

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1121

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Commission on Uniform State Laws)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-09 and chapter 14-20 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the termination of parental rights and the Uniform
3 Parentage Act; to amend and reenact section 12.1-31-05, subsection 1 of section 14-15-05,
4 subsection 1 of section 14-15-11, section 14-19-05, and subsection 5 of section 23-02.1-13 of
5 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to parentage determinations; to repeal sections
6 14-09-01, 14-09-02, and 14-09-03, chapters 14-17 and 14-18, and sections 14-19-02,
7 14-19-03, 14-19-04, 14-19-09, and 14-19-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
8 legitimacy of children, the Uniform Parentage Act, the Uniform Status of Children of Assisted
9 Conception Act, and paternity acknowledgment; and to provide for transition.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

11 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-31-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **12.1-31-05. Child procurement - Penalty.** Except with respect to fees and charges
14 authorized by law or approved by a court in a proceeding related to the placement of a minor
15 child for adoption or related to the adoption of a minor child, a person is guilty of child
16 procurement, a class C felony, if the person knowingly offers, gives, or agrees to give to
17 another or solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept from another, a thing of value as consideration
18 for the recipient's furnishing or aiding another to furnish a minor child for the purposes of
19 adoption. This section does not apply to parties to any agreement in which a woman agrees to
20 become a surrogate, ~~as defined in section 14-18-01~~, or to relinquish her rights and duties as
21 parent of a child conceived through assisted ~~conception~~ reproduction, as defined in section
22 ~~14-18-01~~ 14-20-01.

23 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 14-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 created and enacted as follows:

1 **Termination of parental rights - Duty of support.** A termination of parental rights
2 does not terminate the duty of either parent to support the child before the child's adoption
3 unless that duty is specially terminated by order of the court after notice of a proposed
4 termination or relinquishment is given to the department of human services in the manner
5 appropriate for the service of process in a civil action in this state. A termination of a child
6 support obligation under this section does not relieve a parent of the duty to pay any unpaid
7 child support.

8 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 14-15-05 of the North Dakota
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 10 1. Unless consent is not required under section 14-15-06, a petition to adopt a minor
11 may be granted only if written consent to a particular adoption has been executed
12 by:
- 13 a. The mother of the minor whether by birth or adoption;
 - 14 b. The father of the minor, if:
 - 15 (1) The minor is the father's child by adoption, or the father has otherwise
 - 16 legitimated the minor according to the laws of the place in which the
 - 17 adoption proceeding is brought; or
 - 18 (2) The person is presumed to be the biological father of the minor under
 - 19 subsection 1 of section ~~14-17-04~~ 14-20-10, provided the nonexistence
 - 20 of the father and child relationship between them has not been judicially
 - 21 determined;
 - 22 c. Any individual lawfully entitled to custody of the minor or empowered to
 - 23 consent;
 - 24 d. The court having jurisdiction to determine custody of the minor, if the legal
 - 25 guardian or custodian of the minor is not empowered to consent to the
 - 26 adoption;
 - 27 e. The minor, if more than ten years of age, unless the court in the best interest
 - 28 of the minor dispenses with the minor's consent; and
 - 29 f. The spouse of the minor to be adopted.

30 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 14-15-11 of the North Dakota
31 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1 1. a. After the filing of a petition to adopt a minor, the court shall fix a time and
2 place for hearing the petition. At least twenty days before the date of hearing,
3 notice of the filing of the petition and of the time and place of hearing must be
4 given by the petitioner to the department; any agency or individual whose
5 consent to the adoption is required by this chapter but who has not
6 consented; an individual whose consent is dispensed with upon any ground
7 mentioned in subdivisions a, b, f, h, i, and j of subsection 1 of section
8 14-15-06 but who has not consented; and any individual identified by the
9 court as a biological parent or a possible biological parent of the minor, upon
10 making inquiry to the extent necessary and appropriate, as in proceedings
11 under ~~sections~~ section 27-20-45 and 14-17-24, unless the individual has
12 relinquished parental rights or the individual's parental rights have been
13 previously terminated by a court. The notice to the department must be
14 accompanied by a copy of the petition.
- 15 b. Notice of the filing of a petition to adopt an adult must be given by the
16 petitioner at least twenty days before the date of the hearing to each living
17 parent of the adult to be adopted.

18 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-19-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **14-19-05. Filing of acknowledgment.** An acknowledgment of paternity made under
21 ~~this~~ chapter 14-20 must be filed with the state department of health on a form approved by the
22 department, which must include the social security number of the parents and any other
23 information required by the secretary of the United States department of health and human
24 services. Upon request of the department, the state department of health shall furnish a
25 certified copy of an acknowledgment of paternity to the department.

26 **SECTION 6.** Chapter 14-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
27 as follows:

28 **14-20-01. (101) Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Parentage Act.

29 **14-20-02. (102) Definitions.** In this chapter:

- 30 1. "Acknowledged father" means a man who has established a father-child
31 relationship under sections 14-20-11 through 14-20-24.

- 1 2. "Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of
2 competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child.
- 3 3. "Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the
4 genetic father or a possible genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not
5 been determined. The term does not include:
- 6 a. A presumed father;
7 b. A man whose parental rights have been terminated or declared not to exist; or
8 c. A male donor.
- 9 4. "Assisted reproduction" means a method of causing pregnancy other than sexual
10 intercourse. The term includes:
- 11 a. Intrauterine insemination;
12 b. Donation of eggs;
13 c. Donation of embryos;
14 d. In vitro fertilization and transfer of embryos; and
15 e. Intracytoplasmic sperm injection.
- 16 5. "Child" means an individual of any age whose parentage may be determined under
17 this chapter.
- 18 6. "Commence" means to file the initial pleading seeking an adjudication of parentage
19 in the district court of this state.
- 20 7. "Determination of parentage" means the establishment of the parent-child
21 relationship by the signing of a valid acknowledgment of paternity under sections
22 14-20-11 through 14-20-24 or adjudication by the court.
- 23 8. "Donor" means an individual who produces eggs or sperm used for assisted
24 reproduction, whether or not for consideration. The term does not include:
- 25 a. A husband who provides sperm, or a wife who provides eggs, to be used for
26 assisted reproduction by the wife;
27 b. A woman who gives birth to a child by means of assisted reproduction;
28 c. A parent under sections 14-20-59 through 14-20-65; or
29 d. An individual whose body produces sperm or egg used for the purpose of
30 conceiving a child for that individual.

