

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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SENATE BILL DRS15272-NJ-12

Short Title: Adoption Law Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Galey, Barnes, and Krawiec (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW ADULT ADOPTEES TO BE ADOPTED BY A FORMER  
3 STEPPARENT, THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN REDACTION RESTRICTIONS FROM  
4 ADOPTION HOME STUDIES, AND THE EXPANSION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
5 OPTIONS FOR AGENCY RELINQUISHMENTS FOR ADOPTION.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7  
8 **PART I. ADOPTION OF ADULT ADOPTEE BY FORMER STEPPARENT**

9 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 48-1-101 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

10 "(7a) "Former stepparent" means an individual who was the spouse of a parent of a  
11 child, but who is not a genetic parent or adoptive parent of the child, and who  
12 has become divorced from the parent of the child."

13 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 48-1-106 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 48-1-106. Legal effect of decree of adoption.**

15 ...

16 (c) ~~A Subject to subsection (d) of this section, a decree of adoption severs the relationship~~  
17 ~~of parent and child between the individual adopted and that individual's biological or previous~~  
18 ~~adoptive parents. After the entry of a decree of adoption, the former parents are relieved of all~~  
19 ~~legal duties and obligations due from them to the adoptee, except that a former parent's duty to~~  
20 ~~make past-due payments for child support is not terminated, and the former parents are divested~~  
21 ~~of all rights with respect to the adoptee.~~

22 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, ~~neither an adoption by a~~  
23 ~~stepparent nor a readoption pursuant to G.S. 48-6-102 has any effect on the relationship between~~  
24 ~~the child and the parent who is the stepparent's spouse. a decree of adoption shall not affect the~~  
25 ~~relationship between the child and the parent who is the stepparent's spouse or the stepparent's~~  
26 ~~former spouse in any of the following circumstances:~~

27 (1) An adoption by a stepparent.

28 (2) An adoption of an adult adoptee by a former stepparent who is unmarried or  
29 whose current spouse does not join in the petition.

30 (3) A readoption pursuant to G.S. 48-6-102.

31 ...."

32 **SECTION 1.3.** G.S. 48-5-101(b) reads as rewritten:

33 "(b) If a prospective adoptive parent is married, both spouses must join in the petition  
34 unless the prospective adoptive parent is the adoptee's ~~stepparent~~ stepparent, former stepparent,  
35 or unless the court waives this requirement for cause."



**PART II. REDACTION OF INFORMATION FROM ADOPTION HOME STUDY**

**SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 48-3-202(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Information about a prospective adoptive parent shall be provided to a prospective placing parent or guardian by the prospective adoptive parent, the prospective adoptive parent's attorney, or a person or entity assisting the parent or guardian. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, this information shall include the preplacement assessment prepared pursuant to Part 3 of this Article, and may include additional information requested by the parent or guardian. ~~The agency preparing the preplacement assessment may redact from the preplacement assessment the information described in G.S. 48-3-303(e)(12).~~ The information described in G.S. 48-3-303(c)(12) may be redacted from the preplacement assessment."

**SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 48-3-303(c)(12) reads as rewritten:

"(12) ~~The agency preparing the preplacement assessment may redact following information may be redacted~~ from the preplacement assessment provided to a placing parent or guardian (i) detailed information reflecting the prospective adoptive parent's income, expenditures, assets, liabilities, and social security numbers, ~~and (ii)~~ (ii) detailed information about the prospective adoptive parent's extended family members, including surnames, names of employers, names of schools attended, social security numbers, telephone numbers and addresses, ~~and and (iii)~~ (iii) other similarly detailed information about extended family members obtained under subsections (b) and (c) of this section."

**PART III. EXPAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OPTIONS FOR AGENCY RELINQUISHMENTS FOR ADOPTION**

**SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 48-3-702(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The provisions of G.S. 48-3-605(b), (e), (f), ~~and (g)-(g), and (h)~~ also apply to a relinquishment executed under this Part."

**PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

**SECTION 4.1.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2023.