

Adoption of Children Act Amendment Act 1921, Western Australia

1921 – 1995

URL: https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law_a143676.html

Details

The Adoption of Children Act Amendment Act 1921 (1921/009 (12 Geo. V No.9)) commenced on 8 November 1921. It made the adopted child's birth surname secret.

In the original Act of 1896 the adopted child's legal name included both the surname that was registered at the time of their birth (their 'proper name') and the surname that was registered at the time of their adoption. This meant that people who had been adopted as children could be fairly easily 'found' by any member of the public.

The 1921 amendments expressly stated that the child's birth surname should be omitted from their new legal name, and the records that contained the birth surname could not be inspected without 'some reasonable and proper purpose' and the written permission of the Master of the Supreme Court.

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Closed adoption in Western Australia became legally possible with the Adoption of Children Act Amendment Act 1921.

Amends

- [Adoption of Children Act 1896, Western Australia \(1896 - 1995\)](#)

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