

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 594
95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families, February 11, 2010, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

3209S.02C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 193.125 and 193.255, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to adoption records.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 193.125 and 193.255, RSMo, are repealed and four
2 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 193.125, 193.128,
3 193.132, and 193.255, to read as follows:

193.125. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Debbi
2 Daniel Law".

3 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of this section, for each
4 adoption decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, the court shall
5 require the preparation of a certificate of decree of adoption on a form as
6 prescribed or approved by the state registrar. The certificate of decree of
7 adoption shall include such facts as are necessary to locate and identify the
8 certificate of birth of the person adopted, and shall provide information necessary
9 to establish a new certificate of birth of the person adopted and shall identify the
10 court and county of the adoption and be certified by the clerk of the court. The
11 state registrar shall file the original certificate of birth with the certificate of
12 decree of adoption and such file may be opened by the state registrar only upon
13 receipt of a certified copy of an order as decreed by the court of adoption **or in**
14 **accordance with section 193.128.**

15 3. No new certificate of birth shall be established following an adoption
16 by a stepparent if so requested by the adoptive parent or the adoptive stepparent
17 of the child.

18 4. Information necessary to prepare the report of adoption shall be
19 furnished by each petitioner for adoption or the petitioner's attorney. The social

20 welfare agency or any person having knowledge of the facts shall supply the court
21 with such additional information as may be necessary to complete the
22 report. The provision of such information shall be prerequisite to the issuance
23 of a final decree in the matter by the court.

24 5. Whenever an adoption decree is amended or annulled, the clerk of the
25 court shall prepare a report thereof, which shall include such facts as are
26 necessary to identify the original adoption report and the facts amended in the
27 adoption decree as shall be necessary to properly amend the birth record.

28 6. Not later than the fifteenth day of each calendar month or more
29 frequently as directed by the state registrar the clerk of the court shall forward
30 to the state registrar reports of decrees of adoption, annulment of adoption and
31 amendments of decrees of adoption which were entered in the preceding month,
32 together with such related reports as the state registrar shall require.

33 7. When the state registrar shall receive a report of adoption, annulment
34 of adoption, or amendment of a decree of adoption for a person born outside this
35 state, he or she shall forward such report to the state registrar in the state of
36 birth.

37 8. In a case of adoption in this state of a person not born in any state,
38 territory or possession of the United States or country not covered by interchange
39 agreements, the state registrar shall upon receipt of the certificate of decree of
40 adoption prepare a birth certificate in the name of the adopted person, as decreed
41 by the court. The state registrar shall file the certificate of the decree of
42 adoption, and such documents may be opened by the state registrar only by an
43 order of court. The birth certificate prepared under this subsection shall have the
44 same legal weight as evidence as a delayed or altered birth certificate as provided
45 in section 193.235.

46 9. The department, upon receipt of proof that a person has been adopted
47 by a Missouri resident pursuant to laws of countries other than the United
48 States, shall prepare a birth certificate in the name of the adopted person as
49 decreed by the court of such country. If such proof contains the surname of either
50 adoptive parent, the department of health and senior services shall prepare a
51 birth certificate as requested by the adoptive parents. Any subsequent change
52 of the name of the adopted person shall be made by a court of competent
53 jurisdiction. The proof of adoption required by the department shall include a
54 copy of the original birth certificate and adoption decree, an English translation
55 of such birth certificate and adoption decree, and a copy of the approval of the

56 immigration of the adopted person by the Immigration and Naturalization Service
57 of the United States government which shows the child lawfully entered the
58 United States. The authenticity of the translation of the birth certificate and
59 adoption decree required by this subsection shall be sworn to by the translator
60 in a notarized document. The state registrar shall file such documents received
61 by the department relating to such adoption and such documents may be opened
62 by the state registrar only by an order of a court. A birth certificate pursuant to
63 this subsection shall be issued upon request of one of the adoptive parents of such
64 adopted person or upon request of the adopted person if of legal age. The birth
65 certificate prepared pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall have the
66 same legal weight as evidence as a delayed or altered birth certificate as provided
67 in sections 193.005 to 193.325.

68 10. If no certificate of birth is on file for the person under twelve years of
69 age who has been adopted, a belated certificate of birth shall be filed with the
70 state registrar as provided in sections 193.005 to 193.325 before a new birth
71 record is to be established as result of adoption. A new certificate is to be
72 established on the basis of the adoption under this section and shall be prepared
73 on a certificate of live birth form.

74 11. If no certificate of birth has been filed for a person twelve years of age
75 or older who has been adopted, a new birth certificate is to be established under
76 this section upon receipt of proof of adoption as required by the department. A
77 new certificate shall be prepared in the name of the adopted person as decreed
78 by the court, registering adopted parents' names. The new certificate shall be
79 prepared on a delayed birth certificate form. The adoption decree is placed in a
80 sealed file and shall not be subject to inspection except upon an order of the
81 court.

