

House Bill 920

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Reeves of the 34th, Willard of the 51st, Oliver of the 82nd, and Nimmer of the 178th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions for adoption, so as to allow for the use of the department's
3 information concerning the parties to an adoption under certain circumstances; to provide for
4 definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 general provisions for adoption, is amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section
9 19-8-23, relating to where records of adoption kept, examination by parties and attorneys,
10 and use of information by agency and department, as follows:

11 "(b.2)(1) As used in this paragraph, the term:

12 (A) 'Director' means the director of the Division of Family and Children Services of
13 the department.

14 (B) 'Near fatality' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 49-5-40.

15 (2) Upon the approval of the director, or his or her designee, any information concerning
16 an adopted child, such child's biological parents, and such child's adoptive parents may
17 be used solely by the department when, after the adoption, such child dies, suffers a near
18 fatality, or is an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect; provided, however, that the
19 department may provide such information to the Office of the Child Advocate for the
20 Protection of Children. Such information shall not otherwise be subject to disclosure or
21 release."

22 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.