

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADOPTION ATTORNEYS AND/OR AMERICAN  
ACADEMY OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ATTORNEYS  
APPLICATION FOR REGULAR MEMBERSHIP  
(INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL)**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and/or the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (collectively referred to as the “Academy”). Membership is available by invitation to attorneys licensed to practice within a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory of the United States, or a province of Canada, or otherwise authorized to practice law in any other nation, who meet certain requirements as described in the Academy Bylaws.

Benefits of membership include the following:

- Ability to cross-refer cases throughout the United States and abroad to qualified adoption and/or assisted reproductive technology (“ART”) practitioners;
- Network via referrals and interactions with other practitioners in the field;
- Ability to attend and present at “state of the art” CLE conferences and webinars;
- Access to on-line Membership Directory to locate other adoption and ART practitioners;
- Availability to the public and to adoption and/or ART agencies who look on-line for adoption and/or ART attorneys;
- Enhanced website presence via Academy Directory that links the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the American Academy of Assisted Reproduction Technology Attorneys websites;
- Ability to cross-link your own website to the on-line Academy Directories;
- Confidence that the practitioners listed are sufficiently qualified in other states and countries to handle adoption and/or ART matters;
- Coordination of legislative and public education efforts;
- Coordination of legal research;
- Notification via the listserv of recent developments and case decisions;
- Ability to call upon the amicus committee for the Academy to take a position in cases on appeal;
- Support and re-enforcement of ethical practices;
- Built in body of adoption and ART “advisors” via the listserv and at comprehensive and substantive conferences;
- Enhanced exposure of your practice through Academy outreach, marketing, and public relations; and
- Growth of your practice through Academy networking

The Academy Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1 and Section 4, set forth the requirements for membership in AAAA and AAARTA:

**Section 1. Regular AAAA Membership.**

(a) Membership in AAAA shall be open to attorneys licensed to practice within a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory of the United States, or a province of Canada, or otherwise authorized to practice law in any other nation, and who are proficient in the English language. Criteria for membership in AAAA shall include, but not be limited to, the requirements that:

(1) the attorney and the attorney's law practice are reputed to be, and continue to be, of the highest standards of ethics, competence, and professionalism;

(2) the attorney complies with the Code of Ethics, Grievance Procedures, and these Bylaws;

(3) the attorney has acted as counsel in at least fifty (50) adoption proceedings, twenty (20) of which must have been within the two (2) year period immediately preceding the application for membership, and (i) ten (10) of which must have involved interstate compact placements, or (ii) for attorneys not licensed to practice within a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, ten (10) international placements with a United States component; however, if the attorney has not acted as counsel in the requisite number of interstate compact placements or international placements, but he or she has achieved special competence in, or made significant contributions to, the advancement of adoption law or procedure, he or she may be invited to admission by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the Board of Trustees;

(4) the attorney has engaged in the practice of law for at least five (5) years; and

(5) the attorney is recommended for admission into AAAA by a member of the Academy whose practice encompasses adoption law and who has personal knowledge of the attorney's practice and qualifications. Invitation to membership in AAAA shall be within the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 4. Regular AAARTA Membership.**

(a) Membership in AAARTA shall be open to attorneys licensed to practice within a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory of the United States or a province of Canada and to attorneys who are proficient in the English language and licensed or otherwise authorized to practice law in any other nation. Criteria for membership in addition to the requirements in Sections 1(a)(1) and (2) of this Article, shall include, but not be limited to, the requirements that:

(1) the attorney has acted as counsel in at least fifty (50) diverse assisted reproductive technology matters. An "assisted reproductive technology matter" is defined as working with a unique set of clients to draft or negotiate an assisted reproductive technology agreement (including a donor or surrogacy agreement) or acted as counsel in litigation (including establishment of parentage, adoption, or birth certificate amendment proceedings ), or both, involving surrogacy, ovum, sperm, or embryo donation. However, if the attorney has not acted as counsel in the requisite number of diverse assisted reproductive technology matters as set forth above, he or she may be invited to admission by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the Board of Trustees, if the attorney has achieved

special competence in, or has made significant contributions to, the advancement of the field of assisted reproductive law or procedure;

(2) the attorney has engaged in the practice of law for at least five (5) years; and

(3) the attorney is recommended for admission into AAARTA by a member of the Academy whose practice encompasses assisted reproductive technology and who has personal knowledge of the attorney's practice and qualifications. Invitation to membership in AAARTA shall be within the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees.

