

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PROBATE COURT

PROCEDURE BULLETIN 24

RELATIVE TO: Readoption under 170-B:27

This procedure bulletin is prepared for informational purposes in processing case files. It is not intended to provide parties with legal advice.

Current law specifies that “the court may validate and issue an adoption decree for an adoption finalized in another jurisdiction, provided that evidence satisfactory to the court is produced to demonstrate the validity of such adoption.” The probate courts have traditionally handled such international adoptions using a procedure similar to other adoptions filed in the probate courts. This new procedure will simplify the process overall.

The following procedure shall be used in processing international adoptions covered by RSA 170-B:27 and Probate Court Rule 91:

1. The petitioner must file a petition for validation of adoption finalized in a foreign country (Form NHJB-2191-P), along with one of the documents indicated on the petition to validate the adoption completed in another country. In each case, a certified or attested* copy should be accepted where a United States notary has signed, dated and stamped a copy of the document and declared it to be a true copy of the original.

The options are as follows:

- a. An attested or certified* copy of the adoptee’s certificate of citizenship issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
- b. An attested or certified* copy of the adoptee’s alien registration card indicating IR-3 status; (may apply if the child entered the country prior to January 22, 2004),
- c. An attested or certified* copy of the adoptee’s passport issued in his/her country of birth, with the U.S. Visa stamp affixed indicating IR-3 status, or,
- d. An attested or certified* copy of the adoptee’s certificate of adoption indicating a full and final adoption from his or her country of birth with a U.S. Visa stamp affixed indicating IR-4 status.

