

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/4/25 H2/13/25*

2 95th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1292

5 By: Representative Bentley

6 By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
10 ADOPTION OF A MINOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR
15 THE ADOPTION OF A MINOR.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-9-213 is amended to read as follows:
20 9-9-213. Required residence of minor.

21 *(a)(1) A In an adoption where the child is not in the custody of the*
22 *Department of Human Services, a final decree of adoption shall not be issued*
23 *and an interlocutory decree of adoption does not become final until the minor*
24 *to be adopted, ~~other than a stepchild of the petitioner,~~ has lived in the*
25 *home for at least six (6) months after:*

26 *(A) ~~placement~~ Placement by ~~an~~ a child placement agency*
27 *licensed under the Child Welfare Agency Licensing Act, § 9-28-401 et seq.; or*

28 *(B) ~~for at least six (6) months after the~~ The petition for*
29 *adoption is filed.*

30 *(2) This subsection does not apply if the minor to be adopted*
31 *is:*

32 *(A) The stepchild of the petitioner; or*

33 *(B) Less than six (6) months of age at the time the*
34 *petition was filed.*

35 *(b) In an adoption where the child is in the custody of the*
36 *department, a final decree of adoption shall not be issued and an*



1 interlocutory decree of adoption does not become final until the minor to be
2 adopted has lived in the home for at least six (6) months unless:

3 (1) Residence in the home is not required for a The minor to be
4 adopted if the minor is in the custody of the Department of Human Services,
5 and the minor must reside outside of the home to receive medically necessary
6 health care;

7 (2) The minor to be adopted is less than six (6) months of age;
8 or

9 (3) The Director of the Division of Children and Family Services
10 waives the residency requirement for a minor to be adopted when the minor is
11 sixteen (16) years of age or older and is participating in a life skills,
12 technical, or vocational program.

13 ~~(c) This section does not apply to a minor who is:~~

14 ~~(1) Less than six (6) months of age at the time the petition for~~
15 ~~adoption is filed; and~~

16 ~~(2) Not in the custody of the Department of Human Services.~~

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18 /s/Bentley

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21 **APPROVED: 2/25/25**
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