- 1 9. "Ethnic or racial group" means, for purposes of genetic testing, a recognized group
2 that an individual identifies as all or part of the individual's ancestry or that is so
3 identified by other information.
- 4 10. "Genetic testing" means an analysis of genetic markers to exclude or identify a
5 man as the father or a woman as the mother of a child. The term includes an
6 analysis of one or a combination of the following:
- 7 a. Deoxyribonucleic acid; and
8 b. Blood-group antigens, red-cell antigens, human-leukocyte antigens, serum
9 enzymes, serum proteins, or red-cell enzymes.
- 10 11. "Gestational carrier" means an adult woman who enters into an agreement to have
11 an embryo implanted in her and bear the resulting child for intended parents,
12 where the embryo is conceived by using the egg and sperm of the intended
13 parents.
- 14 12. "Man" means a male individual of any age.
- 15 13. "Parent" means an individual who has established a parent-child relationship under
16 section 14-20-07.
- 17 14. "Parent-child relationship" means the legal relationship between a child and a
18 parent of the child. The term includes the mother-child relationship and the
19 father-child relationship.
- 20 15. "Paternity index" means the likelihood of paternity calculated by computing the
21 ratio between:
- 22 a. The likelihood that the tested man is the father, based on genetic markers of
23 the tested man, mother, and child, conditioned on the hypothesis that the
24 tested man is the father of the child; and
- 25 b. The likelihood that the tested man is not the father, based on the genetic
26 markers of the tested man, mother, and child, conditioned on the hypothesis
27 that the tested man is not the father of the child and that the father is of the
28 same ethnic or racial group as the tested man.
- 29 16. "Presumed father" means a man who, by operation of law under section 14-20-10,
30 is recognized as the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a
31 judicial proceeding.

1 17. "Probability of paternity" means the measure, for the ethnic or racial group to which
2 the alleged father belongs, of the probability that the man in question is the father
3 of the child, compared with a random, unrelated man of the same ethnic or racial
4 group, expressed as a percentage incorporating the paternity index and a prior
5 probability.

6 18. "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored
7 in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

8 19. "Signatory" means an individual who authenticates a record and is bound by its
9 terms.

10 20. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
11 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to
12 the jurisdiction of the United States.

13 21. "Support enforcement agency" means a public official or agency authorized to
14 seek:

15 a. Enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of support;

16 b. Establishment or modification of child support;

17 c. Determination of parentage; or

18 d. Location of child support obligors and their income and assets.

19 **14-20-03. (103) Scope - Choice of law.**

20 1. This chapter applies to determination of parentage in this state.

21 2. The court shall apply the law of this state to adjudicate the parent-child
22 relationship. The applicable law does not depend on:

23 a. The place of birth of the child; or

24 b. The past or present residence of the child.

25 3. This chapter does not create, enlarge, or diminish parental rights or duties under
26 other law of this state.

27 **14-20-04. (104) Courts of this state.** The district court is authorized to adjudicate
28 parentage under this chapter.

29 **14-20-05. (105) Protection of participants.** Proceedings under this chapter are
30 subject to other law of this state governing the health, safety, privacy, and liberty of a child or
31 other individual who could be jeopardized by disclosure of identifying information, including

1 address, telephone number, place of employment, social security number, and the child's
2 daycare facility and school.

3 **14-20-06. (106) Determination of maternity.** Provisions of this chapter relating to
4 determination of paternity apply to determinations of maternity.

5 **14-20-07. (201) Establishment of parent-child relationship.**

6 1. The mother-child relationship is established between a woman and a child by:

7 a. The woman's having given birth to the child;

8 b. An adjudication of the woman's maternity; or

9 c. Adoption of the child by the woman.

10 2. The father-child relationship is established between a man and a child by:

11 a. An un rebutted presumption of the man's paternity of the child under section
12 14-20-10;

13 b. An effective acknowledgment of paternity by the man under sections
14 14-20-11 through 14-20-24, unless the acknowledgment has been rescinded
15 or successfully challenged;

16 c. An adjudication of the man's paternity;

17 d. Adoption of the child by the man; or

18 e. The man's having consented to assisted reproduction by a woman under
19 sections 14-20-59 through 14-20-65 which resulted in the birth of the child.

20 **14-20-08. (202) No discrimination based on marital status.** A child born to parents
21 who are not married to each other has the same rights under the law as a child born to parents
22 who are married to each other.

23 **14-20-09. (203) Consequences of establishment of parentage.** Unless parental
24 rights are terminated, a parent-child relationship established under this chapter applies for all
25 purposes, except as otherwise specifically provided by other law of this state.

26 **14-20-10. (204) Presumption of paternity.**

27 1. A man is presumed to be the father of a child if:

28 a. He and the mother of the child are married to each other and the child is born
29 during the marriage;

- 1 b. He and the mother of the child were married to each other and the child is
2 born within three hundred days after the marriage is terminated by death,
3 annulment, declaration of invalidity, divorce, or after a decree of separation;
4 c. Before the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child married each other
5 in apparent compliance with law, even if the attempted marriage is or could
6 be declared invalid, and the child is born during the invalid marriage or within
7 three hundred days after its termination by death, annulment, declaration of
8 invalidity, divorce, or after a decree of separation;
9 d. After the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child married each other
10 in apparent compliance with law, whether or not the marriage is or could be
11 declared invalid, and he voluntarily asserted his paternity of the child, and:
12 (1) The assertion is in a record filed with the state department of health;
13 (2) He agreed to be and is named as the child's father on the child's birth
14 certificate; or
15 (3) He promised in a record to support the child as his own; or
16 e. For the first two years of the child's life, he resided in the same household
17 with the child and openly held out the child as his own.
18 2. A presumption of paternity established under this section may be rebutted only by
19 an adjudication under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58.

