

The Senate Committee on Judiciary offered the following substitute to HB 154:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to domestic relations,  
2 so as to strengthen, clarify, and update provisions relating to the protection of children,  
3 including foster children and adopted children; to allow for notice by certified mail in certain  
4 adoption proceedings; to revise a provision relating to the surrender of a mother's parental  
5 rights; to revise a provision relating to the results of a search of the putative father registry;  
6 to include certain provisions in adoption petitions; to revise provisions relating to  
7 appointment of an agent for a petitioner; to revise provisions relating to required criminal  
8 history records checks of petitioners; to revise provisions relating to petitioners who are  
9 nonresidents of Georgia; to provide for an additional unlawful inducement with respect to  
10 adoptions; to provide for restitution; to prohibit certain adoption facilitators; to revise various  
11 adoption related forms with respect to revocation periods; to amend Code Section 29-4-10  
12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to petition for appointment of guardian  
13 and requirements for petition, so as to provide for the appointment of a guardian for a minor  
14 who is in the custody of the Division of Family and Children Services when the minor  
15 becomes an adult; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
16 purposes.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

18

**SECTION 1.**

19 Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to domestic relations, is  
 20 amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section 19-8-2, relating to  
 21 jurisdiction and venue of adoption proceedings, as follows:

22 "(3) When a child has been placed for adoption with an individual who is a resident of  
 23 another state in compliance with Chapter 4 of Title 39, relating to the Interstate Compact  
 24 on the Placement of Children;; with an individual who is a resident of another state to  
 25 which the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children does not apply; or with an  
 26 individual who is a resident of another country, such petition shall be filed in:

27 (A) The court of the county where the child was born,or resides, or was residing at the  
 28 time of placement;

29 (B) The court of the county in which is located any child-placing agency having legal  
 30 custody of the child; or

31 (C) Superior Court of Fulton County."

32

**SECTION 2.**

33 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-8-3, relating to who may petition  
 34 to adopt a child, as follows:

35 "19-8-3.

36 (a) Any individual may petition to adopt a child if he or she:

37 (1) Is at least ~~25~~ 21 years of age or is married and living with his or her spouse;~~or is at~~  
 38 ~~least 21 years of age and is a relative of the child;~~

39 (2) Is at least ten years older than the child, except such ten-year requirement shall not  
 40 apply when the petitioner is a stepparent or relative and the petition is filed pursuant to  
 41 Code Section 19-8-6 or 19-8-7;

42 (3)(A) Is a bona fide resident of this state at the filing of the petition for adoption; ~~or~~

43 (B) Is is a bona fide resident of the receiving state when the adoptee was either born  
 44 in this state or is a resident of this state at the time of his or her placement for adoption,  
 45 and was placed in compliance with Chapter 4 of Title 39, relating to the Interstate  
 46 Compact on the Placement of Children. For purposes of this paragraph, a nonresident  
 47 of Georgia is deemed to have complied with the Interstate Compact on the Placement  
 48 of Children if the compact does not apply as defined in Article VIII of the Compact or  
 49 if the individual is a resident of another country; and

50 (4) Is financially, physically, and mentally able to have permanent custody of the child.  
 51 (b) If an individual seeking to adopt a child is married, the petition for adoption shall be  
 52 filed in the name of both spouses; provided, however, that, when the child is or was the  
 53 stepchild of the party seeking to adopt, such petition shall be filed by the stepparent alone."

54

### SECTION 3.

55 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (j) of Code Section 19-8-5, relating to  
 56 third party adoption by party who is not stepparent or relative of child, as follows:

57 "(j) A petition for adoption pursuant to ~~subsection (a)~~ of this Code section shall be filed  
 58 within 60 days from the date the surrender of rights is executed; provided, however, that  
 59 for good cause shown the court may waive the 60 day requirement. If the petition for  
 60 adoption is not filed within the time period specified by this subsection and the court does  
 61 not waive the 60 day requirement or if the proceedings resulting from such petition are not  
 62 concluded with an order granting such petition, then the surrender of rights shall operate  
 63 as follows according to the election made in such surrender by the parent or guardian of the  
 64 child:

65 (1) In favor of such parent or guardian, with the express stipulation that neither this nor  
 66 any other provision of the surrender of rights shall be deemed to impair the validity,  
 67 absolute finality, or totality of such surrender under any other circumstance, once the  
 68 revocation period has elapsed;

69 (2) In favor of the child-placing agency or out-of-state licensed agency designated in the  
70 surrender of rights, if any; or  
71 (3) If the parent or guardian is not designated and no child-placing agency or out-of-state  
72 licensed agency is designated in the surrender of rights, or if the designated child-placing  
73 agency or out-of-state licensed agency declines to accept the child for placement for  
74 adoption, in favor of the department for placement for adoption pursuant to subsection  
75 ~~(a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-4."

76

**SECTION 4.**

77 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-8-9, relating to revocation of  
78 surrender of rights, time limit, and effect of voluntary surrender of rights by legal mother, as  
79 follows:

80 "19-8-9.

81 (a) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Code Section 9-10-12 which authorizes the use of  
82 certified mail, an individual signing a surrender of rights pursuant to Code Section 19-8-4,  
83 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7 shall have the right to revoke such surrender by written notice  
84 delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery within four  
85 days after signing such surrender; and such surrender document shall not be valid unless  
86 it so states. The four-day revocation period shall be counted consecutively beginning with  
87 the day immediately following the date the surrender of rights is executed; provided,  
88 however, that, if the fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the last  
89 day on which such surrender may be revoked shall be the next day that is not a Saturday,  
90 Sunday, or legal holiday. After the four-day period, a surrender of rights cannot be  
91 revoked. Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Code Section 9-10-12 which authorizes the use  
92 of certified mail, the notice of revocation of a surrender of rights shall be delivered in  
93 person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery to the address  
94 designated in the surrender document. If delivered in person, it shall be delivered to the

95 address shown in the surrender document not later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or  
96 eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day. If mailed by registered  
97 mail or delivered by statutory overnight delivery, it shall be addressed to the address shown  
98 in the surrender document and submitted to the United States Postal Service or to the  
99 statutory overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00 Midnight eastern standard time or  
100 eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day.

101 (b) If a legal mother has either voluntarily and in writing surrendered all of her parental  
102 rights pursuant to Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7 or pursuant to the  
103 corresponding provisions of the laws of another state, and has not revoked her surrender  
104 ~~within the four-day period after signing as permitted by subsection (a) of this Code section~~  
105 as allowed by applicable law, or has had her parental rights involuntarily terminated by a  
106 court of competent jurisdiction, she shall have no right or authority to sign a voluntary  
107 acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to Code Section 19-7-46.1 or consent to the granting  
108 of a petition for legitimation filed pursuant to Code Section 19-7-22 regarding the same  
109 child."

110

#### SECTION 5.

111 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 19-8-10, relating to  
112 when surrender or termination of parental rights of living parent not required, service on  
113 parents in such cases, and involuntary termination of rights, as follows:

114 "(c)(1) Whenever it is alleged by any petitioner that surrender or termination of rights of  
115 a living parent is not a prerequisite to the granting of a petition for adoption of a child of  
116 such parent in accordance with subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section, such parent  
117 shall be personally served with a conformed copy of the adoption petition, together with  
118 a copy of the court's order thereon specified in Code Section 19-8-14, or, if personal  
119 service cannot be perfected, ~~notwithstanding subsection (a) of Code Section 9-10-12~~  
120 ~~which authorizes the use of certified mail~~, by certified mail or registered mail, return

121 receipt requested, or statutory overnight delivery, one-day service not required, at his or  
122 her last known address. If service cannot be made by these methods, such parent shall  
123 be given notice by publication once a week for three weeks in the official organ of the  
124 county where such petition has been filed and of the county of his or her last known  
125 address. In the interest of time, publication may be initiated simultaneously with efforts  
126 to perfect service personally, by certified mail or registered mail, or by statutory  
127 overnight delivery. The court shall continue to have the inherent authority to determine  
128 the sufficiency of service. A parent who receives notification pursuant to this paragraph  
129 shall not be a party to the adoption and shall have no obligation to file an answer, but  
130 shall have the right to appear in the pending adoption proceeding and show cause why  
131 such parent's rights to the child who is the subject of the proceeding should not be  
132 terminated by that adoption. Notice shall be deemed to have been received on the earliest  
133 date:

134 (A) Personal service is perfected;

135 (B) Of delivery shown on the return receipt of certified mail or registered mail or proof  
136 of delivery by statutory overnight delivery; or

137 (C) Of the last publication.

138 (2) No prior order of court shall be required to publish notice pursuant to this Code  
139 section; provided, however, that before publication may be relied upon as a means of  
140 service, it shall be averred that, after diligent efforts, service could not be perfected  
141 personally, by certified mail, by registered mail, or by statutory overnight delivery."