**193.128. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an
2 adopted person, the adopted person's attorney, or the adopted person's
3 descendants, if the adopted person is deceased, may obtain a copy of
4 such adopted person's original certificate of birth from the state
5 registrar in accordance with this section.**

**6 2. In order for an adopted person to receive a copy of his or her
7 original certificate of birth, the adopted person shall:**

- 8 **(1) Be at least eighteen years of age;**
9 **(2) Have been born in this state;**
10 **(3) File a written application with and provide appropriate proof**

11 of identification to the state registrar; and

12 (4) If included with the copy of the original birth certificate,
13 agree in writing to abide by the birth parent's preference stated in the
14 contact preference form attached to the adopted person's original birth
15 certificate in accordance with section 193.132.

16 3. The state registrar may require a waiting period and impose
17 a fee for issuance of the uncertified copy under subsection 4 of this
18 section. The fees and waiting period imposed under this subsection
19 shall be identical to the fees and waiting period generally imposed on
20 persons seeking their own birth certificates.

21 4. Upon receipt of a written application and proof of
22 identification under subsection 2 of this section and fulfillment of the
23 requirements of subsection 3 of this section, the state registrar shall
24 issue an uncertified copy of the unaltered original birth certificate to
25 the applicant. The copy of the birth certificate shall have the following
26 statement printed on it: "for informational purposes only - not to be
27 used for establishing identity". If a contact preference and medical
28 history form has been completed and submitted to the state registrar
29 under section 193.132, the state registrar shall also provide such
30 information.

31 5. The provisions of subsections 1 to 4 of this section shall not
32 apply to adoptions instituted or completed prior to August 28, 2010,
33 except that a copy of a medical history form, which has had all
34 identifying information redacted, shall be issued to such adopted
35 person. For adoptions instituted or completed prior to August 28, 2010,
36 the state registrar shall follow the provisions of this subsection and
37 shall release the original certificate of birth only if the birth mother is
38 deceased. If the birth mother is not deceased, the state registrar shall,
39 within three months of application by the adopted person, make
40 reasonable efforts to contact the birth mother via telephone, personally
41 and confidentially, to obtain the birth mother's consent or denial to
42 release the original certificate of birth. The state registrar may work
43 in conjunction with child placing agencies or juvenile court personnel
44 to make the contact and to conduct the search. The state registrar may
45 charge actual costs to the adopted person for the cost of making such
46 search of the birth mother. If the state registrar has been unable to
47 contact the birth mother within three months, the state registrar shall

48 not release the certificate of birth. The adopted person may re-apply
49 for a copy of his or her original certificate of birth within one year
50 from the end of the three-month period during which the attempted
51 contact with the birth mother was previously made. The state registrar
52 shall not release the certificate of birth until the birth mother submits
53 a subsequent written consent for release.

54 6. The state registrar shall develop by rule the application form
55 required by this section and may adopt other rules for the
56 administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
57 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority
58 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with
59 and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable,
60 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536, are nonseverable and if
61 any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter
62 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul
63 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
64 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August
65 28, 2010, shall be invalid and void.

66 7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as violating the
67 provisions of section 453.121.

193.132. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

- 2 (1) "Adoptee", the person who is the subject of a birth certificate;
- 3 (2) "Birth parent", the person who is the biological parent of an
4 adoptee and who is named as the parent on the original birth
5 certificate of the adoptee;
- 6 (3) "Contact preference form", the form developed by the state
7 registrar under subsection 4 of this section;
- 8 (4) "Medical history form", the form developed by the state
9 registrar under subsection 3 of this section. At a minimum, such form
10 shall include medical history information regarding:
 - 11 (a) Congenital or genetic history;
 - 12 (b) Psychosocial history;
 - 13 (c) Chronic diseases;
 - 14 (d) Infectious diseases;
 - 15 (e) Allergies;
 - 16 (f) Pregnancy and birth history; and
 - 17 (g) Deaths of birth family members that may affect the medical

18 history.

19 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state registrar
20 shall develop and, upon request, provide each birth parent with a
21 contact preference form and a medical history form as described in this
22 section.

23 3. A birth parent may use a medical history form to describe his
24 or her medical history. A birth parent shall fill out a medical history
25 form if such birth parent also fills out a contact preference form.

