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For: Volume VII Distribution
Service Program Manual, Volume VII, Section III, Chapter D

Transmittal #226

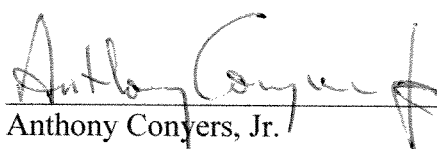
The purpose of this transmittal is to provide legislative changes made by the 2009 General Assembly and to update existing information to Volume VII, Section III, Chapter D, Adoption-Non-Agency Placement and Other Court Services. The changes were effective July 1, 2009.

In addition to the substantive changes, there are changes in language, organization and formatting of Chapter D. All substantive changes are bolded throughout the chapter. Guidance revision is an evolving process and we welcome suggestions for future revisions of the chapter.

Substantive changes to Volume VII, Section III, Chapter D are as follows:

Changes in Chapter D, Effective July 1, 2009		
Sections	Pages	Substantive Changes
Stepparent Adoptions	Page 7	Clarifies that a procedural provision may be waived for the spouse of an adoptive parent to whom the provision applies.
	Page 19	Adds language that a death certificate for a deceased birth parent can be submitted to court as evidence that the consent is not required (Section 63.2-1203.3).
Parental Placement Adoptions	Page 28	Adds language that if the identity of the birth father is reasonably ascertainable, but the whereabouts of the birth father are not reasonably ascertainable, verification of compliance with the Virginia Putative Father Registry is required to be provided to the court (Section 63.2-1233.1.b).
	Page 32	Adds language that a death certificate for a deceased birth parent can be submitted to the court as evidence that the consent is not required (Section 63.2-1203.3 <i>Code of Virginia</i>).
	Page 33	If the identity of the birth father is reasonably ascertainable, but the whereabouts of the birth father are not reasonably ascertainable, verification of compliance with the Virginia Putative Father Registry must be provided to the court (Section 63.2-1233.1.b).
	Page 33	Reduces timeframe from 21 days to 15 days after personal service of notice for a court to waive a

		required consent.
	Page 34	Adds language that a death certificate for a deceased birth parent can be submitted to the court as evidence that the consent is not required (Section 63.2-1203.3 <i>Code of Virginia</i>).
	Page 50	Reduces timeframe from 21 days to 15 days after personal service of notice for a court to waive a required consent.
Responsibilities of the agency	Page 68	Adds language that a death certificate for a deceased birth parent can be submitted to court as evidence that the consent is not required (Section 63.2-1203.3).
	Page 69, 78, and 80	Reduces timeframe from 21 days to 15 days after personal service of notice for a court to waive a required consent.
Virginia Putative Father	Page 149	Provides new address to send updated registration forms for the Virginia Putative Father Registry effective October 27, 2009.
	Page 150	Adds language that if the identity of the putative father and whereabouts are reasonably ascertainable, a written notice of the adoption plan and availability of registration with the Virginia Putative Father Registry must be sent by certified mail to the putative father's last known address (Section 63.2-1250.E).
	Page 151 and 153	Provides new address to send updated registration forms for the Virginia Putative Father Registry effective October 27, 2009.



 Anthony Conyers, Jr.
 Commissioner