142

### **SECTION 6.**

143 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 19-8-11, relating to  
144 petitioning superior court to terminate rights of one parent or guardian of child and service  
145 of process, as follows:

146 "(b)(1) Whenever a petition to terminate parental rights is filed pursuant to subsection  
147 (a) of this Code section, the parent whose rights the petitioner is seeking to terminate  
148 shall be personally served with a conformed copy of the petition to terminate parental  
149 rights and a copy of the court's order setting forth the date upon which such petition shall  
150 be considered or, if personal service cannot be perfected, ~~notwithstanding subsection (a)~~  
151 ~~of Code Section 9-10-12 which authorizes the use of certified mail~~, by certified mail or  
152 registered mail, return receipt requested, or statutory overnight delivery, one-day service  
153 not required, at his or her last known address. If service cannot be made by these  
154 methods, such parent shall be given notice by publication once a week for three weeks  
155 in the official organ of the county where such petition has been filed and of the county  
156 of his or her last known address. In the interest of time, publication may be initiated  
157 simultaneously with efforts to perfect service personally, by certified mail or registered  
158 mail, or by statutory overnight delivery. The court shall continue to have the inherent  
159 authority to determine the sufficiency of service. A parent who receives notification  
160 pursuant to this paragraph shall not be a party to the adoption and shall have no obligation  
161 to file an answer, but shall have the right to appear in the pending termination of parental  
162 rights proceeding and show cause why such parent's rights to the child who is the subject  
163 of the proceeding should not be terminated. Notice shall be deemed to have been  
164 received on the earliest date:

165 (A) Personal service is perfected;

166 (B) Of delivery shown on the return receipt of certified mail or registered mail or proof  
167 of delivery by statutory overnight delivery; or

168 (C) Of the last publication.

169 (2) No prior order of court shall be required to publish notice pursuant to this Code  
170 section; provided, however, that before publication may be relied upon as a means of  
171 service, it shall be averred that, after diligent efforts, service could not be perfected  
172 personally, by certified mail, by registered mail, or by statutory overnight delivery."

173

**SECTION 7.**

174 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (c), (d), and (i) of Code Section 19-8-12,  
175 relating to notice to biological father, procedure when identity or location of father not  
176 known, effect of order terminating biological father's rights, legitimation of child by father,  
177 and rights of mother, as follows:

178 "(c)(1) Notification provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section shall be given to  
179 a biological father who is not a legal father by the following methods:

180 (A) ~~Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Code Section 9-10-12 which authorizes the use~~  
181 ~~of certified mail,~~ Certified mail or registered mail, return receipt requested, or statutory  
182 overnight delivery, one-day service not required, at his last known address, which  
183 notice shall be deemed received upon the date of delivery shown on the return or  
184 delivery receipt;

185 (B) Personal service, which notice shall be deemed received when personal service is  
186 perfected; or

187 (C) Publication once a week for three weeks in the official organ of the county where  
188 the adoption petition has been filed and of the county of his last known address, which  
189 notice shall be deemed received upon the date of the last publication.

190 (2) If feasible, the methods specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) of this  
191 subsection shall be used before publication; provided, however, that in the interest of  
192 time, publication may be initiated simultaneously with efforts to perfect service  
193 personally, by certified mail or registered mail, or by statutory overnight delivery.

194 (3) No prior order of court shall be required to publish notice pursuant to this Code  
195 section; provided, however, that before publication may be relied upon as a means of  
196 service, it shall be averred that, after diligent efforts, service could not be perfected  
197 personally, by certified mail or registered mail, or by statutory overnight delivery.

198 (d)(1) When the rights of a parent or guardian of a child have been surrendered or  
199 terminated in accordance with ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-4 or the child does not



200 have a living parent or guardian, the department, child-placing agency, or out-of-state  
201 licensed agency may file, under the authority of this paragraph, a petition to terminate a  
202 biological father's rights to the child with the superior court of the county of the child's  
203 domicile, of the county where the child was born, of the county in which is located the  
204 principal office of the child-placing agency having legal custody of the child, or of the  
205 county in which is located the office of the department having legal custody of the child.

206 (2) When the rights of a parent or guardian of a child have been surrendered in  
207 accordance with ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7, the child does  
208 not have a living parent or guardian, a consent to adopt has been executed pursuant to  
209 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 19-8-6, or the petitioner is seeking to  
210 involuntarily terminate parental rights pursuant to Code Section 19-8-10, the petitioner  
211 shall file, under the authority of this paragraph, with the superior court of the county of  
212 the child's domicile or of the county where the child was born a motion, if a petition for  
213 adoption of the child has previously been filed with the court, or a petition to terminate  
214 a biological father's rights to the child.

215 (3) When a petition or motion is filed pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection,  
216 the court shall, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice required by  
217 subsection (b) of this Code section or, when no notice is required to be given, from the  
218 date of such filing, conduct a hearing in chambers to determine the facts in the matter.

219 (4) Unless the identity of a biological father is known to the petitioner, department,  
220 child-placing agency, or out-of-state licensed agency or to the attorney for such  
221 individual or entity such that he is entitled to notice of the proceedings as provided in this  
222 Code section, when the petitioner provides a certificate from the putative father registry  
223 stating that there is no registrant identified on the putative father registry acknowledging  
224 paternity of the child or indicating possible paternity of the child for a period beginning  
225 no later than two years immediately prior to the child's date of birth, then it shall be  
226 rebuttably presumed that an unnamed biological father who is not a legal father is not

227 entitled to notice of the proceedings. Absent evidence rebutting the presumption, then  
228 no further inquiry or notice shall be required by the court and the court shall enter an  
229 order terminating the rights of such unnamed biological father to the child."

230 "(i) If the child is legitimated by his or her biological father and in the adoption proceeding  
231 the petition for adoption is revoked with prejudice or denied by the court, then a  
232 SURRENDER OF RIGHTS/FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION executed by a legal  
233 mother pursuant to ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, or 19-8-7 shall be  
234 dissolved by operation of law and her parental rights shall be restored to her. The fact that  
235 a legal mother executed a SURRENDER OF RIGHTS/FINAL RELEASE FOR  
236 ADOPTION, now dissolved, shall not be admissible as evidence against a legal mother in  
237 any proceeding against her."

238

#### SECTION 8.

239 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a), (g), and (h) of Code Section  
240 19-8-13, relating to petition, filing and contents, financial disclosures, attorney's affidavit,  
241 and redaction of certain information unnecessary, and by adding a new subsection to read as  
242 follows:

243 "(a) The petition for adoption, duly verified, together with one conformed copy thereof,  
244 shall be filed with the clerk of the superior court having jurisdiction and shall conform to  
245 the following guidelines:

246 (1) The petition for adoption shall set forth:

247 (A) The name, age, date and place of birth, marital status, and place of residence of  
248 each petitioner;

249 (B) The name by which the child is to be known should the adoption ultimately be  
250 completed;

251 (C) The sex, date and place of birth, and citizenship or immigration status of the child,  
252 and if the child is neither a United States citizen nor a lawful permanent resident of the

- 253 United States on the date such petition is filed, the petitioner shall explain how such  
254 child will be able to obtain lawful permanent resident status;
- 255 (D) The date and circumstances of the placement of the child with each petitioner;
- 256 (E) Whether the child is possessed of any property and, if so, a full and complete  
257 description thereof;
- 258 (F) Whether the child has one or both parents or his or her biological father who is not  
259 a legal father living;
- 260 (G) Whether the child has a guardian and, if so, the name of the guardian and the name  
261 of the court that appointed such guardian;
- 262 (H) Whether the child has a legal custodian and, if so, the name of the legal custodian  
263 and the name of the court that appointed such custodian; and
- 264 (I) Whether each petitioner or his or her attorney is aware of any other adoption  
265 proceeding pending to date, in this or any other state or country, regarding the child  
266 who is the subject of the proceeding that is not fully disclosed in such petition and  
267 whether each petitioner or his or her attorney is aware of any individual who has or  
268 claims to have physical custody of or visitation rights with the child who is the subject  
269 of the proceeding whose name and address and whose custody or visitation rights are  
270 not fully disclosed in such petition. Each petitioner and his or her attorney shall have  
271 a continuing duty to inform the court of any proceeding in this or any other state or  
272 country that could affect the adoption proceeding or the legal custody of or visitation  
273 with the child who is the subject of the proceeding;
- 274 (2) When the adoption is pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 19-8-4, the  
275 following shall be provided or attached to the petition for adoption or its absence  
276 explained when the petition for adoption is filed:
- 277 (A) If the adoption is pursuant to:
- 278 (i) Paragraph (1) of such ~~Code section~~ subsection, a copy of the written voluntary  
279 surrender of rights of each parent or guardian specified in subsection (e) of Code

