



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Human Rights

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 115]

In relation to: Birth certificates

Hearing Date: 25 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 26 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 31 July 2024

MS CASTLEY: Okay. My understanding was that if the siblings are like half-siblings, for instance, they are not on the birth certificate. Is that correct?

Ms McKinnon: Can I take that one on notice? It might be good to find out a little bit more about that detail. Thank you.

MS CASTLEY: Thank you. That is it.

Minister for Human Rights: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

When a person is adopted in the ACT, their new standard birth certificate will show only the details of their adoptive parents and older adoptive siblings, as if the person had been born to their adoptive parents. This had been a consistent practice across all Australian jurisdictions and reflects historical attitudes to adoptions.

Integrated birth certificates are intended to provide a more accurate and complete picture of an adopted person's birth and adoption history.

Under section 45 (3) of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1997*, an integrated birth certificate may now be issued on request where the adopted person is entitled to access information in relation to their adoption under the *Adoption Act 1993*, part 5. This will usually require the consent of birth parents and adoptive parents where the adopted person is under 18 years old.

An integrated birth certificate will include the details of the person’s birth parents and older birth siblings, as well as the date of adoption and details of their adoptive parents and older adoptive siblings.

In relation to the recording of half-siblings, the *Births Deaths and Marriages Regulation 1998* in clause 5 prescribes particulars for registration of a birth, which includes in 5(1)(l):

“the name and age of each other child of the relationship of the parents of the child (including any adopted or stillborn child but not including any child given up for adoption)”.

This means that generally only older full siblings (rather than half-siblings) will be recorded on a person’s birth certificate and on any integrated birth certificate.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 1/8/24

By the Minister for Human Rights, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA