2008 SESSION

ENROLLED

[H 285]

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VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact § 63.2-1234 of the Code of Virginia, relating to revocation of consent in 3 parental placement adoptions.

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Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

7 1. That § 63.2-1234 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 § 63.2-1234. When consent is revocable. 9

Consent shall be revocable as follows:

10 1. By either consenting birth parent for any reason for up to 10 seven days from its execution.; however, such seven-day revocation period may be waived in writing at the time of consent provided 11 12 that the child is at least 10 days old and the consenting birth parent acknowledges having received 13 independent legal counsel regarding the effect of such waiver. In the case of two consenting birth parents, the waiver by one consenting birth parent shall not affect the right of the second consenting 14 birth parent to retain his seven-day revocation period. Once the child is 10 days old, no executed 15 16 consent can be withdrawn.

a. Such revocation shall be in writing, signed by the revoking party or counsel of record for the 17 18 revoking party and shall be filed with the clerk of the juvenile and domestic relations district court in 19 which the petition was filed during the business day of the juvenile and domestic relations district court, 20 within the time period specified in this section. If the revocation period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, 21 legal holiday or any day on which the clerk's office is closed as authorized by statute, the revocation 22 period shall be extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday or other day on 23 which the clerk's office is closed as authorized by statute.

24 b. Upon the filing of a valid revocation within the time period set out in this section, the juvenile 25 and domestic relations district court shall order that any consent given for the purpose of such placement is void and, if necessary, the juvenile and domestic relations district court shall determine custody of the 26 27 child as between the birth parents.

28 2. By any party prior to the final order of adoption (i) upon proof of fraud or duress or (ii) after 29 placement of the child in an adoptive home, upon written, mutual consent of the birth parents and 30 prospective adoptive parents.