The Academy President and the Board of Trustees have authorized this application process for membership in the Academy. Please complete the application carefully, including the requisite grid, and follow the directions to assure prompt handling of your application. While the application at first glance may appear cumbersome, it is relatively straight-forward and user-friendly.

**IMPORTANT: Please read the Academy Code of Ethics provided with this application prior to applying to the Academy. You must be in compliance with the Code and agree to remain in compliance.**

Please complete and submit the following to Jennie Sullivan, Academy Executive Administrator, 859 Riverside Drive, #11, Greenwood, IN 46142:

- a. Application form (**remember to sign it**) with your signed releases and named references along with any accompanying materials.
- b. Your **Non-Refundable** application fee of \$150.00 payable to “American Academy of Adoption Attorneys.” Also note that if you are offered membership, the \$750.00 annual dues must be paid in order for you to become an Academy Fellow.
- c. Copies of the following documents used in your legal practice:
  - i. Any attorney advertisements or brochures you disseminate related to your adoption and/or ART practice; and
  - ii. Any fees and expenses materials, including fee agreements, employment contracts or agency fee materials, if your fees are included, related to your adoption and/or ART practice.
- d. Your completed case grid form(s) as follows:
  - i. If you are applying to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys please verify that you have completed at least fifty (50) diverse adoption matters. Of those fifty proceedings, ten (10) must have involved interstate compact placements, or for attorneys not licensed to practice within a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, ten (10) must have involved international placements with a United States component. You may not use the same client(s) for more than one row. You should put the month and year for each concluded proceeding in the appropriate block for each matter, filling in only one date per row for all fifty rows. To ensure client confidentiality, you **should not** list clients by their names or their initials in the grid.

*OR*

If you have not acted as counsel in the requisite number of interstate compact placements or international placements, then on a separate sheet of paper set out how you have achieved special competence in, or have made significant contributions to the advancement of the field of adoption law or procedure.

- ii. If you are applying to the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys please verify that you have completed at least fifty (50) diverse ART matters. You may not use the same client(s) for more than one row. You should put the month and year for each concluded proceeding in the appropriate block for each matter, filling in only one date per row for all fifty rows. To ensure client confidentiality, you **should not** list clients by their names or their initials in the grid.

*OR*

If you have not acted as counsel in the requisite number of diverse assisted reproductive technology matters, then on a separate sheet of paper set out how you have achieved special competence in, or have made significant contributions to the advancement of the field of assisted reproductive technology law or procedure.

If you have any questions about applying or need clarification, please contact:

Academy Executive Administrator

Jennie Sullivan

[admin@adoptionART.org](mailto:admin@adoptionART.org)

317-407- 8422

If you want to know the status of your application, or have other questions about your application, please contact:

Adoption Membership Chair

Greg Franklin

[gfranklin@afylaw.com](mailto:gfranklin@afylaw.com)

585-442-0540

ART Membership Chair

Meryl Rosenberg

[membership@aaarta.org](mailto:membership@aaarta.org)

301-217-0074

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**Part I: General Information (To be completed by all applicants):**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Attorneys: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

5. E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Website URL (e.g., www.babiesareus.com): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Your Firm's Practice Areas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Your Practice Areas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. State(s) and Date(s) of Bar Admission(s) \_\_\_\_\_

State Bar Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Total Years in Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Handling Adoptions (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Years Handling ART Matters (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

11. Previous or concurrent occupation(s) separate from law practice (including dates):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Colleges and Universities attended:

Degrees/Dates:

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13. Honors:

14. Publications:

15. Professional/Civic Organizations:

16. Hobbies/Interests/Volunteer Experience:

17. Have you previously applied for membership in the Academy (either AAAA or AAARTA)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, year and outcome of application: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Are you currently an active AAAA Fellow? \_\_\_\_\_ AAARTA Fellow? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Have you ever been convicted of a crime, or do you now have any criminal charges pending against you? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case, by attachment, if necessary.

20. Have you ever been professionally disciplined, or do you now have pending any matter of professional discipline? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each matter, by attachment, if necessary.

