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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Children and Families (AC-CF)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (May 2012)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Children and Families

Assembly Bill 831

Relating to: increasing birth certificate fees and making appropriations.

By Representatives Kestell and Seidel; cosponsored by Senators Olsen and Miller.

November 14, 2005 Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

November 17, 2005 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (7) Representatives Kestell, Vos, Albers,
Jeskewitz, Vukmir, Grigsby and Seidel.
Absent: (1) Representative Sinicki.

Appearances For

- Steve Kestell — Rep., 27th Assembly District

Appearances Against

- Cindy Wisinski — Register of Deeds Association

Appearances for Information Only

- Jayme Sellen — WI Counties Association

Registrations For

- Ramie Leonard — Children's Hospital and Health System
- Shell Gross — Mental Health Association

Registrations Against

- Shawn Hansen — WI Reg. of Deeds Assn.
- Mary Geinks — Register of Deeds, Chippewa County
- Lisa Walker — Register of Deeds, Portage
- Shari Marg — Jackson Co. Reg. of Deeds
- Cynthia Meudt — Register of Deeds, Monroe
- John La Fave — Reg. of Deeds, Milwaukee County

December 8, 2005 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives Kestell, Albers, Jeskewitz,
Grigsby, Sinicki and Seidel.
Absent: (2) Representatives Vos and Vukmir.

Moved by Representative Albers, seconded by Representative Kestell that **Assembly Bill 831** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (6) Representatives Kestell, Albers, Jeskewitz, Grigsby, Sinicki and Seidel.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (2) Representatives Vos and Vukmir.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 0

David Matzen
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Children and Families

Date: 12-8-05

Moved by: albers Seconded by: kestell

AB 831 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Steve Kestell, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Robin Vos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Sheryl Albers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Leah Vukmir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Tamara Grigsby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Christine Sinicki	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Donna Seidel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

6-0137

2005 BILL

Debra Kennedy

Now fee in \$12.00 → \$7 to Board

→ Bill raise it from \$12 to \$15 → of that \$3.00 increase, \$2 goes to Board (where does it say the other 1.00 goes?)

→ bill current copy is \$3 → raise it to \$4.00 → (that \$1.00 to vital records?)

after 2010 → board gets \$10, \$1.00 still going to vital records.

1 AN ACT *to amend* 69.22 (1) (c), 69.22 (1) (c) and 69.22 (5) (b) 2. of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** increasing birth certificate fees and making appropriations.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the state registrar or a local registrar must charge \$12 for issuing either a certified copy or an uncertified copy of a birth certificate and \$3 for issuing any additional certified or uncertified copy of the same birth certificate issued at the same time. Of the \$12, \$7 must be forwarded to the secretary of administration for deposit in program revenue appropriations for the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (CANPB), to be used for CANPB expenses, for the Early Childhood Family Education Center Grant Program, for technical assistance, and for grants to organizations for services related to child abuse and neglect. Effective July 1, 2006, this bill increases the fee for issuance of a certified or uncertified copy of a birth certificate from \$12 to \$15; before July 1, 2010, the bill increases, from \$7 to \$9, the amount that must be forwarded to the secretary of administration for deposit in program revenue appropriations for CANPB, and, beginning July 1, 2010, the bill increases this sum to \$10. In addition, the bill increases the fee for issuance of any additional certified or uncertified copy of the same birth certificate issued at the same time to \$4, effective July 1, 2006.

Also under current law, the state registrar must charge, for the filing of a birth certificate more than 365 days after the birth, \$20 plus a fee of \$5 for issuance of the birth certificate. This bill increases, from \$5 to \$15, the fee for issuance of a certified or uncertified copy of a birth certificate when filing for the birth certificate is more than 365 days after the birth, and clarifies that \$9 of the \$15 must also be forwarded for deposit in appropriations for CANPB.

second part

fee of \$20

stamp some,

added \$15 fee (rather than \$5) of that 15 →
9 CANPB

\$1 issue: Aug 69

Appropriation

20.435 (1) PARA 6M

BILL

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 69.22 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 69.22 (1) (c) ~~Twelve~~ Fifteen dollars for issuing an uncertified copy of a birth
3 certificate or a certified copy of a birth certificate, ~~\$7~~ \$9 of which shall be forwarded
4 to the secretary of administration as provided in sub. (1m) and credited to the
5 appropriations under s. 20.433 (1) (g) and (h); and ~~\$3~~ \$4 for issuing any additional
6 certified or uncertified copy of the same birth certificate issued at the same time.

7 **SECTION 2.** 69.22 (1) (c) of the statutes, as affected by 2005 Wisconsin Act
8 (this act), is amended to read:

9 69.22 (1) (c) Fifteen dollars for issuing an uncertified copy of a birth certificate
10 or a certified copy of a birth certificate, ~~\$9~~ \$10 of which shall be forwarded to the
11 secretary of administration as provided in sub. (1m) and credited to the
12 appropriations under s. 20.433 (1) (g) and (h); and \$4 for issuing any additional
13 certified or uncertified copy of the same birth certificate issued at the same time.

14 **SECTION 3.** 69.22 (5) (b) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

15 69.22 (5) (b) 2. The filing of a birth certificate under s. 69.14 (2) (b) 5. ~~The To~~
16 ~~the fee under this subdivision includes the search for the birth certificate and the~~
17 ~~first copy of the certificate except that the state registrar shall add to the \$20 fee, the~~
18 \$5 shall be added the \$15 fee required under sub. (1) (c). which shall be treated as
19 specified in sub. (1) (c). *migrate, should have been 12*
→ 9 to CAPB

20 **SECTION 4. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on July 1, 2006, except as
21 follows:

Matzen, David

From: Roessler, Carol
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2005 1:05 PM
To: *Legislative All Senate; *Legislative All Assembly
Subject: Roessler/Kestell Co-sponsorship relating to requiring a court to establish a father's obligation for birth expenses

To: All Legislators

From: Senator Carol Roessler and Representative Steve Kestell

Date: September 26, 2005

Re: Co-sponsorship of LRB 3460/2 and 3726/1 relating to requiring a court to establish a father's obligation for birth expenses.