280 Section 19-8-4 and a copy of the written acknowledgment of surrender of rights  
281 specified in subsection (f) of Code Section 19-8-4; or  
282 (ii) Paragraph (2) of such ~~Code section~~ subsection, a certified copy of the order  
283 entered by a court of competent jurisdiction terminating parental rights of the parent  
284 and committing the child to the department, child-placing agency, or out-of-state  
285 licensed agency;

286 (B) A copy of the affidavits specified in subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section  
287 19-8-4;

288 (C) An original affidavit from the department or a child-placing agency stating that all  
289 of the requirements of Code Sections 19-8-4 and 19-8-12 have been complied with and  
290 that the child is legally available for adoption or, in the case of a placement by an  
291 out-of-state licensed agency, that the comparable provisions dealing with the  
292 termination of parental rights of the parents and of a biological father who is not a legal  
293 father of the child have been complied with under the laws of the state or country in  
294 which the out-of-state licensed agency is licensed and that the child is legally available  
295 for adoption thereunder;

296 (D) The original written consent of the department, child-placing agency, or  
297 out-of-state licensed agency to the adoption;

298 (E) Uncertified copies of appropriate certificates or forms verifying the allegations  
299 contained in such petition as to guardianship of the child, including, but not limited to,  
300 the marriage of each petitioner, the death of each parent in lieu of a surrender of his or  
301 her parental rights, and compliance with Chapter 4 of Title 39, relating to the Interstate  
302 Compact on the Placement of Children; and

303 (F) A completed form containing background information regarding the child, as  
304 required by the adoption unit of the department, or an equivalent medical and social  
305 history background form;

306 (3) When the adoption is pursuant to ~~subsection (a) of~~ Code Section 19-8-5, the  
307 following shall be provided or attached to the petition for adoption or its absence  
308 explained when the petition for adoption is filed:

309 (A) The original written voluntary surrender of rights of each parent, biological father  
310 who is not a legal father, or guardian specified in subsection (e) of Code Section  
311 19-8-5;

312 (B) The original written acknowledgment of surrender of rights specified in subsection  
313 (f) of Code Section 19-8-5;

314 (C) The original affidavits specified in subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section 19-8-5;

315 (D) A copy of the appropriate form verifying the allegation of compliance with Code  
316 Section 19-8-12 and the original certification evidencing the search of the putative  
317 father registry;

318 (E) The original accounting required by subsection (c) of this Code section;

319 (F) Uncertified copies of appropriate certificates or forms verifying the allegations  
320 contained in such petition as to guardianship of the child, including, but not limited to,  
321 the marriage of each petitioner, the death of each parent in lieu of a surrender of his or  
322 her parental rights, and compliance with Chapter 4 of Title 39, relating to the Interstate  
323 Compact on the Placement of Children;

324 (G) A completed form containing background information regarding the child, as  
325 required by the adoption unit of the department, or an equivalent medical and social  
326 history background form; and

327 (H) A copy of the home study report;

328 (4) When the adoption is pursuant to ~~subsection (a) of~~ Code Section 19-8-6, the  
329 following shall be provided or attached to the petition for adoption or its absence  
330 explained when the petition for adoption is filed:

- 331 (A) The original written voluntary surrender of rights of each parent, biological father  
332 who is not a legal father, or guardian specified in subsection (e) of Code Section  
333 19-8-6;
- 334 (B) The original written acknowledgment of surrender of rights specified in subsection  
335 (f) of Code Section 19-8-6;
- 336 (C) The original affidavits specified in subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section 19-8-6;
- 337 (D) The original consent specified in subsection (j) of Code Section 19-8-6;
- 338 (E) A copy of the appropriate form verifying the allegation of compliance with Code  
339 Section 19-8-12 and the original certification evidencing the search of the putative  
340 father registry;
- 341 (F) Uncertified copies of appropriate certificates or forms verifying the allegations  
342 contained in such petition as to guardianship of the child, including, but not limited to,  
343 the birth of the child, the marriage of each petitioner, and the death of each parent in  
344 lieu of a surrender of his or her parental rights; and
- 345 (G) A completed form containing background information regarding the child, as  
346 required by the adoption unit of the department, or an equivalent medical and social  
347 history background form;
- 348 (5) When the adoption is pursuant to ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-7, the  
349 following shall be provided or attached to the petition for adoption or its absence  
350 explained when the petition for adoption is filed:
- 351 (A) The original written voluntary surrender of rights of each parent or biological  
352 father who is not a legal father specified in subsection (e) of Code Section 19-8-7;
- 353 (B) The original written acknowledgment of surrender of rights specified in subsection  
354 (f) of Code Section 19-8-7;
- 355 (C) The original affidavits specified in subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section 19-8-7;

356 (D) A copy of the appropriate form verifying the allegation of compliance with Code  
357 Section 19-8-12 and the original certification evidencing the search of the putative  
358 father registry;

359 (E) Uncertified copies of appropriate certificates or forms verifying allegations  
360 contained in the petition as to guardianship or custody of the child and the birth of the  
361 child, including, but not limited to, the marriage of each petitioner, the death of each  
362 parent in lieu of a surrender of his or her parental rights, and compliance with Chapter  
363 4 of Title 39, relating to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children; and

364 (F) A completed form containing background information regarding the child, as  
365 required by the adoption unit of the department, or an equivalent medical and social  
366 history background form;

367 (6)(A) When the adoption is pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 19-8-8, the  
368 following shall be provided or attached to the petition for adoption when the petition  
369 for adoption is filed:

370 (i) A copy of the child's passport page showing an immediate relative immigrant visa  
371 or Hague Convention immigrant visa obtained to grant the child entry into the United  
372 States as a result of a full and final adoption in the foreign country; and

373 (ii) A copy along with an English translation of the child's birth certificate or  
374 registration.

375 (B) Because the issuance of an immediate relative immigrant visa or Hague  
376 Convention immigrant visa by the United States Department of State in the child's  
377 passport is prima-facie evidence that all parental rights have been terminated and that  
378 the child is legally available for adoption, it shall not be necessary to file any  
379 documents related to the surrender or termination of the parental rights of the child's  
380 parents or comply with Code Section 19-8-12 regarding the rights of a biological father  
381 who is not a legal father when the petition for adoption is filed pursuant to subsection  
382 (a) of Code Section 19-8-8.

383 (C) When the adoption is pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 19-8-8, the  
384 following shall be provided or attached to the petition for adoption when the petition  
385 for adoption is filed:

386 (i) A copy along with an English translation of the final decree or order of  
387 guardianship from the foreign country;

388 (ii) Copies of all postplacement reports, if required by the foreign country that  
389 entered the guardianship decree or order;

390 (iii) Authorization to proceed with adoption if specifically required by the decree or  
391 order entered by the court or administrative agency in the foreign country;

392 (iv) A copy of the child's passport page showing an immediate relative immigrant  
393 visa or Hague Convention immigrant visa obtained to grant the child entry into the  
394 United States in order to finalize his or her adoption; and

395 (v) A copy along with an English translation of the child's birth certificate or  
396 registration;

397 (7) When Code Section 19-8-10 is applicable, parental rights need not be surrendered or  
398 terminated prior to the filing of the petition for adoption; but the petitioner shall, in lieu  
399 of obtaining and attaching those otherwise required surrenders of rights,  
400 acknowledgments, and affidavits, allege facts in the petition for adoption demonstrating  
401 the applicability of subsection (a) or (b), or both, of Code Section 19-8-10 and shall also  
402 allege compliance with subsection (c) of Code Section 19-8-10; ~~and~~

403 (8) When Code Section 19-8-11 is applicable, the petitioner shall allege facts in the  
404 petition demonstrating the applicability of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code  
405 Section 19-8-11 and shall also allege compliance with subsection (b) of Code Section  
406 19-8-11; and

407 ~~(8)~~(9) If the petition for adoption is filed in a county other than that of the petitioner's  
408 residence, the reason therefor shall be set forth in such petition."



409 "(g) Notwithstanding Code Sections 19-8-5 and 19-8-7 and this Code section which  
410 require obtaining and attaching a written voluntary surrender of rights and acknowledgment  
411 thereof and affidavits of a legal mother and a representative of the petitioner or of the  
412 individual signing such surrender, when the adoption is sought under ~~subsection (a) of~~  
413 Code Section 19-8-5 or 19-8-7 following the termination of parental rights and the  
414 placement of the child by the juvenile court pursuant to Code Section 15-11-321 or  
415 pursuant to the corresponding provisions of the laws of another state, obtaining and  
416 attaching to the petition for adoption a certified copy of the order terminating parental  
417 rights of the parent shall take the place of obtaining and attaching those otherwise required  
418 surrenders of rights, acknowledgments, and affidavits.

