

**SAMPLE OF ADOPTION CEREMONY for
*Bobby and Sara Smith***

I am _____, Clerk of Superior Court of _____ County, _____ Judicial District of North Carolina and today we are having a ceremony to celebrate the final Decree of Adoption for Bobby and Sara Smith.

Adoption is one of the happy things that a court gets to do. Adoption means that the court decrees that a child has become part of a new family. Adoption means that John and Jane Doe are the forever parents for Bobby and Sara. The adoption of these children was made final on January 2nd 2015.

Finalizing an adoption means that John and Jane filed legal papers in the courthouse. These legal papers said that John and Jane wanted to make Bobby and Sara part of their family.

John and Jane wanted to take on the responsibility of being the parents to Bobby and Sara, which is a very serious responsibility. It means that John and Jane promised the court that they would be the father and mother to these fine young children for the rest of their lives. John and Jane will make sure that they will have a place to live, food to eat, a church to belong to, and clothes to wear until they all grow up and are able to live on their own. By taking on the responsibility of being a parent to these children; John and Jane promises that they will make sure that they attend school as long as necessary, and they will teach them what they need to know in order to grow up into good citizens. As the old saying goes: "Train up a child in the way they should go; and when they are old, they will not depart from it."

Before these children moved into the Smith home, social workers made sure that John and Jane would be a good growing-up father and mother for them. They made sure that they had the support of their family and friends, some of whom are here with us today to share in this celebration. After the _____ County Department of Social

Services decided that they would make a good forever father and mother for Bobby and Sara, and after they completed a lot of paperwork, they moved into their home.

Once they moved into their forever home, the court said that there had to be a waiting period to give John and Jane a chance to think over this big, important step that they were taking. The court needed to be sure that John and Jane wanted to make the commitment of being parents to Bobby and Sara for the rest of their lives. By signing papers, John and Jane let the court know that they were ready to make the commitment of being the parents to these children, and so the court issued the final Decree of Adoption.

Being an adoptive family does not mean that parents and children will always get along with each other. Sometimes the child will be upset with the parents, and sometimes the parents will be upset with the child. But they will always love each other, unconditionally.

Being an adoptive family does not mean that Bobby and Sara have to stop caring about their birth family. But adoption does mean that John, Jane, Bobby and Sara will stay together as a family through good times and through bad times.

Congratulations to the “new” Doe family!