Found in AB 831 folder.

A Court of Appeals interpretation of current law has created problems for both child support agencies and taxpayers in that it has substantially reduced the amount of birth expense orders counties are obtaining on current paternity cases.

Prior to DHHS v. Thorson, child support agencies would ask the court to determine a reasonable contribution from the father towards the birth expenses. The amount of this contribution was based upon:

- (1) The cost of the care, and
- (2) The portion of that cost the court felt it was reasonable for the father to bear.

Once that portion was determined, the court would decide whether the father should begin making monthly payments against the total due. Frequently no payments would be ordered, as new fathers in these cases tend to be on the lower end of the earning scale and are facing an obligation to pay current support for their child.

When the father's circumstances changed sufficiently to allow him to begin making monthly payments on the debt, the child support agency would ask the court to set a repayment order.

In Thorson, the Court of Appeals interpreted current law to say that if the father does not have the ability to make monthly payments on the birth expenses at the time he is found to be the father, **then the court cannot impose any obligation for those birth expenses.** The court must find an ability to make current payments in order to set a birth expense obligation.

LRB 3460/2 and LRB 3726/1 require that in a judgment determining paternity, the court must establish the amount of the father's obligation to pay toward those expenses and requires the court to set the father's obligation at 1/2 of the total actual and reasonable pregnancy and birth expenses. If the court does not require periodic payments because the father does not have a present ability to pay, **the court may modify the paternity judgment at a later date to require periodic payments.**

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Senator Roessler's office by Monday, October 3rd at 266-5300.

LRB Analysis

Under current law, in a paternity judgment or order the court must include an

order that requires the man who is determined to be the father to pay or contribute to the reasonable expenses of the mother's pregnancy and the child's birth based on the man's ability to pay. A recent Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision based on this statute held that, if the father has no present ability to pay, a circuit court has no authority to set an obligation to pay lying-in expenses, even if payments are held in abeyance.

This bill modifies the requirement under current law so that in a judgment or order determining paternity, including one based on a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, the court must establish the amount of the father's obligation to pay or contribute to those expenses and requires the court to set the father's obligation at one-half of the total actual and reasonable pregnancy and birth expenses. The bill requires the court to specify in the judgment or order whether periodic payments are due on the obligation, based on the father's ability to pay, and provides that, if the court does not require periodic payments because the father does not have the present ability to pay, the court may modify the paternity judgment or order at a later date to require periodic payments if the father has the ability to pay at that time.



AB 831?

Matzen, David

From: Snyder, MaryAnne
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2005 11:12 AM
To: Bruce, Cory; Matzen, David
Subject: RE: Birth Certificate Draft (number 5)

John Keeso (spelling is not right but that is how you pronounce his name at DHFS)

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce, Cory [mailto:Cory.Bruce@legis.state.wi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2005 10:28 AM
To: Matzen, David; Snyder, MaryAnne
Subject: RE: Birth Certificate Draft (number 5)

Dave and Mary Anne:

I spoke with Deborah Kennedy and she said that what she has drafted isn't specifying that the money has to go to the vital records system. She said the money would go into a general appropriation that has a variety of purposes, one of which is maintaining vital records. She said what we probably need to do is create a whole new appropriation with the sole purpose of funding the VR system. She thinks that she should probably talk to someone at state's registrar's office/DHFS and get an idea of what language currently exists for the creating the online system. Mary Anne, I think you've said that you've had some talks with DHFS about this in the past. Do you have a name of someone at DHFS that you think would be good for Deborah to talk to? I haven't talked to anyone at DHFS so I don't even know if they know that we're thinking about doing this! So it might be good to bring them in the loop if they don't already know.

Also, if we're talking about creating a whole new appropriation, Luther thinks it might be best to bring in the Governor's office to have them involved from the onset and not have anything get stalled later.

Dave, this is your boss's bill so this is all his call.

Your thoughts?

From: Matzen, David
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2005 3:21 PM
To: Snyder, MaryAnne; Bruce, Cory; Kuhn, Jamie; Verette, Natalie
Subject: Birth Certificate Draft (number 5)

<< File: 05-34615.pdf >>

I had the drafter clarify a few issues in the LRB analysis. Please let me know if I can make this a Kestell/Seidel, Olsen/Miller bill so I can at least get it introduced and before our committee on the 17th. Thanks, Dave





Mental Health Association in Milwaukee County

Leading the way for Wisconsin's Mental Health

Date: November 16, 2005
To: Assembly Committee on Children and Families
From: Shel Gross, Director of Public Policy
Mental Health Association in Milwaukee County
Subject: AB831

The Mental Health Association in Milwaukee County (MHA) urges the committee to approve AB831. This bill would provide increased funding to the Children's Trust Fund through an increase in the duplicate birth certificate fee.

During the past two years the MHA participated in the Governor's Call to Action on Child Abuse and Neglect. We were pleased to see that this process recognized the considerable intersection between mental illness and substance abuse (MI/SA) disorders and risk of abuse and neglect. We were also pleased to see that the workgroups formed to make recommendations on preventing future abuse and neglect identified so many ways that families impacted by these disorders can be helped and supported. This in turn also has the effect of reducing the potential for future psychiatric illness in the children who might be abused and neglected.

Unfortunately, the ability of these recommendations to be implemented, along with many others that came out of the workgroups, is undermined by limited funding for child abuse and neglect prevention. AB831 would begin to remedy this. The CTF has provided tremendous leadership to address child abuse and neglect. AB831 provides a reasonable mechanism for providing CTF with additional funds to pursue their mission. It deserves your support.

Thank you!

