

CHAPTER 162

(House Bill 469)

AN ACT concerning

Birth Certificate - Name Change Without Court Order

FOR the purpose of altering the period of time after birth within which the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is authorized to change the name on a birth certificate under certain circumstances; and generally relating to a change of name on a birth certificate without a court order under certain circumstances.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 4-214

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

4-214.

(a) A certificate or record registered under this subtitle may be amended only in accordance with this subtitle and any rules and regulations that the Secretary adopts to protect the integrity and accuracy of vital records.

(b) If any certificate of birth, death, or fetal death is amended, the facts shall be certified to the Secretary and entered in red ink, with the date of the amendment, over the signature or initials of a designee of the Secretary.

(c) (1) On receipt of a court order that changes the name of an individual who was born in this State and on request of the individual or a parent, guardian, or legal representative of the individual, the Secretary shall amend the certificate of birth to reflect the new name.

(2) The Department may change the name on a birth certificate once without a court order if, within ~~6 [months]~~ YEARS 48 12 MONTHS after the birth, the Department receives from both parents of a child:

(i) A written request for the change of name; and

(ii) An affidavit that has been sworn before a notary public of this State and states that they are the parents of the child and are making this request of their own free will.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.