

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: brian Donahue <donahue_brian@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:47 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Biological parents access to certain documents in cases involving a voluntary termination of parental rights

AN ACT CONCERNING A BIOLOGICAL PARENT'S ACCESS TO CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN CASES INVOLVING A VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) A biological parent whose parental rights A biological parent whose parental rights to a child were voluntarily terminated pursuant to state law may receive from a child-placing agency, as defined in section 45a-707 of the general statutes, that was party to, or otherwise involved in, an adoption relating to such biological parent's child, (1) a copy of any agreement or other document signed by such biological parent or by a parent, guardian, custodian or legal representative acting on behalf of such biological parent relating to the voluntary termination of parental rights; and (2) any other document related to the voluntary termination of parental rights, including, but not limited to, any document provided by the child-placing agency to such biological parent regarding the legal consequences of termination of such biological parent's parental rights and responsibilities. Nothing in this section shall prevent the release of any document to a biological parent who was a minor at the time of termination of his or her parental rights.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<u>October 1, 2015</u>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow a biological parent, who voluntarily terminated his or her parental rights to a child, access to documents that such biological parent signed or received in connection with the parental rights termination proceeding.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

I support the above bill. It is important for the biological parent to have access to their documents. I am surprised this is not already the law. It seems to be unfair that that biological parent would not have this right. Everyone who has a legal matter in court should have a copy of their paperwork. The paperwork is part of the

biological parent's life. They should be able to make their own decisions as to what they wish to do with their paperwork. Please allow them the respect and dignity to have their documents.