20 **14-20-11. (301) Acknowledgment of paternity.** The mother of a child and a man
21 claiming to be the genetic father of the child may sign an acknowledgment of paternity with
22 intent to establish the man's paternity.

23 **14-20-12. (302) Execution of acknowledgment of paternity.**

- 24 1. An acknowledgment of paternity must:
25 a. Be in a record;
26 b. Be signed, or otherwise authenticated, under penalty of perjury by the mother
27 and by the man seeking to establish his paternity;
28 c. State that the child whose paternity is being acknowledged:
29 (1) Does not have a presumed father, or has a presumed father whose full
30 name is stated; and
31 (2) Does not have another acknowledged or adjudicated father;

- 1 d. State whether there has been genetic testing and, if so, that the
2 acknowledging man's claim of paternity is consistent with the results of the
3 testing; and
4 e. State that the signatories understand that the acknowledgment is the
5 equivalent of a judicial adjudication of paternity of the child and that a
6 challenge to the acknowledgment is permitted only under limited
7 circumstances and is barred after one year.

8 2. An acknowledgment of paternity is void if it:

- 9 a. States that another man is a presumed father, unless a denial of paternity
10 signed or otherwise authenticated by the presumed father is filed with the
11 state department of health;
12 b. States that another man is an acknowledged or adjudicated father; or
13 c. Falsely denies the existence of a presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated
14 father of the child.

15 3. A presumed father may sign or otherwise authenticate an acknowledgment of
16 paternity.

17 **14-20-13. (303) Denial of paternity.** A presumed father may sign a denial of his
18 paternity. The denial is valid only if:

- 19 1. An acknowledgment of paternity signed, or otherwise authenticated, by another
20 man is filed pursuant to section 14-20-15;
21 2. The denial is in a record, and is signed, or otherwise authenticated, under penalty
22 of perjury; and
23 3. The presumed father has not previously:
24 a. Acknowledged his paternity, unless the previous acknowledgment has been
25 rescinded pursuant to section 14-20-17 or successfully challenged pursuant
26 to section 14-20-18; or
27 b. Been adjudicated to be the father of the child.

28 **14-20-14. (304) Rules for acknowledgment and denial of paternity.**

- 29 1. An acknowledgment of paternity and a denial of paternity may be contained in a
30 single document or may be signed in counterparts, and may be filed separately or

- 1 simultaneously. If the acknowledgment and denial are both necessary, neither is
2 valid until both are filed.
- 3 2. An acknowledgment of paternity or a denial of paternity may be signed before the
4 birth of the child.
- 5 3. Subject to subsection 1, an acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity
6 takes effect on the birth of the child or the filing of the document with the state
7 department of health, whichever occurs later.
- 8 4. An acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity signed by a minor is valid if it
9 is otherwise in compliance with this chapter.
- 10 5. An acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity may be completed for a child
11 who was not born in this state.

12 **14-20-15. (305) Effect of acknowledgment or denial of paternity.**

- 13 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections 14-20-17 and 14-20-18, a valid
14 acknowledgment of paternity filed with the state department of health is equivalent
15 to an adjudication of paternity of a child and confers upon the acknowledged father
16 all of the rights and duties of a parent and must be recognized as a basis for a
17 support order in any proceeding to establish, enforce, or modify a support order.
- 18 2. Except as otherwise provided in sections 14-20-17 and 14-20-18, a valid denial of
19 paternity by a presumed father filed with the state department of health in
20 conjunction with a valid acknowledgment of paternity is equivalent to an
21 adjudication of the nonpaternity of the presumed father and discharges the
22 presumed father from all rights and duties of a parent.

23 **14-20-16. (306) No filing fee.** The state department of health may not charge for filing
24 an acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity.

25 **14-20-17. (307) Proceeding for rescission.** A signatory may rescind an
26 acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity by commencing a proceeding to rescind
27 before the earlier of:

- 28 1. Sixty days after the effective date of the acknowledgment or denial, as provided in
29 section 14-20-14; or

- 1 2. The date of the first hearing, in a proceeding to which the signatory is a party,
2 before a court to adjudicate an issue relating to the child, including a proceeding
3 that establishes support.

4 **14-20-18. (308) Challenge after expiration of period for rescission.**

- 5 1. After the period for rescission under section 14-20-17 has expired, a signatory of
6 an acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity may commence a
7 proceeding to challenge the acknowledgment or denial only:
8 a. On the basis of fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact; and
9 b. Within one year after the acknowledgment or denial is filed with the state
10 department of health.
- 11 2. A party challenging an acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity has the
12 burden of proof.

13 **14-20-19. (309) Procedure for rescission or challenge.**

- 14 1. Every signatory to an acknowledgment of paternity and any related denial of
15 paternity must be made a party to a proceeding to rescind or challenge the
16 acknowledgment or denial.
- 17 2. For the purpose of rescission of, or challenge to, an acknowledgment of paternity
18 or denial of paternity, a signatory submits to personal jurisdiction of this state by
19 signing the acknowledgment or denial, effective upon the filing of the document
20 with the state department of health.
- 21 3. Except for good cause shown, during the pendency of a proceeding to rescind or
22 challenge an acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity, the court may not
23 suspend the legal responsibilities of a signatory arising from the acknowledgment,
24 including the duty to pay child support.
- 25 4. A proceeding to rescind or to challenge an acknowledgment of paternity or denial
26 of paternity must be conducted in the same manner as a proceeding to adjudicate
27 parentage under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58.
- 28 5. At the conclusion of a proceeding to rescind or challenge an acknowledgment of
29 paternity or denial of paternity, the court shall order the state department of health
30 to amend the birth record of the child, if appropriate.