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Milwaukee, WI 53203-2102
Tel: (414) 276-3122 • Fax: (414) 276-3124
Email: mha@mhamilw.org

Office of Public Policy
133 South Butler Street, Lower Level
Madison, WI 53703
Tel: (608) 250-4368 • Fax: (608) 442-8036
Email: shelgross@tds.net

www.mhamilw.org
(877) 642-4630 (for information and resources only)
An affiliate of the National Mental Health Association



A United Way Agency.



Memorandum

To: Assembly Committee on Children and Families Chairman Representative Steve Kestell

CC: Members of the Assembly Committee on Children and Families, Senator Luther Olsen and
Senator Mark Miller

From: Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Relations Director Roy de la Rosa

Date: 11/17/2005

Re: Assembly Bill 831

Milwaukee County appreciates that the legislative authors of Assembly Bill 831 recognize that counties deserve a share of the revenue generated from increases in birth certificate fees.

According to the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, John La Fave, Milwaukee County issued 39,818 first copies of birth certificates in 2004. Therefore, Register of Deeds La Fave estimates that revenue to Milwaukee County would have increased by \$39,818 from first copies of birth certificates in 2004 if Assembly Bill 831 had been in effect. Register of Deeds La Fave further estimates that revenue to Milwaukee County would have increased by \$12,394, from issuance of duplicate copies of birth certificates, if the provisions of AB 831 had been in effect in 2004.

Milwaukee County opposes any attempts to siphon off the dollars targeted to counties in AB 831 for some other purpose. It is imperative that the provisions of AB 831 allowing counties to share in the birth certificate fee increase be maintained. It is only fair.



WISCONSIN CHILD ABUSE AND
NEGLECT PREVENTION BOARD

Anne Arnesen
Child Advocate

Cyrus Behrooz
Director of Child Advocacy, Task Force on
Family Violence

Reginald Bicha
Director, Pierce County Department
of Human Services

Nic Dibble—Chair
School Social Work Services Consultant,
Department of Public Instruction, and
designee for State Superintendent
Elizabeth Burmaster

Representative Steve Kestell
27th Assembly District

Jennifer Jones
Administrator, Division of Children and
Family Services, and designee for Secretary
Helene Nelson, Department of Health and
Family Services

James Leonhart
Sr. Consultant, DeWitt, Ross, & Stevens S.C

Sandra McCormick
President and Chief Executive Officer, World
Services of La Crosse, Inc.

Senator Mark Miller
16th Senate District

Tina Virgil
Executive Director, Office of Crime Victims
Services, Department of Justice, and
designee for Attorney General Peg
Lautenschlager

Senator Luther Olsen
14th Senate District

Bruce F. Pamperin, Ph.D. —Vice-chair
Professor of Social Sciences, University of
Wisconsin–Stout

Representative Donna Seidel
85th Assembly District

Donna Wong
Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor, and
designee for Governor Jim Doyle

Children's Trust Fund

Celebrate Children Foundation



110 East Main St., Suite 614
Madison, WI 53703

Telephone 608-266-6871
Toll-free 1-866-640-3936
Fax 608-266-3792

Web site <http://wctf.state.wi.us>

November 17, 2005

To: Assembly Committee on Children and Families

From: Mary Anne Snyder, Executive Director
Children's Trust Fund

RE: Testimony In Favor of —AB 831

Wisconsin spends more than \$1 billion every year repairing the damage done to children from abuse and neglect. We spend, however, less than one percent of that amount, \$8.07 million each year in prevention. As we know, prevention programs save this state many times the investment in the long run.

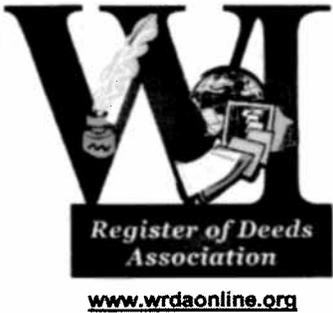
Given the fiscal pressure facing our state, the Children's Trust Fund wants to develop new private partnerships to invest in prevention. Although the Children's Trust Fund provides leadership and technical assistance to encourage the efficient use of existing resources and improve the coordination and integration of activities to prevent child abuse and neglect—more resources are needed.

Additional funds from a duplicate birth certificate fee increase would allow the Board to provide more grants to local programs to strengthen Wisconsin's families (currently the Children's Trust Fund can only fund 5% of the requests received), develop and distribute educational materials to promote positive parenting and child abuse awareness, and implement recommended programs and strategies included in Wisconsin's Call to Action—a plan to inform and guide this state's future investments in the work to end child abuse and neglect.

A major reduction in the incidence and costs of child abuse and neglect will only be possible when prevention is funded at an adequate level to reach all families. It is also true that increased investment in prevention will be necessary to keep the costs associated with intervention and treatment from rising even further.

Please feel free to contact me for more information. I can be reached at (608) 266-3737 or maryanne.snyder@ctf.state.wi.us for contact information. Thank you.





Cynthia A. Wisinski

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Jodi M. Helgeson

Past President
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TO: Committee on Children and Families

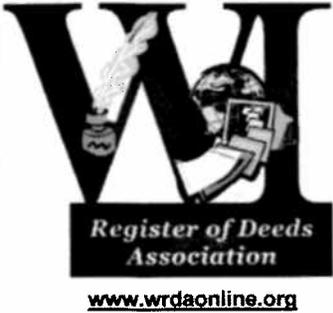
DATE: November 17, 2005

RE: AB 831

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this committee, on behalf of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA), in reference to AB 831. Listed below are important points that you should be aware of prior to voting on this bill. I will be discussing each one of these issues in my testimony.

- Vital records (birth, death, marriage and divorce records) are critical identity documents used on a daily basis by all Wisconsin citizens to secure employment, passports, drivers' licenses; to enroll in school; to receive health insurance coverage; and to qualify for government programs.
- There is an expectation that fees we pay at the counter to receive certain benefits, information, products or services from local and state government are actually invested in providing those same services. These fees are termed "user fees," and our citizens understand and generally support them. While there have been increases in the fee of a birth certificate, there has not been a fee increase to support the archiving of vital records since 1975 (see attached fee chart).
- 2001 Wisconsin Act 16 directed the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to form a committee to recommend guidelines for state vital records online electronic filing system. The committee was instructed to include system recommendations that incorporate privacy, flexibility, productivity, and state-tested identity-theft prevention features. The committee was also instructed to recommend increases, if necessary, in vital records fees for system implementation and recommend allocation of revenues resulting from fee increases. A copy of the Vital Records Online Study Committee Report of Findings and members who served on the committee can be found at <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/VitalRecords/Committee/index.htm>.
- At the present time, the majority of Wisconsin vital records reside on a hodgepodge of antiquated paper and outdated electronic systems. For example, Wisconsin births up to the year 1947 are only available on paper. These records are stored in a non fire, water protected area of a state office building. The out-dated computer systems in use are not compatible with each other. There is a legacy mainframe computer application developed in 1979, which uses such outdated programming language. The Department of Administration will no longer support any modifications or additions to the mainframe system. This system also prints birth certificates as an "abstract" form which does not contain enough information to meet standards of the Federal Intelligence Reform Act which will be in effect in two years. (See attachment A for more details.)
- The current paper intensive systems make it difficult for business partners to process their vital records information. Hospitals, funeral directors, County Clerks, private and government business partners are unable to make use of their current level of technological sophistication to interface with the paper-driven vital records system, making their business processes cumbersome and more costly.

"Few things have to last as long as county records."



Page 2
AB 831 – written testimony

- The Federal Intelligence Reform Act requires improvements to vital records systems on a national level. If required changes are not made, the state will face certain consequences. Federal agencies, such as social security, military and passport agencies will refuse to recognize Wisconsin vital records.
- Senator Olsen recently released a press release (attached) in reference to his visit to State Vital Records.
- It is easy to grandstand and say that kids are more important than technology. The fact is the Center for Disease Control is dependent on the statistical analysis of the information in these records that must be automated and accessible to scientists who are working on childhood diseases. The fact is children will need access to their records and the assurance that they will not be the victims of fraud and identity theft. They need this now and for the rest of their lives. When we have an opportunity but fail to invest in the systems our federal government says will be required of these vital records to be acceptable for federal benefits, then we are guilty of a terrible shortsightedness. We are failing not only our children, but Wisconsin citizens of all ages.

Cynthia A. Wisinski
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Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Wisinski, President
Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association

"Few things have to last as long as county records."

BIRTH CERTIFICATE FEES



\$15.00

Where Does the Revenue Go?

- \$9.00 Children's Trust Fund
- \$6.00 County/State

FEES HISTORY

• 1975	Birth ↑ \$2 to \$4	Zero to CTF
• 1983	Birth ↑ \$5	\$2 each Birth to CTF
• 1985	Birth ↑ \$7	\$2 each Birth to CTF
• 1987	Birth ↑ \$8	\$3 each Birth to CTF
• 1991	Birth ↑ \$10	\$5 each Birth to CTF
• 1996	Birth ↑ \$12	\$7 each Birth to CTF
• 2006-AB831	Birth ↑ \$15	\$9 each Birth to CTF
• 2010-AB831	Birth Same	\$10 each Birth to CTF

It is a decision made by the state legislature and governor that \$9 goes to the Children's Trust Fund. The Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association has consistently gone on record opposing any increases in fees that do not support the program they are being collected for. \$9 of the first copy of the birth certificate fee is not a user fee and as such was opposed by the WRDA.

State Audit – Letter of Request
Attachment "A"

Wisconsin State Vital Records
Current Record Status

- 1) Birth events 1994 – Present. Full birth information for this period is in an electronic format on a LAN based system using out-dated Clipper software. This category will require a project necessary to convert existing data to a centralized database.
- 2) Birth events 1979 – 1993. Prior to 1994, birth certificates were filed manually by paper. The State's mainframe birth history database was developed in 1979 to allow an electronic issuance of copies of birth certificates. This system maintains abstract data about a birth certificate that was sufficient for national identity purposes in the 1980's. From 1979 to 1988, this system collected the child's full name, date of birth and county of birth, but only collected parent's surnames and first name initials only. Due to complaints received, the system was modified in 1989 to allow the entry of the parent's full first name. This mainframe system is still being used today. The Department of Administration will no longer support any modifications or additions to this system. This system is not centralized and currently only 13 of the 75 vital records offices have access. Due to the lack of data elements in this system, most local offices do not want access to this antiquated system. Homeland Security law recommendations will require additional data elements not currently maintained on this antiquated system. This category will require data entry of additional data elements including the parent's first names for births from 1989 to 1993, and the Homeland Security law requirements of items including the child's city of birth, parent's age and parent's place of birth. The estimated number of documents in this category is 1+ million.
- 3) Birth events 1948 – 1978. There was a project to load index (child's name, date of birth, county of birth and certificate number only) information to the above referenced mainframe system. When index information was loaded to this system, critical coding mistakes were made; the major problem being it coded all births as having married parents. If a birth certificate has no father or if a father was added by court order, by law the certificate is considered confidential. This code also indicates where to physically locate the certificate in the State archives of over 25 million records. This category will require data entry of additional data elements to provide for complete information sufficient to be able to issue copies of birth certificates from this system, including the Homeland Security requirements, and research to resolve the coding discrepancies in the parent's marital status. The estimated number of documents in this category is 2+ million.
- 4) Birth events 1907 – 1947. Birth certificates for this period are on paper and there is no electronic format for either an index or records. Indexes and records are paper. Amendments filed to change information for this period were not applied to the actual birth certificate or index. A massive project is necessary to resolve omissions and discrepancies in amendment information; remove pre-adoptive, out-of-state, and still-born certificates prohibited from release of information in today's law; data enter information from difficult to read paper certificates into an electronic system for complete and accurate issuance; and once all amendment information has been added to original birth certificates, the original birth certificate and amendment documents will need to be microfilmed for preservation. The estimated number of documents in this category is 3+ million.

Olsen - Vital Records add one

According to Olsen, that is the status of many of our vital records here in Wisconsin – unprotected and irreplaceable.

“It doesn’t take any special expertise to tell that these records are in an unacceptable state,” said Olsen. “We’re looking at three million birth records on paper only, another two million require data entry, one million more in need of computer updates, and that’s just the beginning.”

Olsen said that beyond the loss of important historical documents, there are other significant problems with about our vital records. Registers of Deeds are using computer systems that are antiquated, and public and private partners who rely on the records, including local governments and hospitals, are bogged down by the obsolescence of our system.



Luther S. Olsen

State Senator
14th District

For Immediate Release
November 10, 2005

Contact: Senator Luther Olsen
608/266-0751

Vital Records Need Immediate Attention

Madison. . . Every person in the state relies on the availability of official identity documents. These records, necessary to obtaining jobs, passports, insurance, and education in the U.S., are so important to our populace they are called 'vital' records. But according to state Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), here in Wisconsin these vital records are in immediate need of upgrade, and he has requested an audit of the record system in hopes of spurring improvements.

Olsen toured the State Vital Record office today and said he was troubled by the condition of the most important records the state maintains. New federal law sets vital records standards far above ours and unless the state makes upgrades, citizens all across the state risk having their birth certificates rejected.

"The birth certificates we're providing people today will be rejected once these new regulations go into effect," said Olsen. "Generally the things people need their vital records for are important and time-sensitive. It's going to be more than just an inconvenience if people in Wisconsin suddenly have birth certificates the federal government won't recognize."

The federal government has recently passed legislation requiring improvements to and standardization of vital records systems nationwide. States will have two years to bring all records into compliance or risk having their citizens' vital records refused by federal agencies for such things as passports, social security, and military benefits.

"These records are important enough that we should make every effort to update and protect them, even without a federal mandate," said Olsen. "But this certainly adds a sense of immediacy to the issue. We need to get started on this project, and we need to start yesterday. I hope that my request for an audit will be approved and it will be the first step in addressing the situation."

Olsen said the staff in the Vital Records Office and the Register of Deeds offices across the state are doing all they can, but that it's time for the state to give them help in taking on this project.

"The Registers of Deeds in the state have been clear that the condition of our state's vital records is in urgent need of improvement," said Olsen. "We have one-of-a-kind paper records stored in buildings where they are not safe from fire or water damage."

Throughout our nation's history there are examples of irreplaceable public records being destroyed, a notable instance being the 1921 fire that destroyed much of the 1890 US Census. These important records, which would be completely priceless to historians and genealogists alike, are gone forever because they were inadequately protected and no copies existed.

-more-

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MADISON, WI 53703
TOLL FREE: 1.866.404.2700
PHONE: 608.663.7188
FAX: 608.663.7189

November 22, 2005

The Honorable Steve Kestell
Wisconsin State Assembly
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kestell:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before the Assembly Committee on Children and Families regarding Assembly Bill 831 which increases the fee for copies of birth certificates.

While I testified for information only, we do not oppose increasing the birth certificate fee in order to fund vital services. This legislation brings about an opportunity to address future requirements and the funding sources for these requirements.

Funding is needed to meet the federal mandates in order to modernize state and county record keeping systems. Increasing the birth certificate fee by a dollar will help, but is still insufficient to fund this upgrade. Our concern is that if this bill passes, it will be extremely difficult to pass another fee increase on birth certificates in the next session.

As stated at the hearing, if the deadline and extended deadline pass without Wisconsin being in compliance with the federal standards, our citizens will not be able to get federal services or documents such as social security and passports.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to discuss this matter with the entire Committee. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jayme Sellen
Legislative Associate

cc: Representative Vos
Representative Albers
Representative Jeskewitz
Representative Vukmir
Representative Grigsby
Representative Sinicki
Representative Seidel





www.wrdaonline.org

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December 1, 2005

Steve Kestell, Representative
27th Assembly District
State Capitol
P O Box 8952
Madison WI 53708

Dear Representative Kestell,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you in reference to AB831 on Wednesday, November 30th. It was a pleasure to discuss the bill with you.

As stated at the onset of our visit, the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA) recognizes that the Children's Trust Fund is a good steward of the public resources that are managed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

As discussed, the WRDA opposes LRBA1506/1, as there are no provisions for revenue to be directed to cover costs associated with the proposed online vital records system for the counties.

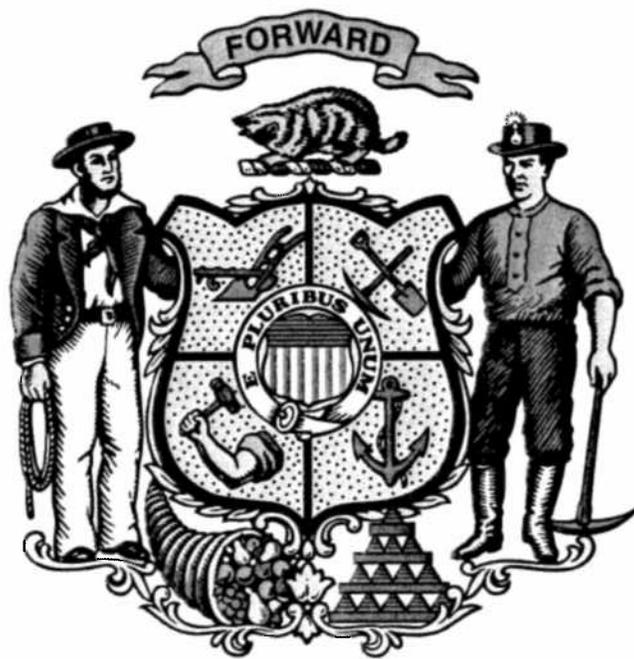
If you do have the opportunity to tour State vital records, we would appreciate hearing your comments after the visit.

