

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	Kolkhorst	X		
1-10	Perry	X		
1-11	Blanco	X		
1-12	Cook	X		
1-13	Hall	X		
1-14	Hancock	X		
1-15	Hughes		X	
1-16	Miles	X		
1-17	Sparks	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

prospective adoptive parents, including general demographic information and information regarding lifestyle and values;

(H) receive a copy of each signed document related to the relinquishment of parental rights, including the affidavit and any adoption agreement;

(I) receive any medical record or genetic screening information related to the child before relinquishment; and

(J) register with a mutual consent voluntary adoption registry established under Subchapter E, Chapter 162, including the central registry established and maintained by the vital statistics unit.

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

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

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

(1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

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

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

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

(4) receive copies of all legal documents related to the adoption;

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

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

(7) receive an itemized list of each cost associated with an adoption.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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