

HOUSE BILL NO. 320

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRAY, Fields, Armstrong

Introduced: 2/12/24

Referred: Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the effect of a decree of adoption or termination of parental rights**
2 **on the legal relationship between a person and the person's siblings."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 25.23.130(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A final decree of adoption, whether issued by a court of this state or of any
6 other state, has the following effect as to matters within the jurisdiction or before a
7 court of this state:

8 (1) except with respect to a spouse of the petitioner and relatives of the
9 spouse, to relieve the natural parents of the adopted person of all parental rights and
10 responsibilities, and, except as provided in (c) of this section, to terminate all legal
11 relationships between the adopted person and the natural parents and other relatives of
12 the adopted person **who are not siblings of the adopted person**, so that the adopted
13 person thereafter is a stranger to **these** [THE] former relatives for all purposes,
14 including inheritance, unless the decree of adoption specifically provides for

1 continuation of inheritance rights, and the interpretation or construction of documents,
2 statutes, and instruments, whether executed before or after the adoption is decreed,
3 that do not expressly include the person by name or by some designation not based on
4 a parent and child or blood relationship; and

5 (2) to create the relationship of parent and child between the petitioner
6 and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of
7 the petitioner, for all purposes, including inheritance and applicability of statutes,
8 documents, and instruments, whether executed before or after the adoption is decreed,
9 that do not expressly exclude an adopted person from their operation or effect.

10 * **Sec. 2.** AS 25.23.130(d) is amended to read:

11 (d) Except as provided in (e) and (f) of this section, a decree terminating
12 parental rights on the grounds set out in AS 25.23.180(c)(2) voids all legal
13 relationships between the child and the biological parent so that the child is a stranger
14 to the biological parent and to relatives of the biological parent, except siblings of the
15 child, for all purposes, including interpretation of documents executed before or after
16 the termination of parental rights that do not include the child by name or by a
17 description not based on a parental or blood relationship.

18 * **Sec. 3.** AS 25.23.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (g) In this section, "sibling" means a person who

20 (1) is related to an individual by blood, adoption, or marriage as a child
21 of one or both parents; or

22 (2) was raised together with an individual for a period of time in the
23 same household and in the same manner that children who are related by blood,
24 adoption, or marriage might be.