

# Maryland Register

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## Title 07 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES Subtitle 02 SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### 07.02.13 Post Adoption Reunion Services

Authority: Family Law Article, §5-101, 5-356—5-360, 5-3A-39—5-3A-43,  
5-3B-28—5-3B-30, 5-4B-01—5-4B-12, 5-4C-01—5-4C-07, Annotated Code of Maryland  
42 U.S.C. §671; 45 CFR §1355.21; Ch. 326, Acts of 2011.

#### Notice of Proposed Action

[15-030-P]

The Secretary of Human Resources proposes to amend Regulations .01, .02, and .04 under **COMAR 07.02.13 Post Adoption Reunion Services**.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to revise the Post Adoption Reunion Services regulations in order to incorporate changes in Ch. 86 (H.B. 178), Acts of 2014, entitled Family Law-Adoption, Search, Contact, and Reunion Services — Relatives of Minors in Out-of-Home Placement. This bill authorizes the director of a local department of social services to apply for search, contact, and reunion services for a minor in out-of-home placement under certain circumstances. The proposed regulatory changes to COMAR include allowing the local department of social services director to contact biological relatives on behalf of an adopted child that has re-entered out-of-home placement and amending the definition of “relative”.

#### Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

#### Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

#### Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

#### Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

#### Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Andrea Shuck, Regulations Coordinator, Department of Human Resources, 301 W. Saratoga St., Rm. 265, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-7193, or email to [andrea.shuck@maryland.gov](mailto:andrea.shuck@maryland.gov), or fax to 410-333-0637. Comments will be accepted through February 9, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

#### .01 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to:

- A. (text unchanged)
- B. Allow adult adoptees and birth parents to file disclosure vetoes to protect their confidentiality; [and]

C. Allow a local department to contact a sibling of a minor in out-of-home placement in order to develop a placement resource or facilitate a family connection, if the sibling was adopted through a local department; *and*

D. *Allow a director of a local department or designee to contact relatives of a minor in out-of-home placement who was adopted through a local department for the purposes of developing a placement resource or to facilitate a family connection if the local department has determined that reunification with the minor's adoptive parent is not in the minor's best interest.*

**.02 Definitions.**

A. (text unchanged)

B. Terms Defined.

(1) — (16) (text unchanged)

(17) "Relative" means a parent, grandparent, brother, or sister of an adopted individual whether the familial relationship is based on blood or marriage. *In the case of a minor in out-of-home placement who was adopted through a local department, "Relative" means an individual at least 21 years old who is related to the minor by blood or marriage within five degrees or consanguinity or affinity under the civil law rule.*

(18) — (22) (text unchanged)

**.04 Search, Contact, and Reunion Services Program.**

A. Program Registration Requirements.

(1) (text unchanged)

(2) Completion of Registration Process. The registrant shall provide:

(a) A completed consent form containing a statement of the registrant's consent to be identified to the birth parents, adoptee, [or] sibling, *or relative*;

(b) — (d) (text unchanged)

(3) (text unchanged)

B. — F. (text unchanged)

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Secretary of Human Resources