

FAMILY LAW REFORM (BILL NO. 2)*: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FOR SOCIOBIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND REUNIONS

Enshrinement of the right to know one's origins in the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms

MEASURES IN FORCE FROM JUNE 8, 2024



New Categories of Applicants and Associated Requests

- Expansion of the types of applicants who can submit a request:
 - A) first-degree descendants aged 14 and over of a deceased adoptee may receive the same services as their parent would have received during his or her lifetime;
 - B) the original grandparents may request the adopted person's identity and the possibility of locating him or her.



Refusal to Disclose Identity

- Revised rules for registering a refusal to communicate identity, now only possible within 30 days of the child's birth.
- Maintenance of automatic refusal to communicate identity for persons adopted before June 16, 2018 (Civil Code of Québec 583.5).
- Abolition of refusals to communicate identity registered by a parent of origin for adoptions granted before June 16, 2018 (PL113)**.



Request for Communication of Identity

- Expansion of the identities that can be communicated to the adopted person, i.e. those of his or her original grandparents and the names of his or her original siblings, in addition to those of his or her original parents, unless a refusal is an obstacle.
- Possibility of obtaining the name of a parent of origin, whether or not the parent-child relationship was recorded on the original birth certificate.
- The adopted person's identity can be communicated to his or her original grandparents and siblings only if he or she is of age and consents.



Obtain a Copy of the Original Birth Certificate and Adoption Judgments

- Possibility for adoptees and first-degree descendants of deceased adoptees to obtain a copy of the original birth certificate and adoption judgments.



Contact Information for a Reunion Request

- Modification of the rules governing reunions between original siblings and abolition of the concept of concordance.
- Added the possibility for adoptees to apply for a reunion with their original grandparents.
- Contact refusals maintained.



Disclosure of Adoption-Related Medical Information

- When initially requested by a doctor, more flexible rules governing the communication of medical information.

* Act respecting family law reform with regard to filiation and amending the Civil Code in relation to personality rights and civil status, adopted in 2022.

** Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and the disclosure of information, adopted in 2017.