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Alabama now offers keepsake birth certificates; a portion of fee benefits abused and neglected children

The Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Child Abuse Prevention/Children's Trust Fund, have collaborated to offer three types of specially designed keepsake birth certificates for persons born in Alabama. A portion of the fee collected will be paid into the Children's Trust Fund, which supports programs and activities for the education and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The Alabama artists commissioned to create the colorfully illustrated designs were Bethanne Hill, the late Woodie Long and Cyd Moore.

Kelley Parris-Barnes, director of the Department of Child Abuse Prevention/Children's Trust Fund, said, "The Children's Trust Fund is the only state agency tasked with preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs, and money raised from the birth certificates will go directly to fund community-based prevention programs throughout the state. We also hope the sale of the birth certificates will help raise awareness for the department and our mission."

Al Head, executive director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, said, "Our role was to make contact with these artists so the creation process could begin on bringing these colorfully illustrated birth certificates to life. The goal to assist abused and neglected children captured the interest of three special artists from Alabama. They believed their art would make a difference in the lives of children at risk."

Cathy Molchan Donald, State Registrar and Director of the Center for Health Statistics, said, "We are very pleased to partner with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse Prevention/Children's Trust Fund and the Alabama State Council on the Arts to offer beautiful keepsake birth certificates that will also benefit children in the State of Alabama."

These keepsake birth certificates that are suitable for framing are available now from Public Health's Center for Health Statistics for anyone born in Alabama for whom there is a record on file. By Alabama law, birth certificates are confidential for 125 years from the date of birth and can only be issued to the person named on the certificate or an immediate family member. Others must have signed permission from an authorized individual.

The keepsake birth certificate is not a document that can be used for legal purposes; it is intended only as a keepsake for framing or display. The fee for a keepsake birth certificate is \$45. Designs, featuring kites, rabbits and nature, are available.

Sample keepsake birth certificates can be viewed and applications downloaded at <http://adph.org/vitalrecords/index.asp?id=4210> or they can be requested by contacting the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, P.O. Box 5625, Montgomery, Ala. 36103-5625 or by calling (334) 206-5418.

For more information on the Alabama Department of Child Abuse Prevention/Children's Trust Fund visit www.ctf.org or the Alabama State Council for the Arts at www.arts.alabama.gov