

1-1 By: Hull (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 4730  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2025;  
 1-3 May 13, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health &  
 1-4 Human Services; May 26, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable  
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;  
 1-6 May 26, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15			X	
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 4730 By: Hancock

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the voluntary relinquishment of parental rights,  
 1-22 adoption, and the regulation of child-placing agencies.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 161.103, Family Code, is amended by  
 1-25 amending Subsections (a) and (e) and adding Subsection (b-1) to  
 1-26 read as follows:

1-27 (a) An affidavit for voluntary relinquishment of parental  
 1-28 rights must be:

1-29 (1) on the form adopted by the Health and Human  
 1-30 Services Commission in conjunction with the Department of Family  
 1-31 and Protective Services under Subsection (b-1);

1-32 (2) signed after the birth of the child, but not before  
 1-33 48 hours after the birth of the child, by the parent, whether or not  
 1-34 a minor, whose parental rights are to be relinquished;

1-35 (3) ~~(2)~~ witnessed by two credible persons; and

1-36 (4) ~~(3)~~ verified before a person authorized to take  
 1-37 oaths.

1-38 (b-1) The Health and Human Services Commission, in  
 1-39 conjunction with the Department of Family and Protective Services,  
 1-40 shall adopt and make available on each agency's publicly accessible  
 1-41 Internet website a form to be used for an affidavit for voluntary  
 1-42 relinquishment of parental rights. The form must include an  
 1-43 explanation of:

1-44 (1) the circumstances under which an affidavit for  
 1-45 voluntary relinquishment of parental rights may be revoked and  
 1-46 procedures for revocation; and

1-47 (2) the parent's right to:

1-48 (A) seek child support if the parent chooses to  
 1-49 not relinquish the parent's rights;

1-50 (B) consider alternatives to adoption, including  
 1-51 kinship care or temporary assistance;

1-52 (C) apply for and potentially receive government  
 1-53 benefits;

1-54 (D) consult with an attorney before signing the  
 1-55 affidavit;

1-56 (E) seek counseling regarding adoption and  
 1-57 relinquishment of parental rights;

1-58 (F) receive information regarding post-adoption  
 1-59 contact agreements;

1-60 (G) request nonidentifying information regarding

2-1 prospective adoptive parents, including general demographic  
 2-2 information and information regarding lifestyle and values;  
 2-3 (H) receive a copy of each signed document  
 2-4 related to the relinquishment of parental rights, including the  
 2-5 affidavit and any adoption agreement;  
 2-6 (I) receive any medical record or genetic  
 2-7 screening information related to the child before relinquishment;  
 2-8 and  
 2-9 (J) register with a mutual consent voluntary  
 2-10 adoption registry established under Subchapter E, Chapter 162,  
 2-11 including the central registry established and maintained by the  
 2-12 vital statistics unit.

2-13 (e) The relinquishment in an affidavit that designates the  
 2-14 Department of Family and Protective Services or a licensed  
 2-15 child-placing agency to serve as the managing conservator is  
 2-16 irrevocable. A relinquishment in any other affidavit of  
 2-17 relinquishment is revocable [~~unless it expressly provides that it~~  
 2-18 ~~is irrevocable~~] for [~~a stated period of time not to exceed~~] 60 days  
 2-19 after the date of its execution.

2-20 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, is  
 2-21 amended by adding Section 162.0063 to read as follows:

2-22 Sec. 162.0063. NOTICE OF RIGHTS FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE  
 2-23 PARENTS. (a) In this section:

2-24 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
 2-25 Commission.  
 2-26 (2) "Department" means the Department of Family and  
 2-27 Protective Services.

2-28 (b) The commission, in conjunction with the department,  
 2-29 shall adopt a form to notify a prospective adoptive parent of the  
 2-30 parent's rights related to adoption. The commission and the  
 2-31 department shall make the form available on each agency's publicly  
 2-32 accessible Internet website. The form must include an explanation  
 2-33 of an adoptive parent's right to:

2-34 (1) know the location and conditions of the child's  
 2-35 birth, including any drugs administered to the child or the child's  
 2-36 mother during birth;

2-37 (2) examine the records and other information relating  
 2-38 to the history of the child under Section 162.0062, including  
 2-39 prenatal records and genetic screening records;

2-40 (3) be informed of any legal risks related to the  
 2-41 prospective adoption, including pending paternity claims or other  
 2-42 contests;

2-43 (4) receive copies of all legal documents related to  
 2-44 the adoption;

2-45 (5) request nonidentifying information regarding the  
 2-46 biological parents and any biological siblings of the child,  
 2-47 including general demographic information;

2-48 (6) seek access to post-adoption resources, including  
 2-49 counseling, legal assistance, and support groups; and

2-50 (7) receive an itemized list of each cost associated  
 2-51 with an adoption.

2-52 (c) The department, a licensed child-placing agency, or  
 2-53 other person placing a child for adoption shall provide the notice  
 2-54 adopted under this section to a prospective adoptive parent.

2-55 SECTION 3. Section 42.042(h-1), Human Resources Code, is  
 2-56 amended to read as follows:

2-57 (h-1) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules  
 2-58 governing:

2-59 (1) the placement and care of children by a  
 2-60 child-placing agency, as necessary to ensure the health and safety  
 2-61 of those children;

2-62 (2) the verification and monitoring of agency foster  
 2-63 homes and adoptive homes by a child-placing agency; [~~and~~]

2-64 (3) minimum training standards for an employee,  
 2-65 director, or operator of a child-placing agency;

2-66 (4) annual compliance reporting by child-placing  
 2-67 agencies;

2-68 (5) random audits of child-placing agencies to ensure  
 2-69 compliance with training standards and licensing requirements;

3-1 (6) procedures for the filing of a complaint against a  
3-2 child-placing agency; and

3-3 (7) if appropriate, child-placing agency staffing  
3-4 levels, office locations, and administration.

3-5 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 42.0421, Human Resources  
3-6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3-7 Sec. 42.0421. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS: REGULATED  
3-8 CHILD-CARE FACILITY.

3-9 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 42, Human Resources Code,  
3-10 is amended by adding Section 42.04211 to read as follows:

3-11 Sec. 42.04211. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS: CHILD-PLACING  
3-12 AGENCY. The minimum training standards prescribed by the executive  
3-13 commissioner under Section 42.042(h-1) must require an employee,  
3-14 director, or operator of a child-placing agency to receive training  
3-15 regarding parental rights of adoptive parents and procedures for  
3-16 the relinquishment of parental rights.

3-17 SECTION 6. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective  
3-18 date of this Act but not later than March 1, 2026, the Health and  
3-19 Human Services Commission, in conjunction with the Department of  
3-20 Family and Protective Services, shall adopt the forms required by  
3-21 Sections 161.103(b-1) and 162.0063(b), Family Code, as added by  
3-22 this Act.

3-23 (b) Section 161.103, Family Code, as amended by this Act,  
3-24 applies only to the relinquishment of parental rights to a child  
3-25 born on or after March 1, 2026.

3-26 (c) Section 162.0063(c), Family Code, as added by this Act,  
3-27 applies beginning with adoption placement services provided on or  
3-28 after March 1, 2026.

3-29 SECTION 7. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
3-30 of this Act but not later than January 1, 2026, the executive  
3-31 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
3-32 adopt rules as required by Section 42.042(h-1), Human Resources  
3-33 Code, as amended by this Act.

3-34 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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