

## HB 2005 1287

### CONTACT PREFERENCE FORMS AND MEDICAL STATEMENTS FOR BIRTH PARENTS OF ADOPTED CHILDREN

#### SUMMARY

**Effective January 1, 2006, HB 1287 provides** birthparents the opportunity to express their preference regarding contact (direct, via a third party i.e., confidential intermediary pursuant to 19-5-301 or a child placement agency, or no contact) through a form filed with the Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.

**Effective January 1, 2006, HB 1287 gives** birthparents the option of voluntarily providing updated medical information without making direct contact with the adoptee.

**Effective January 1, 2007, HB 1287 allows** limited access to original birth certificates for adult adoptees, their adult descendants, adult birthparents, or their legal representatives of any of these parties but keeps adoption records confidential to the general public.

#### HOW CAN BIRTH PARENTS STATE THEIR PREFERENCE FOR CONTACT?

The 2005 revised Colorado Vital Record statute allows for a birth parent, at his/her request to place a Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement in the sealed adoption file maintained by the Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. This form will allow a birth parent to state if he/she 1) wishes to be contacted directly, 2) prefers to be contacted through an appointed confidential intermediary or child placement agency, or 3) prefers not to be contacted. The completed Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement will be maintained in the records of the State Registrar and shall be accessible on or after January 1, 2007 to the adult adoptee, the adult descendant of the adoptee, or the legal representative of the adoptee or descendant, who submits a written application form, usual and customary fees, proof of identity, documentation and an explanation of the person's relationship to the adoptee.

#### WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO LOCATE THE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE?

For adult adoptees born in Colorado whose original birth certificate is in a sealed file, we will need the following locator information:

Name given at birth as it appears on the original birth certificate

Date of birth

Place of birth

Mother's name prior to first marriage (maiden) and/or all possible names that could have been used on the original birth certificate.

Father's name listed on original birth certificate

**Unless these items are exactly correct, we will not be able to confirm that we have located the correct original birth certificate.**

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE CANNOT BE LOCATED?**

If we are unable to locate the original Colorado birth certificate, we will keep the Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement on file in the Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics for possible future matches.

## **IS THERE A FEE FOR PROCESSING A CONTACT PREFERENCE FORM AND MEDICAL HISTORY STATEMENT?**

There is a **non-refundable** fee of \$20.00 for searching for the original birth certificate and placing the Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement in the sealed file.

## **HOW QUICKLY WILL I GET MY ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE?**

Beginning January 1, 2006, we will begin accepting Contact Preference Forms and Medical History Statements. Beginning January 1, 2007, the Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics may release the original birth certificate if the birth parent(s) have filed a Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement and given consent for its release. The turn around time to process an order is 10 working days after receipt of all required documentation, proof of identity and fees. However, some cases may take longer.

## **WHAT INFORMATION WILL THE REQUESTOR RECEIVE?**

If the applicant requests a copy of his/her original Colorado birth certificate after the Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement has been placed in the sealed file, that birth certificate will be issued to the applicant along with copies of all other documents in the file upon the consent of the birth parent(s) listed on the documents. Generally in Colorado, the sealed file contains a copy of the original Colorado birth certificate, a Report of Adoption or Adoption Decree or Findings of the Court. The original Colorado birth certificate in the sealed file will be issued with the data that was provided by the birth parent(s) at the time of birth.

## **HOW SHOULD A CONTACT PREFERENCE FORM AND MEDICAL HISTORY STATEMENT BE REQUESTED?**

**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD** a Contact Preference Form and Medical History Statement  
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/certs/1287AdoptionForms.pdf>

You can request a form by mail at the address listed below. Email @ [vital.records@state.co.us](mailto:vital.records@state.co.us) or phone (303) 692-2188.

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