



## **To Establish Relationship Rights with a Minor Child**

If you or your Life Partner is the biological or legal parent of a minor child, the following legal documents and court proceedings can help establish the legal rights of the Life Partner concerning the child. Please note that these are filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, not the Register of Wills & Clerk of the Orphans' Court.

1. **Second-Parent Adoption:** This process enables a non-biological or legal parent to establish parental rights legally. A court order is required to finalize a second-parent adoption.
2. **Co-Parenting Agreement:** In the absence of a second-parent adoption, you may document the rights and responsibilities of each parent through a Co-Parenting Agreement. However, please note that such agreements are not court-ordered, and pursuing second-parent adoption is recommended for enhanced legal security.
3. **Medical Consent Authorization:** This document authorizes you or your Life Partner to make necessary medical or mental health decisions for the child when the biological or legal parent is unavailable.

Given the complexity of these legal processes, it is advisable to seek the assistance of an attorney. Numerous private attorneys specialize in these areas of law and many offer services on a sliding fee scale based on income.

### **For assistance in finding a qualified attorney, please contact:**

The Philadelphia Bar Association  
1101 Market Street, 10th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: (215) 238-6300

### **For questions regarding Family Court filings, please contact:**

Philadelphia Family Court  
1501 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102 Phone  
Number: (215) 686-3800