

HOUSE BILL 1629

By McCord

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,
Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to post-adoption
services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as new section:

§ 36-1-143.

(a) The department shall provide post-adoption services in order to reduce the
risk of adoption dissolution and to support the goal of permanency in adoption.

(b) The department shall provide the following post-adoption services either
directly or through purchase of service providers:

(1) Crisis Intervention, including the provision of immediate assessment
and time limited treatment in volatile situations and connecting families to long-
term adoption sensitive treatment providers;

(2) Family and individual counseling, including the provision of mental
health counseling to families and children to address issues challenging family
communication, integration, and other issues that may be threatening the family
unit;

(3) Support groups for parents and children, including educational and
recreational group experiences that bring families and children together who
share the experience of the adoption process and are family strength focused;

(4) Advocacy, including information and referral services to assist families in navigating and accessing services through the community, educational, mental health, and medical provider systems;

(5) Respite, including services that provide temporary, non-threatening relief to families and children undergoing challenging circumstances and those in crisis;

(6) Case management services to stabilize volatile family situations, develop short-term intervention plans, and to connect the family with on-going services and support systems; and

(7) Networking of families and community providers, including the provision of educational experiences that build a more adoption sensitive provider community to be aware of and responsive to families created through adoption.

(c) Post-adoption services are available to:

(1) Families who have adopted children for whom the department had legal responsibility immediately preceding the adoption;

(2) Families who adopt children for whom the department did not have legal responsibility prior to adoption; and

(3) Biological families of children adopted through the department.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent access to records of the adopted person as otherwise permitted or required by this part.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of children's services is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.