
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1860

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooke, Dickerson, Boldt, McDonald, Regala, Costa, Mason, Anderson, Kessler and Ogden)

Read first time 03/04/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to adoption; amending RCW 26.33.350; creating a new
2 section; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some adoptive
5 parents are not provided critical information needed to make an
6 informed decision before receiving a child for adoption. The
7 legislature further finds that all individuals and organizations
8 involved in placing children for adoption, including the department of
9 social and health services, have a legal and moral obligation to
10 provide all known and available information to prospective adoptive
11 parents before the physical placement of children for adoption.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 26.33.350 and 1994 c 170 s 1 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) Every person, firm, society, association, corporation, or state
15 agency receiving, securing a home for, or otherwise caring for a minor
16 child shall transmit to the prospective adopting parent prior to
17 physical placement and shall make available to all persons with whom a
18 child has been placed by adoption a complete medical report containing

1 all known and available information concerning the mental, physical,
2 and sensory handicaps of the child. For the purposes of this section,
3 a person is a "prospective adopting parent" when he or she initially
4 communicates an interest in adopting a child to the individuals,
5 organizations, and agencies specified in this section.

6 (2) The report shall not reveal the identity of the birth parent of
7 the child except as authorized under this chapter but shall include any
8 known or available mental or physical health history of the birth
9 parent that needs to be known by the adoptive parent to facilitate
10 proper health care for the child or that will assist the adoptive
11 parent in maximizing the developmental potential of the child.

12 (3) Where known or available, the information provided shall
13 include:

14 (a) A review of the birth family's and the child's previous medical
15 history, including the child's x-rays, examinations, hospitalizations,
16 and immunizations. After July 1, 1992, medical histories shall be
17 given on a standardized reporting form developed by the department;

18 (b) A physical exam of the child by a licensed physician with
19 appropriate laboratory tests and x-rays;

20 (c) A referral to a specialist if indicated; and

21 (d) A written copy of the evaluation with recommendations to the
22 adoptive family receiving the report.

23 (4) Entities and persons obligated to provide information under
24 this section shall make reasonable efforts to locate records and
25 information concerning the child's mental, physical, and sensory
26 handicaps. The entities or persons providing the information have no
27 duty, beyond providing the information, to explain or interpret the
28 records or information regarding the child's present or future health.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
32 immediately.

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