

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1463  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/5/09

Short Title: Expand Access/Confidential Intermediaries.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 13, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ALLOWING ADULT BIOLOGICAL SIBLINGS OF ADULT ADOPTEES, ADULT BIOLOGICAL HALF SIBLINGS OF ADULT ADOPTEES, ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS OF DECEASED ADOPTEES, AND ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS OF DECEASED BIOLOGICAL PARENTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES UPON THE CONSENT OF THE PARTIES AND TO ALLOW AN AGENCY ACTING AS A CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY TO OBTAIN A COPY OF A DEATH CERTIFICATE OF THE PERSON WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE SEARCH AND DELIVER IT TO THE PERSON REQUESTING SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 48-1-101 reads as rewritten:

"§ 48-1-101. **Definitions.**

...

(5a) "Confidential intermediary" means a licensed adoption agency staff person who may act as a third party to facilitate ~~contact between an adult adoptee or the adult lineal descendant of a deceased adoptee and the biological parent.~~ the sharing of information authorized by G.S. 48-9-104.

...

(9a) "~~Lineal descendant of a deceased adoptee" means any person who descends from the direct line of the adoptee.~~

...."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 48-9-101 reads as rewritten:

"§ 48-9-101. ~~Certain terms~~ **Records defined.**

(a) For purposes of this Article, "records" means any petition, affidavit, consent or relinquishment, transcript or notes of testimony, deposition, power of attorney, report, decree, order, judgment, correspondence, document, invoice, receipt, certificate, or other printed, written, microfilmed or microfiched, video-taped or tape-recorded material or electronic data processing records regardless of physical form or characteristics pertaining to a proceeding for adoption under this Chapter.

(b) ~~Notwithstanding G.S. 48-1-101, for purposes of this Article, "adult" means an individual who has attained 21 years of age.~~

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 48-9-104 reads as rewritten:

"§ 48-9-104. ~~Release of identifying information.~~ **information; confidential intermediary services.**

(a) Except as provided in this section or in G.S. 48-9-109(2) or (3), no person or entity shall release from any records retained and sealed under this Article the name, address, or other



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1 information that reasonably could be expected to lead directly to the identity of an adoptee, an  
2 adoptive parent of an adoptee, an adoptee's parent at birth, or an individual who, but for the  
3 adoption, would be the adoptee's sibling or grandparent, except upon order of the court for  
4 cause pursuant to G.S. 48-9-105.

5 (b) ~~A child placing agency licensed by the Department or a county department of social  
6 services may agree to act as a confidential intermediary for a biological parent or adult adoptee  
7 or adult lineal descendant of a deceased adoptee, without appointment by the court pursuant to  
8 G.S. 48-9-105, in order to obtain and share nonidentifying birth family health information or  
9 facilitate contact or share identifying information with adult adoptees, adult lineal descendants  
10 of deceased adoptees, and biological parents with the written consent of all parties to the  
11 contact or the sharing of information. any of the following:~~

- 12 (1) A biological parent.
- 13 (2) An adult adoptee.
- 14 (3) An adult biological sibling of an adult adoptee.
- 15 (4) An adult biological half sibling of an adult adoptee.
- 16 (5) An adult family member of a deceased biological parent.
- 17 (6) An adult family member of a deceased adoptee.

18 An agency may act as a confidential intermediary without appointment by the court pursuant to  
19 G.S. 48-9-105, in order to obtain and share nonidentifying birth family health information or to  
20 facilitate contact or share identifying information with any person listed in subdivisions (1)  
21 through (6) of this subsection with the written consent of all parties to the contact or the sharing  
22 of information. Written consent of the biological parent is required if the biological parent is  
23 living at the time any party described in subdivisions (2) through (6) of this subsection seeks to  
24 contact or share identifying information with any other party described in subdivisions (2)  
25 through (6) of this subsection. Further, a child placing agency licensed by the Department or a  
26 county department of social services an agency may agree to act as a confidential intermediary  
27 for the adoptive parents of a minor adoptee, or the guardian of a minor adoptee without  
28 appointment by the court pursuant to G.S. 48-9-105, to obtain and share nonidentifying birth  
29 family health information. An agency providing confidential intermediary services shall contact  
30 individuals in a manner reasonably calculated to prevent incidental disclosure of confidential  
31 information. An agency that agrees to provide confidential intermediary services may charge a  
32 reasonable fee for doing so, which fee must be pursuant to written agreement signed by the  
33 individual to be charged. The Division shall establish guidelines for confidential intermediary  
34 services.

35 (c) For purposes of this section only, the term 'family member' means a spouse, child,  
36 stepchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, or grandchild.

37 (d) If in the provision of confidential intermediary services a child placing agency  
38 licensed by the Department or a county department of social services determines that the person  
39 who is the subject of the search is deceased, the agency may obtain a copy of the death  
40 certificate pursuant to G.S. 130A-93 and deliver it to the person who requested the services."

41 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 130A-93 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

42 "(c2) A child placing agency licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services  
43 or a county department of social services acting as a confidential intermediary in accordance  
44 with G.S. 48-9-104 shall be entitled upon request to a certified copy of a death certificate."

45 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009.