

HB 1998 -- Adoption Records

Sponsor: Johnson

This bill changes the laws regarding adoption records. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Allows the State Registrar to open an adoption file only when a court order is received or if an adopted person 18 years of age or older who was born in Missouri files an application that provides proof of identification and makes a written agreement to abide by the contact preferences of the birth parents;

(2) Requires the State Registrar to issue the adopted person an uncertified copy of his or her unaltered original birth certificate and the birth parent's medical history form, if applicable, after a fee is paid and the waiting period has expired;

(3) Requires the State Registrar to develop a form for a birth parent to complete stating his or her preference regarding contact with the adopted child. The birth parent can choose on the form:

(a) To be contacted and include the medical history form with the birth certificate to be filed with the State Registrar; or

(b) To be contacted only through an intermediary and include the medical history form with the birth certificate to be filed with the State Registrar; or

(c) Not to be contacted and include the medical history form with the birth certificate to be filed with the State Registrar;

(4) Requires the State Registrar to develop a form for a birth parent to complete describing his or her medical history. If the birth parent has completed a contact preference form, the birth parent must fill out the medical history form. If the birth parent has not completed a contact preference form, it will be at the birth parent's discretion to complete the medical history form; and

(5) Requires the State Registrar to establish rules regarding the development of the necessary forms and the procedures needed to grant the adopted person access to his or her adoption file.