
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 162 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, DAVIS, CALTAGIRONE, EMRICK, GINGRICH,
MILLARD, MAJOR, MUNDY, PICKETT, O'BRIEN, D. COSTA, KORTZ,
O'NEILL, FLECK, C. HARRIS, REESE, LAWRENCE, KNOWLES, CAUSER,
CLYMER, WATSON, THOMAS, SWANGER AND COHEN, JANUARY 17, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, JANUARY 17, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in adoption, further providing for
3 original birth record.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 2937 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes, is amended to read:

8 § 2937. Original birth record.

9 (a) General rule.--No disclosure of information shall be
10 made by a court, an agency, the Department of Health or any
11 other Commonwealth agency regarding an adoptee's original birth
12 record or regarding the documents or proof on which an amended
13 certificate of birth is based or relating in any way to the
14 birth parents unless the disclosure is made pursuant to the
15 provisions of this section.

16 (b) Filing of consent to issue copy of summary of original
17 birth record.--

1 (1) The birth parents may, at the time their parental
2 rights are terminated or at any time thereafter, place on
3 file with the court and the Department of Health a consent
4 form granting permission for the court or the Department of
5 Health to issue a copy of the summary of the adoptee's
6 original birth record, which summary discloses the identity
7 of the birth parents, at any time after the adoptee turns 18
8 years of age or, if less than 18 years of age, to the
9 adoptive parent or legal guardian.

10 (2) If only one birth parent has filed a consent, a copy
11 of the summary of the original birth record naming only the
12 consenting birth parent shall be issued.

13 (3) The consent of a birth parent may be withdrawn at
14 any time by filing a withdrawal of consent form with the
15 court and the Department of Health.

16 (c) Duty of Department of Health.--The Department of Health
17 shall prescribe by regulation the procedure and forms to be
18 utilized for the giving, updating and withdrawal of consent.

19 (d) Exception.--Notwithstanding the provisions of this
20 section, the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Department of
21 Health shall disclose, at the written request of an adoptee, the
22 original or amended certificate of birth of the adoptee in
23 accordance with the provisions of the act of June 29, 1953
24 (P.L.304, No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect April 25, 2014, or in
26 60 days, whichever is later.