419 (h)(1) A petition for adoption regarding a child who has a living biological father who  
420 is not a legal father and who has not surrendered his rights to the child shall include a  
421 certificate from the putative father registry disclosing the name, address, and social  
422 security number of any registrant acknowledging paternity of the child pursuant to  
423 subparagraph (d)(2)(A) of Code Section 19-11-9 or indicating the possibility of paternity  
424 of such child pursuant to subparagraph (d)(2)(B) of Code Section 19-11-9 for a period  
425 beginning no later than two years immediately prior to the child's date of birth. Such  
426 certificate shall indicate the results of a search of the registry on or after the earliest of the  
427 following:

- 428 (A) The date of a legal mother's surrender of parental rights;  
429 (B) The date of entry of the court order terminating a legal mother's parental rights; ~~or~~  
430 (C) The date of a legal mother's consent to adoption pursuant to Code Section 19-8-6;  
431 or  
432 (D) The date of filing of the petition for adoption, in which case the certificate may be  
433 filed as an amendment to the petition for adoption.

434 (2) Such certificate shall include a statement that the registry is current as of the earliest  
435 date listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, or as of  
436 a specified date that is later than the earliest such date.

437 (3) When a legal mother of the child who is the subject of the proceeding identifies her  
438 husband as the biological father of the child and he has executed a surrender of his  
439 parental rights in favor of the petitioner, the petitioner shall obtain a certificate from the  
440 putative father registry and submit it with the petition for adoption to confirm that no  
441 male other than the legal mother's husband has expressed an interest in the child or to  
442 identify a registrant other than the legal mother's husband who shall be notified pursuant  
443 to Code Section 19-8-12."

444 "(j) A petition for the adoption of a child is an in rem proceeding and it shall be entitled  
445 In the interest of [insert name at birth of the child to be adopted], a child.', except upon  
446 appeal, in which event the anonymity of a child shall be preserved by use of appropriate  
447 initials. The petition shall be in writing."

448 **SECTION 9.**

449 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 19-8-14, relating to  
450 timing of adoption hearing, record retention, and clerk's duties, as follows:

451 "(d) In those cases where the court is required to appoint an agent pursuant to subsection  
452 (a) of Code Section 19-8-16 to conduct an investigation and make a written report and  
453 recommendation to the court, it shall be the petitioner's responsibility to request that the  
454 court appoint the agent if the court does not do so sua sponte. Notwithstanding subsections  
455 (a) and (c) of this Code section, it shall be the petitioner's responsibility to request that the  
456 court hear the petition for adoption on a date that allows sufficient time for fulfillment of  
457 the notice requirements of Code Sections 19-8-10 and 19-8-12 and for receipt of the agent's  
458 written report and recommendation prior to the hearing, when applicable."

459

**SECTION 10.**

460 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-8-16, relating to investigation by  
461 court-appointed agent and criminal history records check for adoption petitioners, as follows:  
462 "19-8-16.

463 (a) Prior to the date set by the court for a hearing on the petition for adoption, it shall be  
464 the duty of the agent appointed by the court to verify the allegations in the petition for  
465 adoption, to make a complete and thorough investigation of the entire matter, including any  
466 specific issue the court requests to be investigated, and to report its findings and  
467 recommendations in writing to the court where the petition for adoption was filed. The  
468 petitioner may assist the court by providing names of qualified individuals or agencies to  
469 serve as the court's agent. The agent may be the department, a child-placing agency, an  
470 evaluator, or an individual who the court determines is qualified to conduct the required  
471 investigation. The agent appointed by the court shall also provide the petitioner or his or  
472 her attorney with a copy of its report. If for any reason the agent appointed by the court  
473 finds itself unable to make or arrange for the proper investigation and report, it shall be the  
474 duty of the agent to notify the court immediately, or at least within 20 days after receipt of  
475 the request for investigation service, that it is unable to make the report and investigation,  
476 so that the court may take such other steps as in its discretion are necessary to have the  
477 investigation and report prepared. The investigation required by this Code section shall be  
478 in addition to the requirement of a home study in the case of a petition for adoption filed  
479 pursuant to ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-5.

480 (b) If the petition for adoption has been filed pursuant to ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section  
481 19-8-6 or 19-8-7, the court shall be authorized but shall not be required to appoint an agent  
482 to make an investigation pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section; provided,  
483 however, that a home study shall not be required.

484 (c)(1) If the petition for adoption has been filed pursuant to Code Section 19-8-8, the  
485 appointment of an agent to make an investigation and render a report pursuant to  
486 subsection (a) of this Code section shall not be required.

487 (2) If the petition for adoption has been filed pursuant to Code Section 19-8-4 and the  
488 department or child-placing agency has consented to the adoption, the appointment of an  
489 agent to make an investigation and render a report pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code  
490 section shall not be required.

491 (d) The court shall require the petitioner to submit to a criminal history records check  
492 except when the petitioner is brought pursuant to either Code Section 19-8-8 or Code  
493 Section 19-8-21. The petitioner shall submit his or her fingerprints to the Georgia Crime  
494 Information Center with the appropriate fee. The center shall promptly transmit the  
495 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a search of bureau records and shall  
496 obtain an appropriate report. The Georgia Crime Information Center shall also promptly  
497 conduct a search of its records and any records to which it has access. The center shall  
498 notify the court in writing of the presence or absence of any criminal record from the state  
499 fingerprint records check. In those cases when the petitioner has submitted a fingerprint  
500 based criminal history report that includes the results of a records search of both the  
501 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the  
502 department, child-placing agency, or evaluator as part of the home study and such results  
503 are dated within 12 months of filing of the petition for adoption and are included in the  
504 home study report filed with or otherwise made available to the court, such results shall  
505 satisfy the requirements of this subsection. Because the court shall not be authorized to  
506 share the results of the fingerprint records check with the agent appointed by the court  
507 pursuant to subsection (a) or (e) of this Code section, the court shall determine the  
508 acceptability of the petitioner's criminal history, inform the petitioner or his or her attorney  
509 at least five days prior to the final hearing on the petition for adoption if the court will  
510 require additional evidence with respect to the petitioner's criminal history or if the court

511 is inclined to deny such petition because of such criminal history, and afford the petitioner  
512 or his or her attorney an opportunity to present evidence as to why the petitioner's criminal  
513 history should not be grounds for denial of such petition.

514 (e) The court shall require the petitioner to reimburse the agent appointed by the court,  
515 including the department, for the full cost of conducting the investigation and preparing its  
516 report. Such cost shall not exceed \$250.00 unless specifically authorized by the court,  
517 provided that the court shall furnish the petitioner or his or her attorney with written notice  
518 of the name of the agent that the court intends to appoint and the amount of any increased  
519 costs, together with a request to agree to pay such increased costs. If the petitioner does  
520 not agree to pay the increased costs, then the petitioner shall have an opportunity to present  
521 to the court information regarding other persons that are qualified to conduct the  
522 investigation and render the report to the court and the cost of their services, and the court  
523 shall appoint the person that is qualified to conduct the investigation and render the report  
524 to the court at the lowest cost to the petitioner."

525

#### **SECTION 11.**

526 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 19-8-18,  
527 relating to hearing, district attorney to be directed to review inducement violations, decree  
528 of adoption, factors considered in determining best interests of child, and disposition of child  
529 on denial of petition, as follows:

530 "(a)(1) Upon the date appointed by the court for a hearing of the petition for adoption or  
531 as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached for a hearing, the court shall proceed to  
532 a full hearing on such petition and the examination of the parties at interest in chambers,  
533 under oath, with the right of continuing the hearing and examinations from time to time  
534 as the nature of the case may require. The court at such times shall give consideration to  
535 the investigation report to the court provided for in Code Section 19-8-16 and the  
536 recommendations contained in such report. There shall be a presumption that a petitioner

537 who is a nonresident of Georgia should be granted the opportunity to appear via  
538 electronic means in lieu of physical presence before the court if his or her petition is  
539 uncontested, especially if appearing in person would cause hardship to the petitioner. In  
540 all other cases, the The court may in its discretion allow the petitioner or any witness to  
541 appear via electronic means in lieu of requiring his or her physical presence before the  
542 court.

543 (2) The court shall examine the petition for adoption and the affidavit specified in  
544 subsection (g) of Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7, as appropriate, to  
545 determine whether Code Section 19-8-12 is applicable. If the court determines that Code  
546 Section 19-8-12 is applicable to the petition for adoption, it shall:

547 (A) Determine that an appropriate order has previously been entered;

548 (B) Enter an order consistent with Code Section 19-8-12; or

549 (C) Continue the hearing until Code Section 19-8-12 is complied with.

