

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H2/4/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1292

5 By: Representative Bentley
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

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.
11

Subtitle

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14 TO AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR
15 THE ADOPTION OF A MINOR.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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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.

34 (b) In an adoption where the child is in the custody of the
35 department, a final decree of adoption shall not be issued and an
36 interlocutory decree of adoption does not become final until the minor to be



1 adopted has lived in the home for at least six (6) months unless:

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

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

7 or

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

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

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

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

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17 /s/Bentley
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