

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1706

5 By: Representative Rice  
6 By: Senator E. Cheatham  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF CHILD UNDER THE  
10 CHILD WELFARE AGENCY LICENSING ACT; TO CLARIFY THE  
11 MEANING OF FOSTER HOME; TO MAKE CLARIFICATIONS TO  
12 OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY  
13 LICENSING ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14  
15

## Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF CHILD UNDER  
17 THE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY LICENSING ACT;  
18 TO CLARIFY THE MEANING OF FOSTER HOME;  
19 AND TO MAKE CLARIFICATIONS TO OTHER  
20 PROVISIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY  
21 LICENSING ACT.  
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24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
26

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-28-402 is amended to read as follows:  
28 9-28-402. Definitions.

29 As used in this subchapter:

30 (1) "Adoptive home" means a household of one (1) or more  
31 persons that has been approved by a licensed child placement agency to accept  
32 a child for adoption;

33 (2) "Adverse action" means any petition by the Department  
34 of Human Services before the Child Welfare Agency Review Board to take any of  
35 the following actions against a licensee or applicant for a license:

36 (A) Revocation of license;



- 1 (B) Suspension of license;
- 2 (C) Conversion of license from regular or
- 3 provisional status to probationary status;
- 4 (D) Imposition of a civil penalty;
- 5 (E) Denial of application; or
- 6 (F) Reduction of licensed capacity;

7 (3) "Alternative compliance" means ~~a request for~~ approval  
 8 from the Child Welfare Agency Review Board to allow a licensee to deviate  
 9 from the letter of a regulation, provided that the licensee has demonstrated  
 10 how an alternate plan of compliance will meet or exceed the intent of the  
 11 regulation;

12 (4) "Board" means the Child Welfare Agency Review Board;

13 (5) "Boarding school" means an institution that is  
 14 operated solely for educational purposes and that meets each of the following  
 15 criteria:

16 (A) The institution is in operation for a period of  
 17 time not to exceed the minimum number of weeks of classroom instruction  
 18 required of schools accredited by the Department of Education;

19 (B) The children in residence must customarily  
 20 return to their family homes or legal guardians during school breaks and must  
 21 not be in residence year round, except that this provision does not apply to  
 22 students from foreign countries; and

23 (C) The parents of children placed in the  
 24 institution retain custody and planning and financial responsibility for the  
 25 children;

26 (6) "Child" means a person who is:

27 (A) From birth to eighteen (18) years of age; or

28 (B) Adjudicated dependent-neglected, dependent, or a  
 29 member of a family in need of services before eighteen (18) years of age and  
 30 for whom the juvenile division of a circuit court retains jurisdiction under  
 31 the Arkansas Juvenile Code, § 9-27-301 et seq.;

32 (7) "Child welfare agency" means any person, corporation,  
 33 partnership, voluntary association, or other entity or identifiable group of  
 34 entities having a coordinated ownership of controlling interest, whether  
 35 established for profit or otherwise, that engages in any of the following  
 36 activities:

1 (A) Receives a total number of six (6) or more unrelated  
2 minors for care on a twenty-four-hour basis for the purpose of ensuring the  
3 minors receive care, training, education, custody, or supervision, whether or  
4 not there are six (6) or more children cared for at any single physical  
5 location;

6 (B) Places any unrelated minor for care on a twenty-four-  
7 hour basis with persons other than themselves; or

8 (C) Plans for or assists in the placements described in  
9 subdivision ~~(6)~~(7)(B) of this section;

10 ~~(7)~~(8) "Child placement agency" means a child welfare agency,  
11 not including any person licensed to practice medicine or law in the State of  
12 Arkansas, who engages in any of the following activities:

13 (A) Places a child in a foster home, adoptive home, or any  
14 type of facility licensed or exempted by this subchapter;

15 (B) Plans for the placement of a child into a foster home,  
16 adoptive home, or any type of facility licensed or exempted by this  
17 subchapter; or

18 (C) Assists the placement of a child in a foster home,  
19 adoptive home, or any type of facility licensed or exempted by this  
20 subchapter;

21 ~~(8)~~(A)(9)(A) "Class A violation" means violations of essential  
22 standards, including those governing fire, health, safety, nutrition, staff-  
23 to-child ratio, and space.

24 (B) Operation of an unlicensed child welfare agency shall  
25 also be a Class A violation unless specifically exempted as provided in this  
26 subchapter;

27 ~~(9)~~(10) "Class B violation" means any other violations of  
28 standards that are not Class A violations;

29 ~~(10)~~(11) "Emergency child care" means any residential child care  
30 facility that provides care to children on a time-limited basis, not to  
31 exceed ninety (90) days;

32 ~~(11)~~(12) "Exempt child welfare agency" means any person,  
33 corporation, partnership, voluntary association or other entity, whether  
34 established for profit or otherwise, who otherwise fits the definition of a  
35 child welfare agency but that is specifically exempt from the requirement of  
36 obtaining a license under this subchapter. Those agencies specifically exempt

1 from the license requirement are:

2 (A) A facility or program owned or operated by an agency  
3 of the United States Government;

4 (B)(i) Any agency of the State of Arkansas that is  
5 statutorily authorized to administer or supervise child welfare activities.

