



Statutory declaration—traditional Torres Strait Islander adoption

What is the statutory declaration?

The attached statutory declaration is to be signed by a family member to confirm a person was adopted under traditional Torres Strait Islander adoption by a Stolen Wages claimant who has passed away.

Traditional Torres Strait Islander adoption means the practice found in the Torres Strait of permanently transferring a child from one family to another, with the child usually remaining within the extended family and the child taking the name of the new family.

The statutory declaration is a legal document and it is an offence if a person intentionally makes a false statement when completing and signing it.

Why are there blank spaces in the statutory declaration?

The first two lines are for the family member to write in their FULL NAME and FULL ADDRESS.

Paragraph 1. — The family member is to write in the adopted person's FULL NAME.

Paragraph 2. — The family member is to write in the adopted person's FULL NAME again and the FULL NAME of the Claimant that has passed away and adopted the person.

Any changes to the statutory declaration (including white out), are required to be initialled by both the family member and the authorised witness.

Signing the statutory declaration

The family member must place their signature or mark where it says "*Signature of declarant/deponent*".

An authorised witness must be with the family member when they sign the statutory declaration. The authorised witness must sign their name, insert the date and give details of their position at the bottom of the statutory declaration. They must also initial any changes made to the statutory declaration.

Who is an authorised witness?

A Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations, a lawyer or solicitor are authorised witnesses.

Where do I send the statutory declaration?

Completed/signed statutory declarations must be sent to the Stolen Wages Information Centre.

Questions and the Stolen Wages Information Centre details

If you have any questions please contact the Stolen Wages Information Centre:

Phone: 1300 591 545 (9.00am - 5.00pm weekdays)

Email: stolenwages@au.gt.com

Fax: (07) 3222 0447

Address: PO Box 7200, CAIRNS QLD 4870.

Stolen wages: traditional Torres Strait Islander adoption

Statutory Declaration

Oaths Act 1867

QUEENSLAND
TO WIT

I, _____ [insert **your** full name here]
of _____ [insert **your** address here]
in the State of Queensland do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am the biological / adoptive [select one] parent / grand-parent / aunt / uncle / sister / brother
[select one] of _____ [insert **name** of adopted person].
2. I understand that _____ [insert **name** of adopted person] is the
Registered Representative in the Stolen Wages Class Action Settlement on behalf of the
deceased Claimant, _____ [insert **name** of deceased Claimant].
3. I confirm that the abovenamed Registered Representative was adopted under traditional Torres
Strait Islander cultural practice by the deceased Claimant.
4. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue
of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

.....
Signature of declarant/deponent

Taken and declared before me at _____ [insert **location** here]

this _____ day of _____ 2020 [insert **date** here]

.....
A Justice of the Peace/Commissioner of Declarations

NOTE: This form is to be completed by a family member of a Registered Representative adopted under traditional Torres Strait Islander cultural practice that is claiming for a deceased Claimant.

NOTE: Statutory declarations in Queensland

1. *Statutory declarations are written statements declaring that something is true and correct.*
2. *The statutory declaration must contain the truth. It is a criminal offence to make a false statutory declaration. If a statutory declaration is found to be untruthful, the person making the statutory declaration may be charged under the Criminal Code and be liable to penalties including imprisonment.*