1 **14-20-20. (310) Ratification barred.** A court or administrative agency conducting a
2 judicial or administrative proceeding is not required or permitted to ratify an unchallenged
3 acknowledgment of paternity.

4 **14-20-21. (311) Full faith and credit.** A court of this state shall give full faith and
5 credit to an acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity effective in another state if the
6 acknowledgment or denial has been signed and is otherwise in compliance with the law of the
7 other state.

8 **14-20-22. (312) Forms for acknowledgment and denial of paternity.**

9 1. To facilitate compliance with sections 14-20-11 through 14-20-24, the state
10 department of health shall prescribe forms for the acknowledgment of paternity
11 and the denial of paternity.

12 2. A valid acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity is not affected by a later
13 modification of the prescribed form.

14 **14-20-23. (313) Release of information.** The state department of health may release
15 information relating to the acknowledgment of paternity or denial of paternity to a signatory of
16 the acknowledgment or denial and to courts and appropriate state or federal agencies of this or
17 another state.

18 **14-20-24. (314) Adoption of rules.** The state department of health may adopt rules to
19 implement sections 14-20-11 through 14-20-23.

20 **14-20-25. (501) Scope.** Sections 14-20-25 through 14-20-35 govern genetic testing of
21 an individual to determine parentage, whether the individual:

22 1. Voluntarily submits to testing; or

23 2. Is tested pursuant to an order of the court or a support enforcement agency.

24 **14-20-26. (502) Order for testing.**

25 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections 14-20-25 through 14-20-58, the court
26 shall order the child and other designated individuals to submit to genetic testing if
27 the request for testing is supported by the sworn statement of a party to the
28 proceeding:

29 a. Alleging paternity and stating facts establishing a reasonable probability of the
30 requisite sexual contact between the individuals; or

- 1 b. Denying paternity and stating facts establishing a possibility that sexual
2 contact between the individuals, if any, did not result in the conception of the
3 child.
- 4 2. A support enforcement agency may order genetic testing only if there is no
5 presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated father.
- 6 3. If a request for genetic testing of a child is made before birth, the court or support
7 enforcement agency may not order in utero testing.
- 8 4. If two or more men are subject to court-ordered genetic testing, the testing may be
9 ordered concurrently or sequentially.

10 **14-20-27. (503) Requirements for genetic testing.**

- 11 1. Genetic testing must be of a type reasonably relied upon by experts in the field of
12 genetic testing and performed in a testing laboratory accredited by:
- 13 a. The American association of blood banks, or a successor to its functions;
14 b. The American society for histocompatibility and immunogenetics, or a
15 successor to its functions; or
- 16 c. An accrediting body designated by the federal secretary of health and human
17 services.
- 18 2. A specimen used in genetic testing may consist of one or more samples, or a
19 combination of samples, of blood, buccal cells, bone, hair, or other body tissue or
20 fluid. The specimen used in the testing need not be of the same kind for each
21 individual undergoing genetic testing.
- 22 3. Based on the ethnic or racial group of an individual, the testing laboratory shall
23 determine the data bases from which to select frequencies for use in calculation of
24 the probability of paternity. If there is a disagreement as to the testing laboratory's
25 choice, the following rules apply:
- 26 a. The individual objecting may require the testing laboratory, within thirty days
27 after receipt of the report of the test, to recalculate the probability of paternity
28 using an ethnic or racial group different from that used by the laboratory.
- 29 b. The individual objecting to the testing laboratory's initial choice shall:

- 1 (1) If the frequencies are not available to the testing laboratory for the
2 ethnic or racial group requested, provide the requested frequencies
3 compiled in a manner recognized by accrediting bodies; or
4 (2) Engage another testing laboratory to perform the calculations.
5 c. The testing laboratory may use its own statistical estimate if there is a
6 question regarding which ethnic or racial group is appropriate. If available,
7 the testing laboratory shall calculate the frequencies using statistics for any
8 other ethnic or racial group requested.
9 4. If, after recalculation using a different ethnic or racial group, genetic testing does
10 not rebuttably identify a man as the father of a child under section 14-20-29, an
11 individual who has been tested may be required to submit to additional genetic
12 testing.

13 **14-20-28. (504) Report of genetic testing.**

- 14 1. A report of genetic testing must be in a record and signed under penalty of perjury
15 by a designee of the testing laboratory. A report made under the requirements of
16 sections 14-20-25 through 14-20-35 is self-authenticating.
17 2. Documentation from the testing laboratory of the following information is sufficient
18 to establish a reliable chain of custody that allows the results of genetic testing to
19 be admissible without testimony:
20 a. The names and photographs of the individuals whose specimens have been
21 taken;
22 b. The names of the individuals who collected the specimens;
23 c. The places and dates the specimens were collected;
24 d. The names of the individuals who received the specimens in the testing
25 laboratory; and
26 e. The dates the specimens were received.

27 **14-20-29. (505) Genetic testing results - Rebuttal.**

- 28 1. Under this chapter, a man is rebuttably identified as the father of a child if the
29 genetic testing complies with sections 14-20-25 through 14-20-35 and the results
30 disclose that:

- 1 a. The man has at least a ninety-nine percent probability of paternity, using a
- 2 prior probability of five-tenths, as calculated by using the combined paternity
- 3 index obtained in the testing; and
- 4 b. A combined paternity index of at least one hundred to one.
- 5 2. A man identified under subsection 1 as the father of the child may rebut the
- 6 genetic testing results only by other genetic testing satisfying the requirements of
- 7 sections 25 through 35 of this Act which:
- 8 a. Excludes the man as a genetic father of the child; or
- 9 b. Identifies another man as the possible father of the child.
- 10 3. Except as otherwise provided in section 14-20-34, if more than one man is
- 11 identified by genetic testing as the possible father of the child, the court shall order
- 12 them to submit to further genetic testing to identify the genetic father.

