

## Chapter

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven

## AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING ACCESS TO BIRTH CERTIFICATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subclause:-

(g) Adoption contact information and indices therefore of the adoption contact registry established by section 31 of chapter 46.

SECTION 2. Chapter 46 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2A the following 2 sections:-

Section 2B. Upon written application, which shall include proof of identity and payment of applicable fees, by an adopted person 18 years of age or older who was born in the commonwealth on or before July 17, 1974 or on or after January 1, 2008 or by an adoptive parent of an adopted person under 18 years of age and born in the commonwealth on or after January 1, 2008, the state registrar shall:-

(a) make available for inspection at the offices of the state registry the birth certificate prior to adoption which indicated the prior legal parent or parents listed on the initial birth certificate or if there has been more

SECTION 3. Paragraph (h) of section 13 of said chapter 46, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the eleventh sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:- If the original record has been amended following adoption in accordance with this section, the clerk or state registrar shall issue information contained in the original record only upon receipt of an order of the probate court for the county in which said adoption was granted or in accordance with section 2B, or in the case of an adoption granted outside the commonwealth, upon order of the probate court for the county in which said birth occurred or in accordance with said section 2B, instructing said clerk or state registrar to release the information contained in such original record. Evidence contained in the adoption record of a parent's willingness to provide information about her identity to the adopted person shall, except in extraordinary circumstances, be considered sufficient evidence to warrant the granting of an order for release of the information contained in the birth certificate registered prior to adoption.

SECTION 4. Said chapter 46 is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

Section 31. The registry of vital records and statistics, subject to appropriation, shall establish and maintain an adoption contact information registry for the purpose of connecting parents listed on the initial birth certificate to any of their children who were adopted by others. The adoption contact registry shall, at minimum, be capable of recording updated address and other information supplied by parents and adoptees needed for one to contact the other.