Feel free to contact me, should you have any additional questions or concerns. Thanking you in advance for allowing us to comment on any revisions or amendments to AB831.

Respectfully,

Cindy Wisinski, President
Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association

"Few things have to last as long as county records."





AB 831?
Date?

My name is Scott Sussman and I am the Staff Attorney for the Center for Family Policy and Practice. I am testifying against the amendments to section 767.51(3)(e) regarding repayment of birth costs. I have represented numerous fathers on the issue of whether the government should require them to pay back Medicaid paid birth costs. What is important to understand in all of these cases that I have represented the father it has oftentimes, if not every time, been the mother who has been the most vocal in her opposition to him being charged these fees. The reason for this is that this policy of seeking reimbursement of Medicaid birth cost harms not only the poorest fathers of Wisconsin, but also the poorest mothers of Wisconsin and their children. These mothers need the financial support of these fathers and his having to pay back the government for Medicaid paid birth costs takes money from the entire family.

There are a number of reasons that this bill is extremely problematic. The purpose of the amendments offered as part of this bill is to remove the power of judges and court commissioners to make the decision whether a father has the ability to pay back the government for Medicaid paid birth costs. If this legislation passes, the government will get repaid these fees because the way they collect on these debts is not through the periodic payments but instead by intercepting his federal and state taxes. The limited protection provided in this legislation that he only has to make periodic payments based on his ability to pay is not a protection at all given the way the child support system works. Once the child support agency has an order it becomes a debt that will mean that until he has the ability to pay this bill off entirely his federal and state taxes will be intercepted to pay off this bill.

In fact, if he is behind in paying child support that is owed to the mother his taxes will be intercepted and first go to the government and then if any money is left over to support his children. Thus, the change in the law provided by this legislation will result in the government's interest trumping that of this state's children.

There are many reasons, that numerous studies that have looked at this issue, have cited as to why it is extremely bad policy to seek reimbursement of Medicaid paid birth costs. I should note that I have also seen these same negative impacts from my representation of Wisconsin families on this issue. This policy:

- Discourages pregnant woman from seeking prenatal care
- Discourages non-custodial parents from voluntarily acknowledging paternity
- Serves to further impoverish the poorest members of our society not to support their children but to support government workers
- Deters achieving other goals of the family law system

This bill, which will mandate that this happen in all paternity establishment cases, will only make these problems greater.

This bill will remove the discretion of family court commissioners and judges from making the important decision as to whether or not the father has the ability to pay back the government for these expenses. The family court commissioners and judges who handle these cases are in a far better position to make this determination than making a mandatory



determination that he owes this money regardless of his financial situation or his relationship with his children.

You may say I can understand that fathers who are too poor to afford to pay this should not have to pay it, but what if he later becomes financially better off. Should the government have to pay these fees if he later becomes financially able to make periodic payments? In fact, what if he was the lucky person who one the 340 million dollar lottery last night. Yet current law already protects the government in these situations. If his financial situation improves, the law as interpreted by the courts allows the child support agency to go back and seek a modification so that he will have to pay back the government.

As noted, I have represented numerous fathers on this vary issue and this is an issue that angers both mothers and fathers about the child support system. I have been involved in cases where the child support agency has sought these fees from fathers who have been living with the children and mother and thus this policy takes money directly from children of intake families. I have also been involved in cases where the child support agency has attempted to seek this money from fathers even though the mother and father got married a few weeks after the baby was born and are living together with the baby. Thus, this would have resulted in a married couple with a new child who would have been paying the child support agency money.

Recognizing the problems with this practice there has been lots of focus on this issue. The federal Medical Child Support Working Group an independent bi-partisan body was formed as a requirement of the federal Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998. Their goal was to develop recommendations for effective enforcement of medical support orders by State child support enforcement agencies and to report those recommendations to the United States Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Labor. This Medical Child Support Working Group's report recommended that the United States Congress pass legislation to ban the practice of child support agencies seeking this fee. Among the many reasons this group of experts cited for this recommendation was the negative impact that this policy has on prenatal health of pregnant mothers and their unborn children and its negative impact on other goals of the child support agency. Further the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid in a report released in April of 2005, noting that their studies document that this practice deters pregnant women from seeking prenatal care, recommends that child support agencies not recoup Medicaid paid birth costs.

At the federal level politicians have begun to understand the negative impact of this policy. As part of the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000, the United States House passed legislation by a vote of 405 to 18 that included a prohibition of this practice. Our own United States Senator Herb Kohl has consistently sponsored legislation that would ban child support agencies from recouping Medicaid paid birth costs.

Simply put we should not make the situation worse for low-income families and we should encourage mothers to seek prenatal care so that they have healthy babies. This legislation goes in the opposite direction of these important goals and I hope that you will not support it. I hope that you balance the needs of Wisconsin children over the state and federal government getting money from our poorest fathers. I am more than willing to take any questions you have and thank you for your time.



X FROM CTF

Request for a Duplicate Birth Certificate Fee Increase

Most of the Children's Trust Fund's revenue comes from the sale of duplicate birth certificates. During SFY 2002 and 2003, duplicate birth certificate sales decreased and failed to meet projected revenue expectations.

Wisconsin spends more than \$1 billion every year repairing the damage done to children from abuse and neglect. We spend, however, only .8 percent of that amount, \$8.07 million each year in prevention. Given the fiscal pressure facing our state, the Children's Trust Fund wants to develop new private partnerships to invest in prevention. And we know that prevention programs save this state many times the investment in the long run. Studies show that prevention yields a payback of about \$19 for every \$1 invested.