26 4. The birth parent may state a preference regarding contact by
27 an adoptee on a contact preference form. The form shall contain the
28 following statements from which the birth parent may choose only one:

29 (1) "I would like to be contacted. I have completed this contact
30 preference form and a medical history form and am filing both forms
31 with the State Registrar.";

32 (2) "I would prefer to be contacted only through an intermediary.
33 I have completed this contact preference form and a medical history
34 form and am filing both with the State Registrar."; or

35 (3) "Do not contact me. I may change this preference by filling
36 out another contact preference form. I have completed this contact
37 preference form and a medical history form and am filing both with the
38 State Registrar."

39 5. Upon receipt of a completed contact preference form and a
40 medical history form, the state registrar shall attach the completed
41 forms to the original birth certificate of the adoptee. A completed
42 contact preference form and medical history form shall have the same
43 level of confidentiality as the original birth certificate.

44 6. The state registrar shall develop by rule the forms required by
45 this section and may adopt other rules for the administration of this
46 section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
47 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section
48 shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of
49 the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
50 section and chapter 536, are nonseverable and if any of the powers
51 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to
52 delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
53 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
54 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2010, shall

55 **be invalid and void.**

56 **7. Nothing in this section shall be construed as violating the**
57 **provisions of section 453.121.**

193.255. 1. The state registrar and other custodians of vital records
2 authorized by the state registrar to issue certified copies of vital records upon
3 receipt of application shall issue a certified copy of any vital record in his **or her**
4 custody or a part thereof to any applicant having a direct and tangible interest
5 in the vital record. Each copy issued shall show the date of registration, and
6 copies issued from records marked "Delayed" or "Amended" shall be similarly
7 marked and show the effective date. The documentary evidence used to establish
8 a delayed certificate shall be shown on all copies issued. All forms and
9 procedures used in the issuance of certified copies of vital records in the state
10 shall be provided or approved by the state registrar. **In accordance with**
11 **sections 193.128 and 193.132, the state registrar and other custodians**
12 **of vital records authorized by the state registrar to issue copies of vital**
13 **records shall issue an uncertified copy of an original birth certificate,**
14 **contact preference form, and medical history form to an adopted**
15 **person. The registrar may impose a minimal fee to the adopted person**
16 **for the costs of providing copies of the contact preference form and**
17 **medical history form.**

18 2. A certified copy of a vital record or any part thereof, issued in
19 accordance with subsection 1 of this section, shall be considered for all purposes
20 the same as the original and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated
21 therein, provided that the evidentiary value of a certificate or record filed more
22 than one year after the event, or a record which has been amended, shall be
23 determined by the judicial or administrative body or official before whom the
24 certificate is offered as evidence.

25 3. The federal agency responsible for national vital statistics may be
26 furnished such copies or data from the system of vital statistics as it may require
27 for national statistics, provided such federal agency share in the cost of collecting,
28 processing, and transmitting such data, and provided further that such data shall
29 not be used for other than statistical purposes by the federal agency unless so
30 authorized by the state registrar.

31 4. Federal, state, local and other public or private agencies may, upon
32 request, be furnished copies or data of any other vital statistics not obtainable
33 under subsection 1 of this section for statistical or administrative purposes upon

34 such terms or conditions as may be prescribed by regulation, provided that such
35 copies or data shall not be used for purposes other than those for which they were
36 requested unless so authorized by the state registrar.

37 5. The state registrar may, by agreement, transmit copies of records and
38 other reports required by sections 193.005 to 193.325 to offices of vital statistics
39 outside this state when such records or other reports relate to residents of those
40 jurisdictions or persons born in those jurisdictions. This agreement shall require
41 that the copies be used for statistical and administrative purposes only, and the
42 agreement shall further provide for the retention and disposition of such
43 copies. Copies received by the department from offices of vital statistics in other
44 states shall be handled in the same manner as prescribed in this section.

45 6. No person shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be
46 an original, certified copy, or copy of a vital record except as authorized herein
47 or by regulations adopted hereunder.

48 7. Upon application from either parent, or if both parents are deceased,
49 the sibling of the stillborn child, pursuant to subsection 7 of section 193.165, the
50 state registrar or other custodians of vital records shall issue to such applicant
51 a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. The certificate shall be based upon
52 the information available from the spontaneous fetal death report filed pursuant
53 to section 193.165. Any certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth issued shall
54 conspicuously include, in no smaller than twelve-point type, the statement "This
55 is not proof of a live birth.". No certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth shall be
56 issued to any person other than a parent, or if both parents are deceased, the
57 sibling of the stillborn child who files an application pursuant to section
58 193.165. The state registrar or other custodians of vital records are authorized
59 to charge a minimal fee to such applicant to cover the actual costs of providing
60 the certificate pursuant to this section.

61 8. Any parent, or if both parents are deceased, any sibling of the stillborn
62 child may file an application for a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth for a
63 birth that resulted in stillbirth prior to August 28, 2004.

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