

2023 -- S 0121

LC000895

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Murray, Mack, Pearson, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria,  
McKenney, Acosta, and Miller

Date Introduced: February 01, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15-7 of the General Laws entitled "Adoption of Children" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **15-7-27. Confirmatory adoption for children born through assisted reproduction.**

4 (a) As used in this section, the following words and terms shall have the following  
5 meanings unless the context shall clearly indicate another or different meaning or intent:

6 (1) "Assisted reproduction" means a method of causing pregnancy other than through  
7 sexual intercourse and includes, but is not limited to, the following: intrauterine, intracervical, or  
8 vaginal insemination; donation of gametes; donation of embryos; in vitro fertilization and transfer  
9 of embryos; and intracytoplasmic sperm injection.

10 (2) "Marriage" means and includes civil union and any legal relationship that provides  
11 substantially the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as marriage and is recognized as valid  
12 in the state or jurisdiction in which it was entered.

13 (3) "Petitioners" means the persons filing a petition for adoption in accordance with this  
14 section.

15 (b) Whenever a child is born as a result of assisted reproduction and the person who did  
16 not give birth is a parent or presumed parent pursuant to § 15-8.1-301, § 15-8.1-401, or § 15-8.1-  
17 703 and the parents seek to file a petition to complete an adoption of the child to confirm parentage,  
18 the court shall permit the parents to file a petition for adoption in accordance with this section.

19 (c) A complete petition shall be comprised of the following:

1           (1) The petition for adoption signed by both parties;  
2           (2)(i) A copy of the petitioners' marriage certificate, if petitioners are married; and  
3           (ii) A declaration signed by the person giving birth and the person who did not give birth  
4 explaining the circumstances of the child's birth through assisted reproduction, attesting to their  
5 consent to assisted reproduction, and attesting that no competing claims of parentage exist; and  
6           (3) A certified copy of the child's birth certificate.  
7           (d) A complete petition for adoption, as described in subsection (c) of this section, shall  
8 serve as the petitioners' written consents to adoption required by § 15-7-5, and no additional  
9 consent or notice shall be required.  
10          (e) If the petitioners conceived through assisted reproduction with donor gamete(s) or  
11 donor embryo(s) pursuant to article 7 of chapter 15-8.1 ("uniform parentage act"), the court shall  
12 not require notice of the adoption to the donor or consent to the adoption by the donor, including  
13 notice pursuant to § 15-7-9 or § 15-7-26.  
14          (f) Unless otherwise ordered by the court for good cause shown and supported by written  
15 findings of the court demonstrating good cause, for purposes of evaluating and granting a petition  
16 for adoption pursuant to this section, the court shall not require:  
17           (1) An in-person hearing or appearance;  
18           (2) An investigation or home study by, notice to, or approval of the department of children,  
19 youth and families (DCYF);  
20           (3) A criminal-records check;  
21           (4) Verification that the child is not registered with the federal register for missing children  
22 or the central register; or  
23           (5) A minimum residency period in the home of the petitioners.  
24          (g) The court shall grant the adoption under this section and issue a decree of adoption  
25 within thirty (30) days upon finding that:  
26           (1) For marital parents, the parent who gave birth and the spouse were married at the time  
27 of the child's birth and the child was born through assisted reproduction; or  
28           (2) For non-marital parents:  
29           (i) The person who gave birth and the non-marital parent consented to the assisted  
30 reproduction; and  
31           (ii) There are no competing claims of parentage or that any other person with a claim to  
32 parentage of the child who is required to be provided notice of, or who must consent to, the adoption  
33 has been notified or provided consent to the adoption.  
34          (h) A petition to adopt pursuant to this section, when a petitioner's parentage is presumed

1 or legally recognized under Rhode Island law, must not be denied solely on the basis that the  
2 petitioner's parentage is already presumed or legally recognized.

3 (i) When parentage is presumed or legally recognized pursuant to Rhode Island law, that  
4 the parties did not petition for adoption pursuant to this section may not be considered as evidence  
5 when two (2) or more presumptions conflict pursuant to § 15-8.1-206, nor in determining the best  
6 interest of the child.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would provide a streamlined adoption process for children born through assisted  
2 reproduction and who need adoption to confirm, not establish, their legal parentage to protect them  
3 against discrimination in all jurisdictions.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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