A major reduction in the incidence and costs of child abuse and neglect will only be possible when prevention is funded at an adequate level to reach all families. It is also true that increased investment in prevention will be necessary to keep the costs associated with intervention and treatment from rising even further.

Although the Children's Trust Fund provides leadership and technical assistance to encourage the efficient use of existing resources and improve the coordination and integration of activities to prevent child abuse and neglect—more resources are needed.

The last fee increase for duplicate birth certificates was in 1995—9 years ago. The current charge for a duplicate birth certificate is \$12 of which the Children's Trust Fund receives \$7. The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) Board that administers the Children's Trust Fund is proposing increasing the fee to \$15 with \$2 of the increase going to the Children's Trust Fund and \$1 to whoever issues the duplicate birth certificates (state and local vital records offices).

With the increased revenue, the Board would provide grants to local programs to strengthen Wisconsin's families (currently the Children's Trust Fund can only fund 5% of the requests received), develop and distribute educational materials to promote positive parenting and child abuse awareness, and implement recommended programs and strategies included in Wisconsin's Call to Action—a plan to inform and guide this state's future investments in the work to end child abuse and neglect.





Aurora Health Care

- Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, Elkhorn, WI
- Aurora Medical Center - Kenosha, Kenosha, WI
- Aurora Medical Center - Kenosha, Racine, WI
- Memorial Hospital of Burlington, Burlington, WI

*KERKMAN, SAMANTHA J

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 ████████████████████
 ████████████████████

MOTHER BABY DISCHARGE (Spanish Version Also Available)

APPOINTMENTS:

- Your baby needs to see Dr. S. Rocca in 7-10 days/week(s).
- Mom needs to see Dr. Nancy in 1 days/week(s).
- Newborn follow-up on OB Unit: Date 9/23/05 Time 1000
Friday

REFERRALS:

- Community Health
- Other

MEDICATIONS:

- Prescription(s) Given: Mother Baby
- Medication Information Sheet(s) Given

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Mother/Baby care resource materials given and discussed.
- Verbalizes understanding of information

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR:

If Mom has:

- Any questions or concerns
- Fever over 100°F
- Increased vaginal bleeding, not stopped by rest
- A foul smell or unexpected change in vaginal discharge
- Pain in your legs, particularly in the calf when you extend your foot
- Discomfort or burning when you urinate
- Sharp pains in your abdomen, breast, or chest
- Any sign of infection around a tear or surgical incision (redness, swelling, warmth, drainage)
- Any strong sense that something is "wrong" with you physically
- Crying spells or mood swings that feel out of control
- Thoughts of purposely hurting yourself or your baby.

If Baby has:

- Problems breathing
- Cries constantly for no apparent reason
- Has a rectal temperature 101°F or higher
- Feeding problems, especially forceful vomiting
- Falls or has an accident
- Is listless or unusually active
- Has less than 6 wet diapers in 24 hours after day 4 of life
- Has no interest in feeding (for 2 or more feedings)
- Skin or whites of eyes appear yellow
- Diarrhea (long bouts of watery stools)
- Bleeding or signs of infection around the navel or circumcision

- Infant placed in appropriate rear-facing car seat.

If unable to contact your physician or if you have any questions, contact the OB department at:

948-5200

I have received a copy of the above instructions and understand the above information.

[Signature] 9/21/05
 Patient Signature Date

[Signature] 9/21/05
 RN Signature Date



AMC KENOSHA
Aurora Health Care

** REPRINT ** - TMD
ITEMIZED BILL

PATIENT'S NAME	ACCOUNT NO.	ADMISSION DATE	DISCHARGE DATE	STATEMENT DATE
KERKMAN, IAN G	[REDACTED]	IP 09/18/05	10/13/05	10/12/05

FOR BILLING INFORMATION CALL

TOLL FREE
PHONE 414-647-3147 1-800-958-6202

GUARANTOR
MRS SAMANTHA J KERKMAN 8705 385TH AVE BURLINGTON WI 53105 8500 USA

MAIL PAYMENT TO
AMC KENOSHA PATIENT ACCOUNTS P.O. BOX 341700 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53234-1700

INSURANCE
45002-COMPCARE R01

INSURANCE

PLEASE DETACH TOP PORTION AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

ENTER AMOUNT PAID

PATIENT'S NAME	ACCOUNT NO.	STATEMENT DATE	PAGE NO.
KERKMAN, IAN G	[REDACTED]	10/12/05	SM01

TRANSACTION DATE	REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL AMOUNT	INSURANCE PORTION	PATIENT PORTION
	001	NEWBORN 3 DAYS AT 331.05	993.15	993.15	
	0230	NURSING CARE SERVICES	859.95	859.95	
	0250	PHARMACY	81.33	81.33	
	0270	MEDICAL SURGICAL SUPPLIES	195.05	195.05	
	0300	LABORATORY	976.45	976.45	
	* 0470	AUDIOLOGY	172.00	172.00	*
	0720	LABOR/DELIVERY SERVICES	138.45	138.45	
		TOTAL CHARGES AND INSURANCE	3,416.38	3,416.38	
		DO NOT PAY THIS AMOUNT			

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MASTER CARD	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER	CREDIT CARD NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE
PAYMENT AMOUNT \$			SIGNATURE	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS*

NAME			
ADDRESS NUMBER OF STREET AVE.			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	HOME TELEPHONE

CHANGE OF INSURANCE INFORMATION

POLICYHOLDER NAME (IF PATIENT IS A DEPENDENT)	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	GROUP NUMBER
IF GROUP INSURANCE NAME OF GROUP (EMPLOYER/UNION/ASSOCIATION)		
INSURANCE COMPANY NAME	INSURANCE ADDRESS	
EMPLOYER	EMPLOYER ADDRESS	

If you have a new address or health insurance information, please complete the above portion and return to AURORA HEALTH CARE.