21. Have you ever been sued for malpractice or professional negligence, including counterclaims? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide a detailed explanation of each case including jurisdiction, case number, date, nature of case, outcome or current status, along with any relevant documents.

22. Please give us a short narrative as to why you want to become a Fellow of the Academy.

**Part II: Adoption Information (To be completed by those applying to AAAA):**

23. What percentage of your practice is adoption? \_\_\_\_\_%

24. Total number of terminations of parental rights, relinquishments and/or adoptions (collectively “adoptions”) you have handled as an attorney (including as guardian ad litem): \_\_\_\_\_

- a. What percentage were:
- i. Domestic:
    - Independent (private non-agency) \_\_\_\_\_%
    - State Agency \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Private Agency \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Relative/Step-Parent \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Contested/Litigated \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - ii. International:
    - Independent \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Agency \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Contested/Litigated \_\_\_\_\_%
    - Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_%
- Total                      100%

b. What percentage were agency finalizations or international re-adoptions, only? \_\_\_\_\_%

- c. In what percentage did you represent:
- i. Birth parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - ii. Adoptive parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - iii. Governmental agency \_\_\_\_\_%
  - iv. Private licensed adoption agency \_\_\_\_\_%
  - v. Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - vi. Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_%

25. Number of adoptions in the past two years (Note that you need at least 20 total unless proceeding under special competence.):

Current Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Year: \_\_\_\_\_

26. In how many interstate or inter-country placements have you been involved where you were assisting in an adoption that involved the interstate compact application or a United States component (Note that you need at least 10 total unless proceeding under special competence.)? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Between which states/countries?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Identify any AAAA attorneys you worked with in the other states/countries.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Describe your involvement.

d. For interstate placements, how many required ICPC approval? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Number of international adoptions in the past 2 years and between which countries:

Total Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Current year: \_\_\_\_\_ Countries: \_\_\_\_\_

Re-finalization only: \_\_\_\_\_

Full adoption process: \_\_\_\_\_

Last year: \_\_\_\_\_ Countries: \_\_\_\_\_

Re-finalization only: \_\_\_\_\_

Full adoption process: \_\_\_\_\_

28. If you regularly represent (or handle adoptions involving) licensed adoption agencies, please provide the agency name, address, telephone number and name of a contact person for each such agency:

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29. If you regularly represent (or handle adoptions involving) facilitators (those who match birth parents and adoptive parents, but are not licensed as child placing agencies), please provide the facilitator's name, address, telephone number and name of a contact person for each such facilitator:

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30. Please provide names of all AAAA or AAARTA members (not already identified in item 26) with whom you have worked or consulted on any adoption related cases, with whom you may have given presentations, and/or who may be familiar with your work in adoption matters:

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31. Please list any Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit hours that you have attended in adoption, either sponsored by AAAA/AAARTA or another group. Also indicate if you have taught or given any presentations at any adoption conferences and, if so, then include your presentation outline with this application.

CLEs Attended

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE/CONFERENCE TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>#OF CLE CREDITS</u>

CLEs Presented

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE/CONFERENCE TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>#OF CLE CREDITS</u>

**Part III: ART Information (To be completed by those applying to AAARTA):**

32. What percentage of your practice is ART? \_\_\_\_\_%

33. Approximate total number of ART matters you have handled as an attorney:  
\_\_\_\_\_

- a. What estimated percentage were:
- i. Drafting ART Agreements \_\_\_\_\_%
  - ii. Negotiating or Revising ART Agreements \_\_\_\_\_%
  - iii. Obtaining Pre-Birth Orders \_\_\_\_\_%
  - iv. Obtaining Parentage Orders \_\_\_\_\_%
  - v. Handling Adoptions Relating to ART Matters \_\_\_\_\_%
  - vi. Other Birth Certificate Amendment Procedures \_\_\_\_\_%
  - vii. Contested ART Matters \_\_\_\_\_%
  - viii. Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_%
- Total 100%

- b. In what estimated percentage did you represent:
- i. Surrogate or Gestational Carrier \_\_\_\_\_%
  - ii. Intended Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - iii. Egg Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - iv. Sperm Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - v. Embryo Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - vi. Medical Clinics \_\_\_\_\_%
  - vii. Private Coordinating Programs \_\_\_\_\_%
  - viii. Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_%
- Total 100%

34. Number of ART matters in the past two years:

Current Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Year: \_\_\_\_\_

35. In approximately how many ART matters have you been involved in which you were working with conflict or coordination of law issues and attorneys in other states or countries? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Between which states/countries?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Identify any AAAA and AAARTA attorneys you worked with in the other states/countries.