13 **14-20-30. (506) Costs of genetic testing.**

- 14 1. Subject to assessment of costs under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58, the
- 15 cost of initial genetic testing must be advanced:
- 16 a. By a support enforcement agency in a proceeding in which the support
- 17 enforcement agency is providing services;
- 18 b. By the individual who made the request;
- 19 c. As agreed by the parties; or
- 20 d. As ordered by the court.
- 21 2. In cases in which the cost is advanced by the support enforcement agency, the
- 22 agency may seek reimbursement from a man who is rebuttably identified as the
- 23 father.

24 **14-20-31. (507) Additional genetic testing.** The court or the support enforcement
25 agency shall order additional genetic testing upon the request of a party who contests the result
26 of the original testing. If the previous genetic testing identified a man as the father of the child
27 under section 14-20-29, the court or agency may not order additional testing unless the party
28 provides advance payment for the testing.

29 **14-20-32. (508) Genetic testing when specimens not available.**

- 30 1. Subject to subsection 2, if a genetic-testing specimen is not available from a man
- 31 who may be the father of a child, for good cause and under circumstances the

1 court considers to be just, the court may order the following individuals to submit
2 specimens for genetic testing:

- 3 a. The parents of the man;
4 b. Brothers and sisters of the man;
5 c. Other children of the man and their mothers; and
6 d. Other relatives of the man necessary to complete genetic testing.

7 2. Issuance of an order under this section requires a finding that a need for genetic
8 testing outweighs the legitimate interests of the individual sought to be tested.

9 **14-20-33. (509) Deceased individual.** For good cause shown, the court may order
10 genetic testing of a deceased individual.

11 **14-20-34. (510) Identical brothers.**

12 1. The court may order genetic testing of a brother of a man identified as the father of
13 a child if the man is commonly believed to have an identical brother and evidence
14 suggests that the brother may be the genetic father of the child.

15 2. If each brother satisfies the requirements as the identified father of the child under
16 section 14-20-29 without consideration of another identical brother being identified
17 as the father of the child, the court may rely on nongenetic evidence to adjudicate
18 which brother is the father of the child.

19 **14-20-35. (511) Confidentiality of genetic testing.** The report of genetic testing for
20 parentage is confidential. An individual who knowingly releases an identifiable specimen of
21 another individual for any purpose other than that relevant to the proceeding regarding
22 parentage without a court order or the written permission of the individual who furnished the
23 specimen is subject to section 12.1-13-01.

24 **14-20-36. (601) Proceeding authorized.** A civil proceeding may be maintained to
25 adjudicate the parentage of a child. The proceeding is governed by the North Dakota Rules of
26 Civil Procedure.

27 **14-20-37. (602) Standing to maintain proceeding.** Subject to sections 14-20-11
28 through 14-20-24 and sections 14-20-42 and 14-20-44, a proceeding to adjudicate parentage
29 may be maintained by:

- 30 1. The child;
31 2. The mother of the child;

- 1 3. A man whose paternity of the child is to be adjudicated;
- 2 4. The support enforcement agency;
- 3 5. An authorized adoption agency or licensed child-placing agency; or
- 4 6. A representative authorized by law to act for an individual who would otherwise be
- 5 entitled to maintain a proceeding but who is deceased, incapacitated, or a minor.

6 **14-20-38. (603) Parties to proceeding.** The following individuals must be joined as
7 parties in a proceeding to adjudicate parentage:

- 8 1. The mother of the child; and
- 9 2. A man whose paternity of the child is to be adjudicated.

10 **14-20-39. (604) Personal jurisdiction.**

- 11 1. An individual may not be adjudicated to be a parent unless the court has personal
- 12 jurisdiction over the individual.
- 13 2. A court of this state having jurisdiction to adjudicate parentage may exercise
- 14 personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual, or the guardian or conservator
- 15 of the individual, if the conditions prescribed in section 14-12.2-04 are fulfilled.
- 16 3. Lack of jurisdiction over one individual does not preclude the court from making an
- 17 adjudication of parentage binding on another individual over whom the court has
- 18 personal jurisdiction.

19 **14-20-40. (605) Venue.** Venue for a proceeding to adjudicate parentage is in the
20 county of this state in which:

- 21 1. The child resides or is found;
- 22 2. The respondent resides or is found if the child does not reside in this state; or
- 23 3. A proceeding for probate or administration of the presumed or alleged father's
- 24 estate has been commenced.

25 **14-20-41. (606) No limitation - Child having no presumed, acknowledged, or**
26 **adjudicated father.** A proceeding to adjudicate the parentage of a child having no presumed,
27 acknowledged, or adjudicated father may be commenced at any time, even after:

- 28 1. The child becomes an adult, but only if the child initiates the proceeding; or
- 29 2. An earlier proceeding to adjudicate paternity has been dismissed based on the
- 30 application of a statute of limitation then in effect.

31 **14-20-42. (607) Limitation - Child having presumed father.**

- 1 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a proceeding brought by a
2 presumed father, the mother, or another individual to adjudicate the parentage of a
3 child having a presumed father must be commenced not later than two years after
4 the birth of the child.
- 5 2. A proceeding seeking to disprove the father-child relationship between a child and
6 the child's presumed father may be maintained at any time if the court determines
7 that:
- 8 a. The presumed father and the mother of the child neither cohabited nor
9 engaged in sexual intercourse with each other during the probable time of
10 conception; and
- 11 b. The presumed father never openly held out the child as his own.
- 12 3. For purposes of this section and section 14-20-43, an action to establish support
13 for a child is a proceeding to adjudicate parentage if the child's presumed father
14 raises nonpaternity as a defense to the action.

