

**259.23 JUVENILE COURT, JURISDICTION.**

Subdivision 1. **Venue.** (a) Except as provided in section 260C.101, subdivision 2, the juvenile court shall have original jurisdiction in all adoption proceedings. The proper venue for an adoption proceeding shall be the county of the petitioner's residence, except as provided in paragraph (b).

(b) Venue for the adoption of a child committed to the guardianship of the commissioner of human services shall be the county with jurisdiction in the matter according to section 260C.317, subdivision 3.

(c) Upon request of the petitioner, the court having jurisdiction over the matter under section 260C.317, subdivision 3, may transfer venue of an adoption proceeding involving a child under the guardianship of the commissioner to the county of the petitioner's residence upon determining that:

(1) the commissioner has given consent to the petitioner's adoption of the child or that consent is unreasonably withheld;

(2) there is no other adoption petition for the child that has been filed or is reasonably anticipated by the commissioner or the commissioner's delegate to be filed; and

(3) transfer of venue is in the best interests of the child.

Transfer of venue under this paragraph shall be according to the rules of adoption court procedure.

(d) In all other adoptions, if the petitioner has acquired a new residence in another county and requests a transfer of the adoption proceeding, the court in which an adoption is initiated may transfer the proceeding to the appropriate court in the new county of residence if the transfer is in the best interests of the person to be adopted. The court transfers the proceeding by ordering a continuance and by forwarding to the court administrator of the appropriate court a certified copy of all papers filed, together with an order of transfer. The transferring court also shall forward copies of the order of transfer to the commissioner of human services and any agency participating in the proceedings. The judge of the receiving court shall accept the order of the transfer and any other documents transmitted and hear the case; provided, however, the receiving court may in its discretion require the filing of a new petition prior to the hearing.

Subd. 2. **Contents of petition.** The petition shall be signed by the petitioner and, if married, by the spouse. It shall be verified, and filed in duplicate. The petition shall allege:

(a) the full name, age and place of residence of petitioner, and if married, the date and place of marriage;

(b) the date petitioner acquired physical custody of the child and from what person or agency;

(c) the date of birth of the person to be adopted, if known, and the state and county where born;

(d) the name of the child's parents, if known, and the guardian if there be one;

(e) the actual name of the person to be adopted, if known, and any known aliases;

(f) the name to be given the person to be adopted if a change of name is desired;

(g) the description and value of any real or personal property owned by the person to be adopted;

(h) that the petitioner desires that the relationship of parent and child be established between petitioner and the person to be adopted and that adoption is in the best interests of the person to be adopted by the petitioner.

In agency placements, the information required in clauses (d) and (e) shall not be required to be alleged in the petition but shall be transmitted to the court by the commissioner of human services or the agency.

Subd. 3. **Court rules.** The provisions of subdivision 2 shall be subject to rules of the court made pursuant to section 480.051.

**History:** 1951 c 508 s 3; 1959 c 685 s 45; 1965 c 558 s 1; 1967 c 45 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82; 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2; 2005 c 159 art 2 s 3,4; 2008 c 361 art 6 s 4