OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION, ADOPTION SERVICES

Consent Hearing Requirements (MCL 710.43)

The birth parents are consenting to the adoption of their child by the adoptive parent(s)in a direct placement adoption. They are making the placement. For that reason an adoption petition must be on file before the consent can be heard. The consents, like releases, must be signed in the presence of a hearing officer. The referees hear consents daily.

If there are two legal parents for the child, they must both consent to the adoption.

A consent hearing will be scheduled as soon as possible, but may be delayed if the court has not received the complete birth family history. (MCL 710.27) The agency and or attorney will be informed of the consent hearing date and time.

The following forms are required:

1. *Consent to Adoption by Parent* (PCA 308) for each parent consenting
2. *Statement to Accompany Consent in Direct Adoption* (PCA 339)
3. *Parent's or Guardian's Verified Accounting for Adoption Release or Direct Placement Consent* (PCA 348)
4. *Order Terminating Parental Rights After Release or Consent* (PCA 318)
5. *Order Placing Child after Consent* (PCA 320)

The birth father's parental rights must be considered prior to, and in conjunction with, the termination of the birth mother's rights. (MCL 710.31(3))

At the hearing, each party consenting will receive the *Advice of Rights* (PCA 323) as well as a list of support groups and the information regarding adoption records.

After the judge has signed the orders, the Court will send a copy of the *Order Terminating Rights* (PCA 312) or (PCA 318) to each parent whose rights have been terminated. The supervising agency will receive a copy of the *Order Placing Child* (PCA 320), directing them to provide supervision reports to the court. The attorneys will receive a copy of both orders.