15 **14-20-43. (608) Authority to deny motion for genetic testing.**

- 16 1. In a proceeding to adjudicate the parentage of a child having a presumed father or
17 to challenge the paternity of a child having an acknowledged father, the court may
18 deny a motion seeking an order for genetic testing of the mother, the child, and the
19 presumed or acknowledged father if the court determines that:
- 20 a. The conduct of the mother or the presumed or acknowledged father estops
21 that party from denying parentage; and
- 22 b. It would be inequitable to disprove the father-child relationship between the
23 child and the presumed or acknowledged father.
- 24 2. In determining whether to deny a motion seeking an order for genetic testing under
25 this section, the court shall consider the best interest of the child, including the
26 following factors:
- 27 a. The length of time between the proceeding to adjudicate parentage and the
28 time that the presumed or acknowledged father was placed on notice that he
29 might not be the genetic father;
- 30 b. The length of time during which the presumed or acknowledged father has
31 assumed the role of father of the child;

- 1 c. The facts surrounding the presumed or acknowledged father's discovery of
2 his possible nonpaternity;
- 3 d. The nature of the relationship between the child and the presumed or
4 acknowledged father;
- 5 e. The age of the child;
- 6 f. The harm that may result to the child if presumed or acknowledged paternity
7 is successfully disproved;
- 8 g. The nature of the relationship between the child and any alleged father;
- 9 h. The extent to which the passage of time reduces the chances of establishing
10 the paternity of another man and a child support obligation in favor of the
11 child; and
- 12 i. Other factors that may affect the qualities arising from the disruption of the
13 father-child relationship between the child and the presumed or
14 acknowledged father or the chance of other harm to the child.
- 15 3. In a proceeding involving the application of this section, a minor or incapacitated
16 child must be represented by a guardian ad litem.
- 17 4. Denial of a motion seeking an order for genetic testing must be based on clear and
18 convincing evidence.
- 19 5. If the court denies a motion seeking an order for genetic testing, it shall issue an
20 order adjudicating the presumed or acknowledged father to be the father of the
21 child.
- 22 **14-20-44. (609) Limitation - Child having acknowledged or adjudicated father.**
- 23 1. If a child has an acknowledged father, a signatory to the acknowledgment of
24 paternity or denial of paternity may commence a proceeding seeking to rescind the
25 acknowledgment or denial or challenge the paternity of the child only within the
26 time allowed under section 14-20-17 or 14-20-18.
- 27 2. If a child has an acknowledged father or an adjudicated father, an individual, other
28 than the child, who is neither a signatory to the acknowledgment of a paternity nor
29 a party to the adjudication and who seeks an adjudication of paternity of the child
30 must commence a proceeding not later than two years after the effective date of
31 the acknowledgment or adjudication.

1 3. A proceeding under this section is subject to the application of the principles of
2 estoppel established in section 14-20-43.

3 **14-20-45. (610) Joinder of proceedings.**

4 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a proceeding to adjudicate
5 parentage may be joined with a proceeding for adoption, termination of parental
6 rights, child custody or visitation, child support, divorce, annulment, legal
7 separation or separate maintenance, probate or administration of an estate, or
8 other appropriate proceeding.

9 2. A respondent may not join a proceeding described in subsection 1 with a
10 proceeding to adjudicate parentage brought under chapter 14-12.2.

11 **14-20-46. (611) Proceeding before birth.** A proceeding to determine parentage may
12 be commenced before the birth of the child, but may not be concluded until after the birth of the
13 child. The following actions may be taken before the birth of the child:

14 1. Service of process;

15 2. Discovery; and

16 3. Except as prohibited by section 14-20-26, collection of specimens for genetic
17 testing.

18 **14-20-47. (612) Child as party - Representation.**

19 1. A minor child is a permissible party, but is not a necessary party to a proceeding
20 under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58.

21 2. The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent a minor or incapacitated
22 child if the child is a party or the court finds that the interests of the child are not
23 adequately represented.

24 **14-20-48. (621) Admissibility of results of genetic testing - Expenses.**

25 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a record of a genetic-testing expert
26 is admissible as evidence of the truth of the facts asserted in the report unless a
27 party objects to its admission within fourteen days after its receipt by the objecting
28 party and cites specific grounds for exclusion. The admissibility of the report is not
29 affected by whether the testing was performed:

30 a. Voluntarily or pursuant to an order of the court or a support enforcement
31 agency; or

- 1 b. Before or after the commencement of the proceeding.
- 2 2. A party objecting to the results of genetic testing may call one or more
3 genetic-testing experts to testify in person or by telephone, videoconference,
4 deposition, or another method approved by the court. Unless otherwise ordered
5 by the court, the party offering the testimony bears the expense for the expert
6 testifying.
- 7 3. If a child has a presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated father, the results of
8 genetic testing are inadmissible to adjudicate parentage unless performed:
- 9 a. With the consent of both the mother and the presumed, acknowledged, or
10 adjudicated father; or
- 11 b. Pursuant to an order of the court under section 14-20-26.
- 12 4. Copies of bills for genetic testing and for prenatal and postnatal health care for the
13 mother and child which are furnished to the adverse party not less than ten days
14 before the date of a hearing are admissible to establish:
- 15 a. The amount of the charges billed; and
- 16 b. That the charges were reasonable, necessary, and customary.

17 **14-20-49. (622) Consequences of declining genetic testing.**

- 18 1. An order for genetic testing is enforceable by contempt.
- 19 2. If an individual whose paternity is being determined declines to submit to genetic
20 testing ordered by the court, the court for that reason may adjudicate parentage
21 contrary to the position of that individual.
- 22 3. Genetic testing of the mother of a child is not a condition precedent to testing the
23 child and a man whose paternity is being determined. If the mother is unavailable
24 or declines to submit to genetic testing, the court may order the testing of the child
25 and every man whose paternity is being adjudicated.