Financial Information

Aurora Health Care will bill your health insurance carrier if you have provided us with complete information at the time of registration/admission. However, please remember insurance is a contract between you and your insurance carrier and you are ultimately responsible for all charges.

You may pay your account by using MasterCard, Visa, or Discover. Please complete the charge card information at the top of this statement and return it to the hospital in the envelope provided.

Please pay the amount in the "Patient Portion" on the front of this statement. If your insurance does not pay their estimated amount, you will be billed at a later date for the difference.

You may also receive separate statements from Physicians, such as anesthesiologists, radiologists, and emergency room physicians, who have treated you at Aurora Health Care. If you have any questions regarding those charges, please call the physician's office or the physician's billing service.

Financial assistance is available, under the Hospital's Community Care program, for those persons demonstrating need. Community Care is limited to those persons meeting Federal poverty guidelines. Applications are available by contacting your account representative at the telephone number shown on the front of this statement.



Aurora Health Care

- Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, Elkhorn, WI
- Aurora Medical Center - Kenosha, Kenosha, WI
- Aurora Medical Center - Kenosha, Racine, WI
- Memorial Hospital of Burlington, Burlington, WI

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

(Spanish version also available)

To the parents of baby Boy Kerckman

Dear Parents:

Your baby has been tested with the Newborn Hearing Screener. This is a routine test performed to check for the possibility of undetected hearing loss.

Your baby passed the infant hearing screening test. This is a good indication that your baby's hearing is normal at this time.

Some children with frequent ear infections, chronic illness, serious infections, loud noise exposure or a family history of hearing loss may develop hearing loss later in life.

If you have any concerns regarding the speech, language or hearing development of your child as he or she grows, please speak with your child's physician.

Your baby did not pass the Hearing Screen on his/her _____ ear(s). This does not mean that your baby has a hearing loss. There may be debris blocking the ear canal, fluid in the ear, or baby may have been too wide awake.

It is best to do this re-screening on _____ please call _____ if you have any questions.

Your baby did not successfully pass the hearing-screening test, further evaluation is necessary. Please schedule an audiology appointment with the pediatric audiologist that your physician recommends. When you schedule your appointment, tell the scheduling person that you had the newborn screen at the hospital. This will give you the earliest appointment.

If you have any concerns regarding the speech, language or hearing development of your child as he/she grows, please speak with your child's physician.



Can
hear?

natus.

Good hearing is essential for your baby's development. The checklist below is a basic guide for normal hearing and speech development from birth to age three. If your baby's progress does not match the milestones listed below, and if you suspect there is a problem, contact your pediatrician immediately.

Birth to 3 months

- Recognizes and quiets to parent's voice
- Startles to loud sounds

3 to 6 months

- Awakens to sounds or speech
- Turns towards interesting sounds

6 to 12 months

- Understands first words such as "Da-Da," "Ma-Ma"
- Responds to his or her name
- Enjoys sounds from rattles, and similar toys
- Coos to music

12 to 18 months

- Says first words such as "Da-Da," "Ma-Ma"
- Responds to names of favorite toys by pointing to them when asked
- Responds to sounds coming from far away

18 to 24 months

- Has a vocabulary of approximately 20 words
- Speaks two word phrases
- Understands simple "yes" and "no" questions
- Refers to self by name
- Follows simple directions

24 months to 3 years

- Has a vocabulary of approximately 270 words by 24 months, 1000 words by 3 years
- Wants to speak to communicate needs, wants and experiences
- Speaks simple sentences
- Recognizes different sounds
- Understands most of what is said to him or her

natus.

Natus Medical Inc. 1501 Industrial Road San Carlos CA 94070

P/N 050012B

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Why Screen All Babies for Hearing Loss?

Hearing impairment is the most common childhood disability. It has been estimated that each year up to 400 babies may be born in Wisconsin with some degree of hearing impairment.

Babies learn to speak by listening. There is strong evidence that children with hearing loss identified and treated by 3 months of age developed better language skills than children who were identified after 3 months of age. Without screening, hearing loss is usually not detected until 2 ½ years of age, when significant delays in speech/language development occur. Hearing impairment in infants is easy to miss because it isn't something that can be seen and babies cannot tell us that they are unable to hear.

How Can a Newborn's Hearing be Screened?

There are 2 types of screening techniques used. Your baby may have 1 or both of these screenings.

- 1. Automated Auditory Brainstem (ABR)**
Soft sounds are presented to your baby's ear through earphones. Tiny electrodes are taped to the baby's skin to pick up brainwave responses to these soft sounds. This brainwave pattern is analyzed and compared to a normal pattern. A normal brainwave pattern suggests normal hearing at this time.
- 2. Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)**
Bursts of noise are sent to your baby's ear through a soft ear tip placed into the ear canal. These bursts cause a sound to be made in the ear canal. A tiny microphone located in the ear tip picks up this sound. The test suggests normal hearing when the microphone can pick up this sound.

How Long Does This Screening Take?

The screening may take 15 minutes to ½ hour and is done while the baby is resting, usually after feeding time.

Is the Screening Painful to My Baby?

No. Most babies sleep through it.

Where Is the Screening Performed?

The test is performed in a quiet area of the nursery by a member of the nursing staff.

When Will I Know the Results?

Results of the screening are available immediately and your baby's nurse will give you the results before your baby goes home. The results will also be sent to your baby's doctor.

What If My Baby Refers?

If your baby refers on one or both tests, it does not necessarily mean that your baby is hearing impaired. About 1 out of 15 – 20 babies may need more tests to be sure that hearing is normal. If your baby refers on the initial screening test, the OAE test will be repeated after your baby has been seen by the doctor for the routine newborn visit at about 2 weeks of age. Repeat or additional tests are done through the Audiology Department of your local Aurora Health Care® Clinic or doctor's office.