550 (3) If the adoption petition is filed pursuant to ~~subsection (a)~~ of Code Section 19-8-5, the  
551 court shall examine the financial disclosures required under subsections (c) and (d) of  
552 Code Section 19-8-13 and make such further examination of each petitioner and his or  
553 her attorney as the court deems appropriate in order to make a determination as to  
554 whether there is cause to believe that Code Section 19-8-24 has been violated with regard  
555 to the inducement, as such term is defined in Code Section 19-8-24, of the placement of  
556 the child for adoption. Should the court determine that further inquiry is in order, the  
557 court shall direct the district attorney for the county to review the matter further and to  
558 take such appropriate action as the district attorney in his or her discretion deems  
559 appropriate.

560 (b)(1) If the petition for adoption was filed pursuant to Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5,  
561 19-8-6, or 19-8-7, the court shall enter a decree of adoption naming the child as prayed  
562 for in such petition; terminating all of the rights of each living parent, guardian, and legal  
563 custodian of the child, other than the spouse of the petitioner in the case of a stepparent

564 adoption pursuant to Code Section 19-8-6; granting the permanent custody of the child  
565 to each petitioner; and declaring the child to be the adopted child of each petitioner if the  
566 court is satisfied that:

567 (A) Each living parent or guardian of the child has surrendered or had terminated all  
568 of his or her rights to the child in the manner provided by law or that each petitioner has  
569 complied with the notice requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 19-8-10 and  
570 satisfied his or her burden of proof under Code Section 19-8-10 or that the spouse has  
571 consented to the petitioner's adoption of the child as required by Code Section 19-8-6;

572 (B) Each petitioner is capable of assuming responsibility for the care, supervision,  
573 training, and education of the child;

574 (C) The child is suitable for adoption in a private family home; and

575 (D) The adoption requested is in the best interests of the child.

576 (2) When Code Section 19-8-10 has been relied upon by any petitioner for the  
577 termination of rights of a living parent, the court shall include in the decree of adoption  
578 appropriate findings of fact and conclusions of law relating to the termination of rights  
579 of such living parent and the court's determination that the adoption is in the child's best  
580 interests.

581 (3) When the child was born in a country other than the United States, the court shall  
582 examine the evidence submitted ~~and in order to determine that whether~~ sufficient  
583 evidence has been proffered to show that the child ~~will be able to obtain~~ has a viable path  
584 to lawful permanent resident status, if not already obtained, before the court shall have  
585 authority to determine. The court shall consider the evidence when making a  
586 determination if it is in the best interests of the child to grant the petition for adoption.

587 (4) If there is an existing visitation order pursuant to Code Section 19-7-3 in favor of a  
588 family member, the court shall have the authority to continue or discontinue such  
589 visitation rights in the adoption order as it deems is in the best interests of the child."

590

**SECTION 12.**

591 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (d), (e), and (g) of Code Section  
592 19-8-24, relating to advertising restrictions and requirements, "inducements" defined,  
593 unlawful inducements, penalties, exemption for personal communications, and civil actions,  
594 as follows:

595 "(d)(1) It shall be unlawful for an individual to knowingly accept expenses as set forth  
596 in subparagraph (c)(1)(C) or (c)(1)(D) of this Code section for the adoption of her child  
597 or unborn child if she knows or should have known that she is not pregnant or is not a  
598 legal mother.

599 (2) It shall be unlawful for an individual to knowingly accept expenses as set forth in  
600 subparagraph (c)(1)(C) or (c)(1)(D) of this Code section from an adoption agency or an  
601 attorney without disclosing that he or she is receiving such expenses from another  
602 adoption agency or attorney in an effort to allow for the adoption of the same child or  
603 unborn child.

604 (3) It shall be unlawful for an individual to knowingly make false representations in  
605 order to obtain expenses as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(C) or (c)(1)(D) of this Code  
606 section.

607 (4) It shall be unlawful for an individual to make false representations as to the existence  
608 of a pregnancy or the intention to place a child for adoption when such individual knows  
609 or should have known that the person purported to be pregnant is not pregnant or that the  
610 person purported to be offering the child for adoption has no intention of placing the child  
611 for adoption, and such representations cause another to expend financial resources or take  
612 other specific steps, including, but not limited to, travel or retaining the services of an  
613 attorney, agency or social worker, toward adoption of a child in reasonable reliance on  
614 such representations.

615 (e) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a felony and, upon  
616 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, imprisonment for



617 not less than one nor more than ten years, or both and shall further be subject to a court  
 618 order requiring such person to make restitution to a victim harmed by such person's  
 619 violation."

620 "(g)(1) Any child-placing agency or individual who is seeking to adopt or seeking to  
 621 place a child for adoption who is damaged by a violation of this Code section may file  
 622 a civil action to recover damages, treble damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and  
 623 expenses of litigation.

624 (2) Any individual who is seeking to adopt or seeking to place a child for adoption who  
 625 is damaged by a violation of this Code section may file a civil action in tort, provided that  
 626 such individual would have an existing tort claim under Georgia law."

627 **SECTION 13.**

628 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) through (g) of Code Section 19-8-26,  
 629 relating to forms, as follows:

630 "(a) The surrender of rights by a parent or guardian pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection  
 631 (e) of Code Section 19-8-4 shall conform substantially to the following form:

632 **'SURRENDER OF RIGHTS**  
 633 **FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION**

634 **NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN:**

635 This is an important legal document and by signing it, you are surrendering all of your  
 636 rights to the child identified in this document, so as to place the child for adoption.  
 637 Understand that you are signing this document under oath and that if you knowingly and  
 638 willfully make a false statement in this document you will be guilty of the crime of false  
 639 swearing. As explained below in paragraph 5, you have the right to revoke this surrender  
 640 within four days from the date you sign it.

641 \_\_\_\_\_

642 STATE OF GEORGIA

643 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

644 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer  
645 oaths, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent or guardian) who, after  
646 having been sworn, deposes and says as follows:

647 1.

648 I, the undersigned, being mindful that my (male) (female) [circle one] child, born  
649 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) on \_\_\_\_\_ (birthdate of  
650 child) at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ (A.M.) (P.M.) [circle one], should receive the benefits and  
651 advantages of a good home, to the end that (she) (he) [circle one] may be fitted for the  
652 requirements of life, consent to this surrender of my parental rights.

653 2.

654 I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship to child)  
655 of the aforesaid child, do hereby surrender my rights to the child to  
656 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child-placing agency,  
657 out-of-state licensed agency, or Department of Human Services, as applicable) and  
658 promise not to interfere in the management of the child in any respect whatever; and,  
659 in consideration of the benefits guaranteed by \_\_\_\_\_  
660 (name of child-placing agency, out-of-state licensed agency, or Department of Human  
661 Services, as applicable) in providing for the child, I do relinquish all rights to the child  
662 named in this document, it being my wish, intent, and purpose to relinquish absolutely  
663 all parental control over the child. Furthermore, I hereby agree that the

664 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child-placing agency,  
665 out-of-state licensed agency, or Department of Human Services, as applicable) may  
666 seek for the child a legal adoption by such individual or individuals as may be chosen  
667 by the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child-placing agency, out-of-state  
668 licensed agency, or Department of Human Services, as applicable) or its authorized  
669 agents, without further notice to me. I do, furthermore, expressly waive any other  
670 notice or service in any of the legal proceedings for the adoption of the child.

671 3.  
672 I understand that under Georgia law an agent appointed by the court is required to  
673 conduct an investigation and render a report to the court in connection with the legal  
674 proceeding for the legal adoption of the child, and I hereby agree to cooperate fully  
675 with such agent in the conduct of its investigation.

676 4.  
677 I understand that I will receive a copy of this document after the witness and I have  
678 signed it and it has been notarized.

679 5.  
680 I understand that under Georgia law I have the unconditional right to a four-day  
681 revocation period. I understand I may only revoke this surrender by giving written  
682 notice, delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery,  
683 to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address  
684 of child-placing agency, out-of-state licensed agency, or Department of Human  
685 Services, as applicable) within four days from the date of signing this document. I  
686 understand that certified mail cannot be used for mail delivery of the notice to revoke  
687 this surrender. I understand that the four days will be counted consecutively beginning

688 with the day immediately following the date I sign this document; provided, however,  
 689 that, if the fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the last day on  
 690 which this surrender may be revoked will be the next day that is not a Saturday,  
 691 Sunday, or legal holiday. I understand that, if I deliver the notice to revoke this  
 692 surrender in person, it must be delivered to \_\_\_\_\_  
 693 (name and address) not later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight  
 694 time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day; provided, however, that if I mail the  
 695 notice by registered mail or have it delivered by statutory overnight delivery, I must  
 696 address it to the address shown in the surrender document and submit it to the United  
 697 States Postal Service or to the statutory overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00  
 698 Midnight eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the  
 699 fourth day. I understand that I CANNOT revoke this surrender after that time.

