	Geburt, Sorgerecht für Minderjährige, elterliche Pflichten, Vorschriften für Leihmutterschaft und Adoption, einschließlich Stiefkindadoption, Unterhaltspflichten für Kinder bei

Modul	Sachverhalt
	grenzüberschreitenden familiären Gegebenheiten
Lagen Portalverbund	Adoption und Pflegekinder (1020100)
Einheitlicher Ansprechpartner	Nein
Fachlich freigegeben am	06.07.2022
Fachlich freigegeben durch	Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ)
Handlungsgrundlage	<a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/famfg/BJNR25870008.html#BJNR258700008BJNG002600000">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/famfg/BJNR25870008.html#BJNR258700008BJNG002600000</a> <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bgb/BJNR001950896.html#BJNR001950896BJNG016103377">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bgb/BJNR001950896.html#BJNR001950896BJNG016103377</a>
Teaser	If you want to adopt a person who is of age, you and the person to be adopted can apply for this at the family court.
Volltext	<p>You can adopt a person of full age as a child if you wish to establish a parent-child relationship with the person and this is morally justified. This is assumed in particular if a parent-child relationship already exists between you as the adopter and the adult person; for example, in the case of a stepchild or foster child. If such a relationship does not yet exist, there must be such a strong emotional bond that a relationship similar to the parent-child relationship can be expected. In addition, the adoption must appear morally justified in view of the purpose pursued by it. This means that the adoption request must not violate a moral prohibition and/or must not exclusively pursue a material purpose, such as avoiding inheritance tax or establishing a right of residence.</p> <p>In order to be able to adopt the adult person as a family member, you and the person concerned must file an application with the family court.</p> <p>The adult adoption is basically an adoption with weak effect. This means that the adopted adult's family relationship with his or her biological family is not cancelled, only the newly created relationship with the adopters is added.</p>

## Modul

## Sachverhalt

Under certain conditions and upon application, an adoption with more far-reaching legal consequences, as they apply to the adoption of minors, is also possible. This is then also referred to as a "full adoption" or adoption with "strong effect". This would result in an almost complete legal integration of the adult into your family. This means that the relationship and thus, among other things, all inheritance and maintenance obligations to the natural parents are cancelled. In the case of a stepchild adoption, this does not apply to the continuing relationship to the remaining parent.

## Erforderliche Unterlagen

- notarized application of the adopting person and the person of full age; the applications must not be bound by any condition or time provision
- if the adopter is married or in a civil partnership, a notarized declaration of consent by the spouse or civil partner
- if necessary, the family court will request other necessary documents; for example, proof of civil status (such as birth or marriage certificates)

## Voraussetzungen

- You may adopt an adult person as a child if the adoption is morally justified. In other words, the adoption request is based on an existing parent-child relationship or a comparably strong inner bond and does not violate a moral prohibition and/or does not exclusively pursue a material purpose. This is the case, for example, if the person to be adopted has already lived in your family as a minor child.
- The adoption must not conflict with the overriding interests of third parties, for example your biological children.
- According to case law, there should generally be an age difference corresponding to a parent-child relationship (at least 15 years).
- The applications and any necessary consents (for example, of the spouses) must be in notarized form.

## Kosten

There are

- Notary fees
- Court costs
- If applicable, lawyer's fees

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	The respective amount depends on the individual case.
Verfahrensablauf	<p>You must submit the required documents and the applications (adopter and adoptee) in writing to the locally competent family court. You can also commission a notary public with the submission.</p> <p>The court will then check whether all the necessary requirements for an adoption have been met, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what the relationship is to the person to be adopted</li> <li>• whether the adoption is morally justified</li> <li>• whether the adopter has reached the minimum age required for an adoption (completion of the 21st or 25th year of life)</li> <li>• whether there is a sufficient age difference to the adopter</li> <li>• whether overriding interests of third parties oppose the adoption; for example, the natural children of the adopter or the adoptee or the parents of the adoptee.</li> </ul> <p>For this purpose, the court hears, among others, the parties involved and, if necessary, other persons. If the requirements for an adult adoption are met, the court pronounces the adoption of the adult by means of an order.</p>
Bearbeitungsdauer	<p>4 - 12 Monat(e)</p> <p>There is no legally prescribed duration of the procedure. It depends on the complexity of the individual case and the completeness and accuracy of all documents. On average, proceedings take between 4 and 12 months.</p>
Frist	There is no deadline.
weiterführende Informationen	<a href="https://www.notar.de/">https://www.notar.de/</a>
Hinweise	
Rechtsbehelf	There is a possibility to file a complaint.
Kurztext	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of an adult pronounciation</li> <li>• Notarized applications by adopter and adoptee</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption morally justified, especially given in the case of an existing parent-child relationship (for example, foster child/stepchild)</li> <li>• Responsible: Family court at the local district court</li> </ul>
Ansprechpunkt	
Zuständige Stelle	
Formulare	<p>Forms available: No Written form required: Yes</p> <p>Informal application possible: No Personal appearance required: No, not with regard to filing with the court, but for notarization of the application before the notary public (most personal application).</p> <p>Online services available: No</p>
Ursprungsportal	Adoption eines Volljährigen beantragen, Applying for the adoption of an adult