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Describe your involvement.

36. Number of international ART matters in the past 2 years and between which countries:

Total Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Current year: \_\_\_\_\_ Countries: \_\_\_\_\_

Re-finalization only: \_\_\_\_\_

Full adoption process: \_\_\_\_\_

Last year: \_\_\_\_\_ Countries: \_\_\_\_\_

Re-finalization only: \_\_\_\_\_

Full adoption process: \_\_\_\_\_

37. If you regularly represent (or handle ART matters involving) surrogacy or egg donor programs, please provide the program name, address, telephone number and name of a contact person for each such program:

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38. If you regularly represent (or handle ART matters involving) any medical facilities or fertility clinics, please provide the clinic name, address, telephone number and name of a contact person for each such facility:

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39. Please provide names of all AAAA or AAARTA members (not already identified in item 35) with whom you have worked or consulted on any ART related cases, with whom you may have given presentations, and/or who may be familiar with your work in ART matters:

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40. Please list any Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit hours that you have attended in ART, either sponsored by AAAA/AAARTA or another group. Also indicate if you have taught or given any presentations at any ART conferences and, if so, then include your presentation outline with this application.

**CLEs Attended**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE/CONFERENCE TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>#OF CLE CREDITS</u>

**CLEs Presented**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE/CONFERENCE TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>#OF CLE CREDITS</u>

## REFERENCES

Provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers and **e-mail addresses** of at least five people who are familiar with your work in adoption and/or ART. These references may not include employees, clients (except for agencies), members of your firm or members of your family. Please include at least one current Academy Fellow whose practice encompasses adoption and/or ART, as appropriate, and who has personal knowledge of your practice and qualification. You also may include a judge or justice or adoption agency representative. Please ask each of your references to complete the Application Questionnaire and ask that they be returned directly to the appropriate Membership Chair listed at the beginning of this application. At least four questionnaires should be returned for your application to be complete.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (Academy Fellow)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide either a statement/letter from your state/country/province confirming active bar membership OR contact information for the same, and contact information for investigation of disciplinary actions.

Website, and email, if possible, of Organization Able to Confirm Bar Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_

Website, and email, if possible, of Organization for Investigation of Disciplinary Actions:

\_\_\_\_\_

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements in this application for membership are true, accurate and complete. I authorize any bar association, court, lawyer disciplinary organization, or law enforcement agency to disclose matters pertaining to me to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (the “Academy”) in connection with its investigation of my application for membership.

I hereby release, discharge and exonerate the Academy, its officers, directors, members, fellows, agents and representatives, and any and all persons or agencies furnishing information in connection with this application, from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing of such information, whether communicated orally or in writing. I further waive any claims which may arise with respect to such information or its disclosure. I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Academy from any and all liability arising from or in any way related to its investigation, processing and decision making with regard to any membership application I make, have made, or will make in the future to the Academy, including this application.

I understand and agree that membership in the Academy is by invitation only and that applying for membership does not necessarily mean that the Board of Trustees will extend an invitation to me. I understand and agree that invitations for membership are within the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees, and that its decision is final.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

I agree that I have read the Academy Code of Ethics that was provided with this application and I represent that, if admitted, I agree to comply with the Code of Ethics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADOPTION ATTORNEYS AND AMERICAN  
ACADEMY OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ATTORNEYS  
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

To all bar associations, lawyer regulatory entities, lawyers, law enforcement agencies, courts, court administrators, clerks of court, judges, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children compact administrators, licensed adoption agencies, social workers and any other individuals who have knowledge of information pertinent to my application for membership to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and/or the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (hereinafter "Academy"):

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT NAME), the undersigned, am making application for membership to the Academy, and in doing so, authorize and request the release of information and records to the Academy, and the attorney members of the Academy assigned to conduct the due diligence on my application. This information will be used for the purpose of determining my eligibility and qualification for membership.

This Authorization shall be valid for a period of one year after my execution of same. A copy of this Authorization shall be considered as effective as the original.

Please be aware that I completely waive whatever right I may have to obtain any information you provide to the Academy pertaining to my background, and suitability for membership.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_