700 6.

701 I understand that if I am not a resident of this state that I am agreeing to be subject to  
 702 the jurisdiction of the courts of Georgia for any action filed in connection with the  
 703 adoption of the child. I agree to be bound by a decree of adoption rendered as a result  
 704 of this surrender of my parental rights.

705 7.

706 Furthermore, I hereby certify that I have not been subjected to any duress or undue  
 707 pressure in the execution of this document and I am signing it freely and voluntarily.

708 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

709 \_\_\_\_\_  
 710 (Parent or guardian)

711 \_\_\_\_\_

712 Adult witness

713 Sworn to and subscribed

714 before me this \_\_\_\_\_

715 day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

716 \_\_\_\_\_

717 Notary Public (SEAL)

718 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_.'

719 (b) The notice to revoke a surrender of rights pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section  
720 19-8-9 shall conform substantially to the following form:

721 NOTICE TO REVOKE SURRENDER OF RIGHTS/  
722 FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION

723 I, the undersigned, executed a (SURRENDER OF RIGHTS/FINAL RELEASE FOR  
724 ADOPTION) (PRE-BIRTH SURRENDER OF RIGHTS/FINAL RELEASE FOR  
725 ADOPTION) [circle one] as to the child identified in the surrender of rights document on  
726 \_\_\_\_\_ (date). My relationship to the (child) (unborn child) [circle one] is that  
727 I am the (mother) (father) (alleged biological father) (guardian) [circle one].

728 *(Complete this paragraph if the child has been born.)* This notice to revoke my surrender  
729 of rights applies to the (female) (male) [circle one] child born \_\_\_\_\_ (name  
730 of child) on \_\_\_\_\_ (birthdate of child).

731 I now wish to exercise my right to revoke my surrender of rights.

732 I understand that for my revocation of surrender to be effective I must:

733 A. Deliver the original of this document in person to the address designated in the  
 734 surrender of rights document no later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern  
 735 daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day of the revocation period  
 736 specified in the surrender of rights document;

737 **OR**

738 B. Mail the original of this document by registered mail or by statutory overnight  
 739 delivery to the address designated in the surrender of rights document no later than 12:00  
 740 Midnight eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the  
 741 fourth day of the revocation period specified in the surrender of rights document.

742 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

743 \_\_\_\_\_  
 744 (Parent, guardian, or alleged biological father)

745 \_\_\_\_\_  
 746 (Printed name)

747 \_\_\_\_\_  
 748 Adult witness'

749 (c) The surrender of rights by a parent or guardian pursuant to paragraph (1) of  
 750 subsection (e) of Code Section 19-8-5 shall conform substantially to the following form:

751 'SURRENDER OF RIGHTS  
 752 FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION

753 NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

754 This is an important legal document and by signing it, you are surrendering all of your  
 755 rights to the child identified in this document, so as to place the child for adoption.  
 756 Understand that you are signing this document under oath and that if you knowingly and  
 757 willfully make a false statement in this document you will be guilty of the crime of false  
 758 swearing. As explained below in paragraph 8, you have the right to revoke this surrender  
 759 within four days from the date you sign it.

760 \_\_\_\_\_

761 STATE OF GEORGIA  
 762 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

763 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer  
 764 oaths, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent or guardian) who, after having been  
 765 sworn, deposes and says as follows:

766 1.  
 767 I, the undersigned, being mindful that my (male) (female) [circle one] child, born  
 768 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) on \_\_\_\_\_ (birthdate of  
 769 child) at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ (A.M.) (P.M.) [circle one], should receive the benefits and  
 770 advantages of a good home, to the end that (she) (he) [circle one] may be fitted for the  
 771 requirements of life, consent to this surrender of my parental rights.

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2.

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I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship to child) of the aforesaid child, do hereby surrender my rights to the child to \_\_\_\_\_ (name, surname not required, of each individual to whom surrender is made), PROVIDED that each such individual is named as petitioner in a petition for adoption of the child filed in accordance with Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated within 60 days from the date that I sign this document. Furthermore, I promise not to interfere in the management of the child in any respect whatever; and, in consideration of the benefits guaranteed by \_\_\_\_\_ (name, surname not required, of each individual to whom surrender is made) in providing for the child, I do relinquish all rights to the child named in this document, it being my wish, intent, and purpose to relinquish absolutely all parental control over the child.

785

3.

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It is also my wish, intent, and purpose that if each such individual identified in paragraph 2 is not named as petitioner in a petition for adoption within the 60 day period, other than for justifiable good cause, or, if said petition for adoption is filed within 60 days but the adoption proceeding is dismissed with prejudice or otherwise concluded without an order declaring the child to be the adopted child of each such individual, then I do hereby surrender my rights to the child as follows:

792

793

Indicate your choice by signing ONE of the following statements (you may choose statement A, B, or C):

794

795

A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) I wish the child returned to me, as provided by subsection (j) of Code Section 19-8-5, and I expressly acknowledge that this



796 provision applies only to the limited circumstance that the child is not adopted by the  
797 individual or individuals designated in this document and further that this provision  
798 does not impair the validity, absolute finality, or totality of this surrender under any  
799 circumstance other than the failure of the designated individual or individuals to adopt  
800 the child and that no other provision of this surrender impairs the validity, absolute  
801 finality, or totality of this surrender once the four-day revocation period has elapsed;

802 **OR**

803 B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) I surrender the child to  
804 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child-placing agency or out-of-state licensed  
805 agency), as provided in subsection (j) of Code Section 19-8-5, for placement for  
806 adoption. I understand that if the child-placing agency or out-of-state licensed agency  
807 declines to accept the child for placement for adoption, this surrender will be in favor  
808 of the Department of Human Services for placement for adoption and  
809 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child-placing agency or out-of-state  
810 licensed agency) or the Department of Human Services may petition the superior  
811 court for custody of the child in accordance with the terms of this surrender;

812 **OR**

813 C. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) I surrender the child to the Department of  
814 Human Services, as provided by subsection (j) of Code Section 19-8-5, for placement  
815 for adoption; and the Department of Human Services may petition the superior court  
816 for custody of the child in accordance with the terms of this surrender.

817

4.

818

I hereby agree that the child is to be adopted by each individual named in paragraph 2

819

or by any other individual as may be chosen by \_\_\_\_\_

820

(name of child-placing agency or out-of-state licensed agency) or the Department of

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Human Services and I do expressly waive any other notice or service in any of the legal

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proceedings for the adoption of the child.

823

5.

824

I understand that under Georgia law an evaluator is required to conduct and provide to

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the court a home study and make recommendations to the court regarding the

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qualification of each individual named in paragraph 2 to adopt the child concerning the

827

circumstances of placement of the child for adoption.

828

6.

829

I understand that under Georgia law an agent appointed by the court is required to

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conduct an investigation and render a report to the court in connection with the legal

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proceeding for the legal adoption of the child, and I hereby agree to cooperate fully

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with such agent in the conduct of its investigation.

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7.

834

I understand that I will receive a copy of this document after the witness and I have

835

signed it and it has been notarized.

836

8.

837

I understand that under Georgia law I have the unconditional right to a four-day

838

revocation period. I understand I may only revoke this surrender by giving written

839

notice, delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery,

840 to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address of each individual to whom  
841 surrender is made or his or her agent) within four days from the date of signing this  
842 document. I understand that certified mail cannot be used for mail delivery of the  
843 notice to revoke this surrender. I understand that the four days will be counted  
844 consecutively beginning with the day immediately following the date I sign this  
845 document; provided, however, that, if the fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or  
846 legal holiday, then the last day on which this surrender may be revoked will be the next  
847 day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. I understand that, if I deliver the  
848 notice to revoke this surrender in person, it must be delivered to  
849 \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address) not later than 5:00  
850 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the  
851 fourth day; provided, however, that if I mail the notice by registered mail or have it  
852 delivered by statutory overnight delivery, I must address it to the address shown in the  
853 surrender document and submit it to the United States Postal Service or to the statutory  
854 overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00 Midnight eastern standard time or eastern  
855 daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day. I understand that I CANNOT  
856 revoke this surrender after that time.

857 9.

858 I understand that if I am not a resident of this state that I am agreeing to be subject to  
859 the jurisdiction of the courts of Georgia for any action filed in connection with the  
860 adoption of the child. I agree to be bound by a decree of adoption rendered as a result  
861 of this surrender of my parental rights.

862 10.

