
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5118

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Carrell, Benton, Darneille, Bailey, Roach, and Honeyford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to original birth certificates after
2 adoption finalization; and amending RCW 26.33.345.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.33.345 and 1993 c 81 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department of social and health services, adoption
7 agencies, and independent adoption facilitators shall release the name
8 and location of the court where a relinquishment of parental rights or
9 finalization of an adoption took place to an adult adoptee, a birth
10 parent of an adult adoptee, an adoptive parent, a birth or adoptive
11 grandparent of an adult adoptee, or an adult sibling of an adult
12 adoptee, or the legal guardian of any of these.

13 (2) The department of health shall make available a noncertified
14 copy of the original birth certificate of a child to the child's birth
15 parents upon request.

16 (3) (~~For adoptions finalized after October 1, 1993,~~) Upon written
17 request, the department of health shall make available a noncertified
18 copy of the original birth certificate to (~~the adoptee after the~~

1 ~~adoptee's eighteenth birthday unless the birth parent has filed an~~
2 ~~affidavit of nondisclosure))~~ an adopted person eighteen years of age or
3 older.

4 (4) A birth parent may at any time complete a contact preference
5 form stating his or her preference about personal contact with the
6 adopted person, which, if available, must accompany a birth certificate
7 issued under subsection (3) of this section. The contact preference
8 form must include the following options:

9 (a) I would like to be contacted;

10 (b) I would like to be contacted only through a confidential
11 intermediary as described in RCW 26.33.343; and

12 (c) I prefer not to be contacted at this time and have also
13 completed the birth parent updated medical history form.

14 (5) Both a completed contact preference form and birth parent
15 updated medical history form are confidential and must be placed in a
16 secure file until a match with the adopted person's file is made. Once
17 a match is made, the forms must be placed in the adopted person's
18 sealed file.

19 (6) If the contact preference form is filed within six months of
20 the first time an adopted person requests a copy of his or her original
21 birth certificate as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the
22 department of health must forward the form to the address of the
23 adopted person. If applicable, the department of health must also
24 forward the birth parent updated medical history form to the address of
25 the adopted person.

26 (7) The department of health may charge a fee not to exceed twenty
27 dollars for providing a noncertified copy of a birth certificate to an
28 adoptee.

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