

STATE OF MAINE

PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF

Cumberland

Portland
Location of Court

DOCKET NO. _____

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition of:

(Name of Adoptee)

NOTICE TO PUTATIVE
FATHER PENDING
ADOPTION¹

This notice is directed to _____
_____ (putative father's name and address) that _____
_____ (name of birth mother) wishes to consent to the adoption of her child named
_____ who was born on _____,
_____ or to execute a surrender and release of her rights to the child which will allow the child to be
adopted. She has named you as the father of said child. You have not consented to the adoption according
to the records of this Court. The adoption, consent or the surrender and release has been filed and is
pending in the Probate Court in _____ County.

IF YOU WISH TO ESTABLISH YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD, YOU MUST, WITHIN
20 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS NOTICE WAS SERVED, FILE A PETITION WITH THE JUDGE
OF THE PROBATE COURT IN _____ COUNTY REQUESTING THAT
THE JUDGE GRANT TO YOU PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD.

You must file your petition with the Court in _____
County Probate Court at _____ (address of Court)
and send a copy of the petition to the mother at _____
_____ (address of mother or her attorney)

**If you file a petition within 20 days you must include an allegation that you are in fact the birth
father of the child and the Judge will set a date for hearing to determine whether you shall have
parental rights to this child.**

**If you do not petition within 20 days, the Judge shall rule that you have no parental rights and that
only the birth mother of the child need consent to the adoption or execute a surrender and release.
Upon such a ruling, you lose all rights to prove that you are the child's father or that you have any
legal relationship with this child.**

IF YOU WANT AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU AND ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD ONE, THE COURT WILL APPOINT AND PAY FOR AN ATTORNEY FOR YOU. YOU MUST COME TO THIS COURT IN PERSON OR APPLY IN WRITING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY WITHIN 20 DAYS OF SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE. IF YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A LAWYER, THE COURT WILL EXTEND THE TIME IN WHICH YOU MUST PETITION TO ESTABLISH YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS UNTIL YOUR ATTORNEY HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THIS CASE AND ADVISE YOU.

Dated: _____
Register of Probate

SERVICE BY SHERIFF

STATE OF MAINE

_____, SS.

I, _____ (deputy sheriff), served a copy of
this notice on _____ (putative father)
by giving him a copy of this notice in hand on _____
_____ at _____

Dated: _____
Deputy Sheriff

¹ 18-A MRSA § 9-201(b)