863 Furthermore, I hereby certify that I have not been subjected to any duress or undue  
864 pressure in the execution of this document and I am signing it freely and voluntarily.

865 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

866 \_\_\_\_\_  
867 (Parent or guardian)

868 \_\_\_\_\_  
869 Adult witness

870 Sworn to and subscribed  
871 before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
872 day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.  
873 \_\_\_\_\_

874 Notary Public (SEAL)  
875 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_.'

876 (d) The surrender of rights by a biological father who is not a legal father of the child  
877 pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or  
878 19-8-7 shall conform substantially to the following form:

879 'SURRENDER OF RIGHTS  
880 FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION

881 NOTICE TO ALLEGED BIOLOGICAL FATHER:

882 This is an important legal document and by signing it you are surrendering all of your  
883 rights to the child identified in this document. Understand that you are signing this  
884 document under oath and that if you knowingly and willfully make a false statement in  
885 this document you will be guilty of the crime of false swearing. As explained below in  
886 paragraph 4, you have the right to revoke this surrender within four days from the date  
887 you sign it.

888

\_\_\_\_\_

889 STATE OF GEORGIA

890 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

891 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer  
892 oaths, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of alleged biological father) who, after having  
893 been sworn, deposes and says as follows:

894 1.

895 I, the undersigned, alleged biological father of a (male) (female) [circle one] child, born  
896 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of legal  
897 mother) on \_\_\_\_\_ (birthdate of child) at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ (A.M.) (P.M.)  
898 [circle one], being mindful that the child should receive the benefits and advantages of  
899 a good home, to the end that (she) (he) [circle one] may be fitted for the requirements  
900 of life, consent to this surrender of my rights. I, the undersigned, do hereby surrender  
901 my rights to the child. I promise not to interfere in the management of the child in any  
902 respect whatever; and, in consideration of the benefits provided to the child through  
903 adoption, I do relinquish all rights to the child named in this document, it being my  
904 wish, intent, and purpose to relinquish absolutely all control over the child.

905 2.

906 I hereby agree that the child is to be adopted and I do expressly waive any other notice  
907 or service in any of the legal proceedings for the adoption of the child. I understand  
908 that under Georgia law an agent appointed by the court is required to conduct an  
909 investigation and render a report to the court in connection with the legal proceeding

910 for the legal adoption of the child, and I hereby agree to cooperate fully with such agent  
911 in the conduct of its investigation.

912 3.

913 I understand that I will receive a copy of this document after the witness and I have  
914 signed it and it has been notarized.

915 4.

916 I understand that under Georgia law I have the unconditional right to a four-day  
917 revocation period. I understand I may only revoke this surrender by giving written  
918 notice, delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery,  
919 to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address of child-placing  
920 agency representative, out-of-state licensed agency representative, Department of  
921 Human Services representative, individual to whom surrender is made or his or her  
922 agent, or petitioner's representative, as applicable) within four days from the date of  
923 signing this document. I understand that certified mail cannot be used for mail delivery  
924 of the notice to revoke this surrender. I understand that the four days will be counted  
925 consecutively beginning with the day immediately following the date I sign this  
926 document; provided, however, that, if the fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or  
927 legal holiday, then the last day on which this surrender may be revoked will be the next  
928 day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. I understand that, if I deliver the  
929 notice to revoke this surrender in person, it must be delivered to  
930 \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address) not later than  
931 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on  
932 the fourth day; provided, however, that if I mail the notice by registered mail or have  
933 it delivered by statutory overnight delivery, I must address it to the address shown in  
934 the surrender document and submit it to the United States Postal Service or to the

935 statutory overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00 Midnight eastern standard time  
 936 or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day. I understand that  
 937 I CANNOT revoke this surrender after that time.

938 5.  
 939 I understand that if I am not a resident of this state that I am agreeing to be subject to  
 940 the jurisdiction of the courts of Georgia for any action filed in connection with the  
 941 adoption of the child. I agree to be bound by a decree of adoption rendered as a result  
 942 of this surrender of my parental rights.

943 6.  
 944 Furthermore, I hereby certify that I have not been subjected to any duress or undue  
 945 pressure in the execution of this document and I am signing it freely and voluntarily.

946 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

947 \_\_\_\_\_  
 948 (Alleged biological father)

949 \_\_\_\_\_  
 950 Adult witness

951 Sworn to and subscribed  
 952 before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
 953 day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

954 \_\_\_\_\_

955 Notary public (SEAL)

956 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_.'

957 (e) The surrender of rights by a parent or guardian pursuant to paragraph (1) of  
958 subsection (e) of Code Section 19-8-6 or 19-8-7 shall conform substantially to the  
959 following form:

960 'SURRENDER OF RIGHTS  
961 FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION

962 NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

963 This is an important legal document and by signing it, you are surrendering all of your  
964 rights to the child identified in this document, so as to place the child for adoption.  
965 Understand that you are signing this document under oath and that if you knowingly and  
966 willfully make a false statement in this document you will be guilty of the crime of false  
967 swearing. As explained below in paragraph 6, you have the right to revoke this surrender  
968 within four days from the date you sign it.

969 \_\_\_\_\_

970 STATE OF GEORGIA

971 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

972 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer  
973 oaths, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent or guardian) who, after having been  
974 sworn, deposes and says as follows:



975

1.

976

I, the undersigned, being mindful that my (male) (female) [circle one] child, born

977

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of child) on \_\_\_\_\_ (birthdate of

978

child) at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ (A.M.) (P.M.) [circle one], should receive the benefits and

979

advantages of a good home, to the end that (she) (he) [circle one] may be fitted for the

980

requirements of life, consent to this surrender of my parental rights.

981

2.

982

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship to child) of

983

the aforesaid child, do hereby surrender my rights to the child to

984

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of each individual to whom

985

surrender is made) and promise not to interfere in the management of the child in any

986

respect whatever; and, in consideration of the benefits guaranteed by

987

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of each individual to whom

988

surrender is made) in providing for the child, I do relinquish all rights to the child

989

named in this document, it being my wish, intent, and purpose to relinquish absolutely

990

all parental control over the child.

991

3.

992

I hereby agree that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of each individual to whom

993

surrender is made) may initiate legal proceedings for the legal adoption of the child

994

without further notice to me. I do, furthermore, expressly waive any other notice or

995

service in any of the legal proceedings for the adoption of the child.

996

4.

997

I understand that under Georgia law an agent may be appointed by the court to conduct

998

an investigation and render a report to the court in connection with the legal proceeding

999 for the legal adoption of the child, and I hereby agree to cooperate fully with such agent  
1000 in the conduct of its investigation.

1001 5.

1002 I understand that I will receive a copy of this document after the witness and I have  
1003 signed it and it has been notarized.

1004 6.

1005 I understand that under Georgia law I have the unconditional right to a four-day  
1006 revocation period. I understand I may only revoke this surrender by giving written  
1007 notice, delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery,  
1008 to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address of each  
1009 individual to whom surrender is made or petitioner's representative, as applicable)  
1010 within four days from the date of signing this document. I understand that certified  
1011 mail cannot be used for mail delivery of the notice to revoke this surrender. I  
1012 understand that the four days will be counted consecutively beginning with the day  
1013 immediately following the date I sign this document; provided, however, that, if the  
1014 fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the last day on which this  
1015 surrender may be revoked will be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal  
1016 holiday. I understand that, if I deliver the notice to revoke my surrender in person, it  
1017 must be delivered to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and  
1018 address) not later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time,  
1019 whichever is applicable, on the fourth day; provided, however, that if I mail the notice  
1020 by registered mail or have it delivered by statutory overnight delivery, I must address  
1021 it to the address shown in the surrender document and submit it to the United States  
1022 Postal Service or to the statutory overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00

1023 Midnight eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the  
1024 fourth day. I understand that I CANNOT revoke this surrender after that time.

1025 7.

1026 I understand that if I am not a resident of this state that I am agreeing to be subject to  
1027 the jurisdiction of the courts of Georgia for any action filed in connection with the  
1028 adoption of the child. I agree to be bound by a decree of adoption rendered as a result  
1029 of this surrender of my parental rights.

1030 8.

1031 Furthermore, I hereby certify that I have not been subjected to any duress or undue  
1032 pressure in the execution of this document and I am signing it freely and voluntarily.