26 **14-20-50. (623) Admission of paternity authorized.**

- 27 1. A respondent in a proceeding to adjudicate parentage may admit to the paternity of
28 a child by filing a pleading to that effect or by admitting paternity under penalty of
29 perjury when making an appearance or during a hearing.

1 2. If the court finds that the admission of paternity satisfies the requirements of this
2 section and finds that there is no reason to question the admission, the court shall
3 issue an order adjudicating the child to be the child of the man admitting paternity.

4 **14-20-51. (624) Temporary order.**

5 1. In a proceeding under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58, the court shall issue a
6 temporary order for support of a child if the order is appropriate and the individual
7 ordered to pay support is:

- 8 a. A presumed father of the child;
9 b. Petitioning to have his paternity adjudicated;
10 c. Identified as the father through genetic testing under section 14-20-29;
11 d. An alleged father who has declined to submit to genetic testing;
12 e. Shown by clear and convincing evidence to be the father of the child; or
13 f. The mother of the child.

14 2. A temporary order may include provisions for custody and visitation as provided by
15 other law of this state.

16 **14-20-52. (631) Rules for adjudication of paternity.** The court shall apply the
17 following rules to adjudicate the paternity of a child:

18 1. The paternity of a child having a presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated father
19 may be disproved only by admissible results of genetic testing excluding that man
20 as the father of the child or identifying another man as the father of the child.

21 2. Unless the results of genetic testing are admitted to rebut other results of genetic
22 testing, a man identified as the father of a child under section 14-20-29 must be
23 adjudicated the father of the child.

24 3. If the court finds that genetic testing under section 14-20-29 neither identifies nor
25 excludes a man as the father of a child, the court may not dismiss the proceeding.
26 In that event, the results of genetic testing, and other evidence, are admissible to
27 adjudicate the issue of paternity.

28 4. Unless the results of genetic testing are admitted to rebut other results of genetic
29 testing, a man excluded as the father of a child by genetic testing must be
30 adjudicated not to be the father of the child.

1 **14-20-53. (632) Jury prohibited.** The court, without a jury, shall adjudicate paternity
2 of a child.

3 **14-20-54. (633) Hearings - Inspection of records.**

4 1. On request of a party and for good cause shown, the court may close a proceeding
5 under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58.

6 2. A final order in a proceeding under sections 14-20-36 through 14-20-58 is
7 available for public inspection. Other papers and records are available only with
8 the consent of the parties or on order of the court for good cause.

9 **14-20-55. (634) Order on default.** The court shall issue an order adjudicating the
10 paternity of a man who:

11 1. After service of process, is in default; and

12 2. Is found by the court to be the father of a child.

13 **14-20-56. (635) Dismissal for want of prosecution.** The court may issue an order
14 dismissing a proceeding commenced under this chapter for want of prosecution only without
15 prejudice. An order of dismissal for want of prosecution purportedly with prejudice is void and
16 has only the effect of a dismissal without prejudice.

17 **14-20-57. (636) Order adjudicating parentage.**

18 1. The court shall issue an order adjudicating whether a man alleged or claiming to
19 be the father is the parent of the child.

20 2. An order adjudicating parentage must identify the child by name and date of birth.

21 3. The order must include the social security numbers of the child and the individuals
22 determined to be the child's parents.

23 4. The order may contain any other provision in the best interest of the child,
24 including payment of support, payment of expenses of the mother's pregnancy and
25 confinement, custody of the child, visitation with the child, and furnishing of bond or
26 other security for payment of support. A support order must be for a monthly
27 payment in an amount consistent with the guidelines established under section
28 14-09-09.7 and must be subject to section 14-09-08.1. All remedies for the
29 enforcement of support, custody, and visitation orders apply. The court has
30 continuing jurisdiction to modify an order for future support and, subject to section
31 14-09-09.6, custody of and visitation with the child.

- 1 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the court may assess filing fees,
2 reasonable attorney's fees, fees for genetic testing, other costs, and necessary
3 travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in a proceeding under sections
4 14-20-36 through 14-20-58. The court may award attorney's fees, which may be
5 paid directly to the attorney, who may enforce the order in the attorney's own
6 name.
- 7 6. The court may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against the support
8 enforcement agency of this state or another state, except as provided by other law.
- 9 7. On request of a party and for good cause shown, the court may order that the
10 name of the child be changed.
- 11 8. If the order of the court is at variance with the child's birth certificate, the court shall
12 order the state department of health to issue an amended birth registration.
- 13 9. An order adjudicating parentage must be filed with the state department of health.
- 14 **14-20-58. (637) Binding effect of determination of parentage.**
- 15 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a determination of parentage is
16 binding on:
- 17 a. All signatories to an acknowledgment or denial of paternity as provided in
18 sections 14-20-11 through 14-20-24; and
- 19 b. All parties to an adjudication by a court acting under circumstances that
20 satisfy the jurisdictional requirements of section 14-12.2-04.
- 21 2. A child is not bound by a determination of parentage under this chapter unless:
- 22 a. The determination was based on an unrestricted acknowledgment of paternity
23 and the acknowledgment is consistent with the results of genetic testing;
- 24 b. The adjudication of parentage was based on a finding consistent with the
25 results of genetic testing and the consistency is declared in the determination
26 or is otherwise shown; or
- 27 c. The child was a party or was represented in the proceeding determining
28 parentage by a guardian ad litem.
- 29 3. In a proceeding to dissolve a marriage, the court is deemed to have made an
30 adjudication of the parentage of a child if the court acts under circumstances that
31 satisfy the jurisdictional requirements of section 14-12.2-04, and the final order:

- 1 a. Expressly identifies a child as a "child of the marriage", "issue of the
2 marriage", or similar words indicating that the husband is the father of the
3 child; or
- 4 b. Provides for support of the child, custody of the child, or visitation with the
5 child by the husband unless paternity is specifically disclaimed in the order.
- 6 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a determination of parentage may
7 be a defense in a subsequent proceeding seeking to adjudicate parentage by an
8 individual who was not a party to the earlier proceeding.
- 9 5. A party to an adjudication of paternity may challenge the adjudication only under
10 law of this state relating to appeal, vacation of judgments, or other judicial review.