1033 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

1034 \_\_\_\_\_  
1035 (Parent or guardian)

1036 \_\_\_\_\_  
1037 Adult witness

1038 Sworn to and subscribed  
1039 before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
1040 day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
1041 \_\_\_\_\_

1042 Notary public (SEAL)  
1043 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_.'

1044 (f) The pre-birth surrender of rights by a biological father who is not a legal father of the  
 1045 child pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (e) of Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, or 19-8-7  
 1046 shall conform substantially to the following form:

1047 **'PRE-BIRTH SURRENDER OF RIGHTS**  
 1048 **FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION**

1049 **NOTICE TO ALLEGED BIOLOGICAL FATHER:**

1050 This is an important legal document and by signing it, you are surrendering any and all  
 1051 of your rights to the child identified in this document, so as to place the child for  
 1052 adoption. You have the right to wait to execute a ~~PRE-BIRTH SURRENDER OF~~  
 1053 ~~RIGHTS/FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION~~ after the child is born, but by signing this  
 1054 document, you are electing to surrender your rights prior to the birth of this child.  
 1055 Understand that you are signing this document under oath and that if you knowingly and  
 1056 willfully make a false statement in this document you will be guilty of the crime of false  
 1057 swearing. As explained below in paragraph 6, you have the right to revoke this pre-birth  
 1058 surrender within four days from the date you sign it.

1059 \_\_\_\_\_

1060 STATE OF GEORGIA

1061 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

1062 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer  
 1063 oaths, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of alleged biological father) who, after having  
 1064 been sworn, deposes and says as follows:

1065 1.  
1066 I, the undersigned, understand that I have been named by \_\_\_\_\_,  
1067 the biological mother of the child expected to be born in \_\_\_\_\_  
1068 (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (county) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) on or about the \_\_\_\_\_ day  
1069 of \_\_\_\_\_ (month), \_\_\_\_\_ (year), as the biological father or possible  
1070 biological father of her child. I further understand that the biological mother wishes to  
1071 place this child for adoption.

1072 2.  
1073 To the best of my knowledge and belief, the child has not been born as of the date I am  
1074 signing this pre-birth surrender; however, if in fact the child has been born, this  
1075 surrender shall have the same effect as if it were a surrender executed following the  
1076 birth of the child.

1077 3.  
1078 I understand that by signing this document I am not admitting that I am the biological  
1079 father of this child, but if I am, I hereby agree that adoption is in this child's best  
1080 interest. I consent to adoption of this child by any individual chosen by the child's legal  
1081 mother or by any public or private agency that places children without further notice  
1082 to me. I expressly waive any other notice or service in any of the legal proceedings for  
1083 the adoption of the child. I understand that I have the option to wait until after the child  
1084 is born to execute a surrender of my rights (with a corresponding four-day right of  
1085 revocation) and, further, that by executing this document I am electing instead to  
1086 surrender my rights before the child's birth.

1087

4.

1088

1089

1090

1091

1092

1093

I understand that signing this document does not fully and finally terminate my rights and responsibilities until an order from a court of competent jurisdiction terminating my rights or a final order of adoption is entered. I understand that if the child is not adopted after I sign this document, legal proceedings can be brought to establish paternity, and I may become liable for financial obligations related to the birth and support of this child.

1094

5.

1095

1096

I understand that I will receive a copy of this document after the witness and I have signed it and it has been notarized.

1097

6.

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1110

1111

I understand that under Georgia law I have the unconditional right to a four-day revocation period. I understand that I may only revoke this pre-birth surrender by giving written notice, delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory overnight delivery, to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address of child-placing agency representative, out-of-state licensed agency representative, Department of Human Services representative, individual to whom surrender is made or his or her agent, or petitioner's representative, as applicable) within four days from the date of signing this document. I understand that certified mail cannot be used for mail delivery of the notice to revoke this pre-birth surrender. I understand that the four days will be counted consecutively beginning with the day immediately following the date I sign this document; provided, however, that, if the fourth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the last day on which this surrender may be revoked will be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. I understand that, if I deliver the notice to revoke this surrender in person, it

1112 must be delivered to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and  
1113 address) not later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time,  
1114 whichever is applicable, on the fourth day; provided, however, that if I mail the notice  
1115 by registered mail or have it delivered by statutory overnight delivery, I must address  
1116 it to the address shown in the surrender document and submit it to the United States  
1117 Postal Service or to the statutory overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00  
1118 Midnight eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the  
1119 fourth day. I understand that I CANNOT revoke this surrender after that time.

1120

7.

1121 If prior to my signing this pre-birth surrender I have registered on Georgia's putative  
1122 father registry then, if I do not revoke this surrender within the time permitted, I waive  
1123 the notice I would be entitled to receive pursuant to Code Section 19-8-12 of the  
1124 Official Code of Georgia Annotated because of my registration on the putative father  
1125 registry.

1126

8.

1127 I understand that if I am not a resident of this state that I am agreeing to be subject to  
1128 the jurisdiction of the courts of Georgia for any action filed in connection with the  
1129 adoption of the child. I agree to be bound by a decree of adoption rendered as a result  
1130 of this surrender of my parental rights.

1131

9.

1132 Furthermore, I hereby certify that I have not been subjected to any duress or undue  
1133 pressure in the execution of this document and I am signing it freely and voluntarily.

1134 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

1135

1136

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Alleged biological father)

1137

\_\_\_\_\_

1138

Adult witness

1139

Sworn to and subscribed

1140

before me this \_\_\_\_\_

1141

day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

1142

\_\_\_\_\_

1143

Notary public (SEAL)

1144

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_.'

1145

(g) The acknowledgment of surrender of rights pursuant to subsection (f) of Code Section

1146

19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-6, or 19-8-7 shall conform substantially to the following form:

1147

**'ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SURRENDER**

1148

**OF RIGHTS**

1149

STATE OF GEORGIA

1150

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

1151

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer

1152

oaths, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent, guardian, or

1153

alleged biological father) who, after having been sworn, deposes and says as follows:

1154

(A) That I have read the accompanying (PRE-BIRTH SURRENDER OF

1155

RIGHTS/FINAL RELEASE FOR ADOPTION) (SURRENDER OF RIGHTS/FINAL



1156 RELEASE FOR ADOPTION) [circle one] relating to the child born  
1157 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child), a (male) (female) [circle one] on  
1158 \_\_\_\_\_ (birthdate of child);

1159 (B) That I understand that this is a full, final, and complete surrender, release, and  
1160 termination of all of my rights to the child;

1161 (C) That I have ~~chosen to retain~~ the unconditional right to revoke the surrender by  
1162 giving written notice, delivered in person or mailed by registered mail or statutory  
1163 overnight delivery, to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and  
1164 address of child-placing agency or its representative, out-of-state licensed agency or its  
1165 representative, Department of Human Services or its representative, individual to whom  
1166 surrender is made or his or her agent, or petitioner's representative, as applicable) within  
1167 four days from the date of signing the surrender and that after such four-day revocation  
1168 period I shall have no right to revoke the surrender. I understand that certified mail  
1169 cannot be used for mail delivery of the notice to revoke the surrender of my rights. I  
1170 understand that, if I deliver the notice to revoke my surrender in person, it must be  
1171 delivered to \_\_\_\_\_ (name and address) not  
1172 later than 5:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is  
1173 applicable, on the fourth day; provided, however, that if I mail the notice by registered  
1174 mail or have it delivered by statutory overnight delivery, I must address it to the address  
1175 shown in the surrender document and submit it to the United States Postal Service or  
1176 to the statutory overnight delivery carrier not later than 12:00 Midnight eastern standard  
1177 time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, on the fourth day. I understand  
1178 that the four days will be counted consecutively beginning with the day immediately  
1179 following the date I signed the surrender; provided, however, that, if the fourth day falls  
1180 on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the last day on which the surrender may  
1181 be revoked will be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

1182 (D) That I have read the accompanying surrender of rights and received a copy thereof;

1183 (E) That any and all questions regarding the effect of such surrender and its provisions  
1184 have been satisfactorily explained to me;

1185 (F) That I have been given an opportunity to consult with an attorney of my choice  
1186 before signing the surrender of my rights; and

1187 (G) That the surrender of my rights has been knowingly, intentionally, freely, and  
1188 voluntarily made by me.

1189 This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

1190 \_\_\_\_\_  
1191 (Parent, guardian, or alleged biological father)

1192 \_\_\_\_\_  
1193 Adult witness

1194 Sworn to and subscribed  
1195 before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
1196 day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

1197 \_\_\_\_\_  
1198 Notary public (SEAL)

1199 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_."

1200 **SECTION 14.**

1201 Code Section 29-4-10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to petition for  
1202 appointment of guardian and requirements for petition, is amended by adding a new  
1203 subsection to read as follows:

1204 “(d) Within six months prior to the date a minor in the custody of the Division of Family  
1205 and Children Services of the Department of Human Services reaches 18 years of age, the  
1206 Division of Family and Children Services may file a petition for the appointment of a  
1207 guardian for the minor when that minor becomes an adult, in accordance with the  
1208 provisions of this article, to take effect on or after the date the minor reaches 18 years of  
1209 age.”

1210

**SECTION 15.**

1211 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.