11 **14-20-58.1. Liability for collection of support.**

- 12 1. As used in this section, "former parent" means an acknowledged father who
13 successfully rescinded or challenged an acknowledgment of paternity under this
14 chapter, a presumed father whose parentage was successfully rebutted under this
15 chapter, or an adjudicated father whose parentage was disestablished after an
16 order issued under this chapter was vacated.
- 17 2. The state is not liable for child support that was collected from or on behalf of a
18 former parent and disbursed to an obligee as defined in section 14-09-09.10.
- 19 3. The state is not liable for child support that was collected from or on behalf of a
20 former parent and retained by the state unless ordered by a court after being
21 presented with genetic test results that would otherwise be admissible under this
22 chapter showing that the former parent is not the genetic parent of the child.

23 **14-20-59. (701) Scope.** Sections 14-20-59 through 14-20-65 do not apply to the birth
24 of a child conceived by means of sexual intercourse.

25 **14-20-60. (702) Parental status of donor.** A donor is not a parent of a child
26 conceived by means of assisted reproduction.

27 **14-20-61. (703) Paternity of child of assisted reproduction.** A man who provides
28 sperm for, or consents to, assisted reproduction by a woman as provided in section 14-20-62
29 with the intent to be the parent of her child, is a parent of the resulting child. Paternity of a child
30 born to a gestational carrier is governed by this chapter.

31 **14-20-62. (704) Consent to assisted reproduction.**

- 1 1. Consent by a woman, and a man who intends to be a parent of a child born to the
2 woman by assisted reproduction, must be in a record signed by the woman and
3 the man. This requirement does not apply to a donor.
- 4 2. Failure by a man to sign a consent required by subsection 1, before or after birth of
5 the child, does not preclude a finding of paternity if the woman and the man, during
6 the first two years of the child's life, resided together in the same household with
7 the child and openly held out the child as their own.

8 **14-20-63. (705) Limitation on husband's dispute of paternity.**

- 9 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the husband of a wife who gives
10 birth to a child by means of assisted reproduction may not challenge his paternity
11 of the child unless:
- 12 a. Within two years after learning of the birth of the child he commences a
13 proceeding to adjudicate his paternity; and
- 14 b. The court finds that he did not consent to the assisted reproduction, before or
15 after birth of the child.
- 16 2. A proceeding to adjudicate paternity may be maintained at any time if the court
17 determines that:
- 18 a. The husband did not provide sperm for, or before or after the birth of the child
19 consent to, assisted reproduction by his wife;
- 20 b. The husband and the mother of the child have not cohabited since the
21 probable time of assisted reproduction; and
- 22 c. The husband never openly held out the child as his own.
- 23 3. The limitation provided in this section applies to a marriage declared invalid after
24 assisted reproduction.

25 **14-20-64. (706) Effect of dissolution of marriage or withdrawal of consent.**

- 26 1. If a marriage is dissolved before placement of eggs, sperm, or embryos, the former
27 spouse is not a parent of the resulting child unless the former spouse consented in
28 a record that if assisted reproduction were to occur after a divorce, the former
29 spouse would be a parent of the child.
- 30 2. The consent of a woman or a man to assisted reproduction may be withdrawn by
31 that individual in a record at any time before placement of eggs, sperm, or

1 embryos. An individual who withdraws consent under this section is not a parent
2 of the resulting child.

3 **14-20-65. (707) Parental status of deceased individual.** If an individual who
4 consented in a record to be a parent by assisted reproduction dies before placement of eggs,
5 sperm, or embryos, the deceased individual is not a parent of the resulting child unless the
6 deceased spouse consented in a record that if assisted reproduction were to occur after death,
7 the deceased individual would be a parent of the child.

8 **14-20-66. (901) Uniformity of application and construction.** In applying and
9 construing the chapter, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the
10 law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

11 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 23-02.1-13 of the North Dakota
12 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 13 5. If the child is not born during the marriage of the mother, or within three hundred
14 days after a marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity,
15 or divorce, or after a decree of separation is entered by a court, the name of the
16 father may not be entered on the birth certificate unless:
- 17 a. After the child's birth, the father and the child's natural mother have married,
18 or attempted to marry, each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent
19 compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared
20 invalid, and:
- 21 (1) He has acknowledged his paternity of the child in writing filed with the
22 state registrar;
- 23 (2) With his consent, he is named as the child's father on the child's birth
24 certificate; or
- 25 (3) He is obligated to support the child under a written voluntary promise or
26 by court order;
- 27 b. ~~While the child is under the age of majority, he received the child into his~~
28 ~~home and openly holds out the child as his natural child;~~
- 29 e. After the child's birth, the child's natural mother and the father voluntarily
30 acknowledge the child's paternity in a writing signed by both and filed with the
31 state registrar; or

1 ~~e. c.~~ A court or other entity of competent jurisdiction has adjudicated paternity.

2 **SECTION 8. REPEAL.** Sections 14-09-01, 14-09-02, and 14-09-03, chapters 14-17
3 and 14-18, and sections 14-19-02, 14-19-03, 14-19-04, 14-19-09, and 14-19-10 of the North
4 Dakota Century Code are repealed.

5 **SECTION 9. TRANSITION.** A proceeding to adjudicate parentage which was
6 commenced before the effective date of this chapter is governed by the law in effect at the time
7 the proceeding was commenced.