6 (ii) In order to maintain exempt status, the state  
7 child welfare agency shall state every two (2) years in written form signed  
8 by the persons in charge that their agency is in substantial compliance with  
9 published state agency child welfare standards. ~~Visits to review and advise~~  
10 ~~exempt state agencies shall be made as deemed necessary by the Child Welfare~~  
11 ~~Agency Review Board to verify and maintain substantial compliance with the~~  
12 ~~standards.~~

13 (iii) Visits to review and advise exempt state  
14 agencies shall be made as deemed necessary by the Child Welfare Agency Review  
15 Board to verify and maintain substantial compliance with the standards;

16 (C) A facility or program owned or operated by or under  
17 contract with the Department of Correction;

18 (D) A hospital providing acute care licensed pursuant to §  
19 20-9-201 et seq.;

20 (E) Any facility governed by the Department of Human  
21 Services State Institutional System Board or its successor;

22 (F) Human development centers regulated by the Board of  
23 Developmental Disabilities Services pursuant to § 20-48-201 et seq.;

24 (G) Any facility licensed as a family home pursuant to §  
25 20-48-601 et seq.;

26 (H) Any boarding school as defined in this section;

27 (I) Any temporary camp as defined in this section;

28 (J) Any state-operated facility to house juvenile  
29 delinquents or any serious offender program facility operated by a state  
30 designee to house juvenile delinquents. Those facilities shall be subject to  
31 program requirements modeled on nationally recognized correctional facility  
32 standards that shall be developed, administered, and monitored by the  
33 Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services;

34 (K) Any child welfare agency operated solely by a  
35 religious organization that elects to be exempt from licensing and that  
36 complies within the conditions of the exemption for church-operated agencies

1 as set forth in this subchapter;

2 (L) The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services of  
3 the Department of Human Services; and

4 (M) Any developmental disabilities services waiver  
5 provider licensed under § 20-48-208 or § 20-48-601 et seq.;

6 ~~(12)~~(13)(A) "Foster home" means a private residence of one (1)  
7 or more family members that receives from a child placement agency any ~~minor~~  
8 child, ~~juvenile member of a family in need of services, or dependent or~~  
9 ~~dependent-neglected juvenile under § 9-27-303~~ who is unattended by a parent  
10 or guardian in order to provide care, training, education, ~~custody~~, or  
11 supervision on a twenty-four-hour basis, not to include adoptive homes~~+~~.

12 (B) "Foster home" does not include a home suspended or  
13 closed by a child placement agency;

14 ~~(13)~~(14) "Independent living home" means any child welfare  
15 agency that provides specialized services in adult living preparation in an  
16 experiential setting for persons sixteen (16) years of age or older;

17 ~~(14)~~(15) "Minimum standards" means those rules and regulations  
18 as established by the Child Welfare Agency Review Board that set forth the  
19 minimum acceptable level of practice for the care of children by a child  
20 welfare agency;

21 ~~(15)~~(16) "Provisional foster home" means a foster home opened  
22 for no more than six (6) months by the Division of Children and Family  
23 Services of the Department of Human Services for a relative of a child in the  
24 custody of the ~~division~~ Division of Children and Family Services of the  
25 Department of Human Services after it:

26 (A) Conducts a health and safety check, including a  
27 central registry check and a criminal background check or a check with local  
28 law enforcement, of the relative's home; and

29 (B) Performs a visual inspection of the home of the  
30 relative to verify that the relative and the home will meet the standards for  
31 opening a regular foster home;

32 ~~(16)~~(17) "Psychiatric residential treatment facility" means a  
33 residential child care facility in a nonhospital setting that provides a  
34 structured, systematic, therapeutic program of treatment under the  
35 supervision of a psychiatrist, for children who are emotionally disturbed and  
36 in need of daily nursing services, psychiatrist's supervision, and

1 residential care but who are not in an acute phase of illness requiring the  
 2 services of an inpatient psychiatric hospital;

3 ~~(17)~~(18) "Relative" means a person within the fifth degree of  
 4 kinship by virtue of blood or adoption;

5 ~~(18)~~(19) "Religious organization" means a church, synagogue, or  
 6 mosque or association of same whose purpose is to support and serve the  
 7 propagation of truly held religious beliefs;

8 ~~(19)~~(20) "Residential child care facility" means any child  
 9 welfare agency that provides care, training, education, custody, or  
 10 supervision on a twenty-four-hour basis for six (6) or more unrelated ~~minors,~~  
 11 ~~juvenile members of a family in need of services, or dependent or dependent-~~  
 12 ~~neglected juveniles under § 9-27-303~~children, excluding foster homes that  
 13 have six (6) or more ~~minors, juvenile members of a family in need of~~  
 14 ~~services, or dependent or dependent-neglected juveniles under § 9-27-303~~  
 15 children who are all related to each other but who are not related to the  
 16 foster parents;

17 (21) "Special consideration" means approval from the Child  
 18 Welfare Agency Review Board to allow a licensee to deviate from the letter of  
 19 a rule if the licensee has demonstrated that the deviation is in the best  
 20 interest of the children and does not pose a risk to persons served by the  
 21 licensee;

22 ~~(20)~~(A)~~(22)~~(A) "Substantial compliance" means compliance with  
 23 all essential standards necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare  
 24 of the children in the care of the child welfare agency.

25 (B) Essential standards include, but are not limited to,  
 26 those relating to issues involving fire, health, safety, nutrition,  
 27 discipline, staff-to-child ratio, and space;

28 ~~(21)~~(23) "Temporary camp" means any facility or program  
 29 providing twenty-four-hour care or supervision to children that meets the  
 30 following criteria:

31 (A) The facility or program is operated for recreational,  
 32 educational, or religious purposes only;

33 (B) No child attends the program more than forty (40) days  
 34 in a calendar year; and

35 (C) The parents of children placed in the program retain  
 36 custody and planning and financial responsibility for the children during

1 placement; and

2 ~~(22)~~(24) “Unrelated minor” means a child who is not related by  
 3 blood, marriage, or adoption to the owner or operator of the child welfare  
 4 agency and who is not a ward of the owner or operator of the child welfare  
 5 agency pursuant to a guardianship order issued by a court of competent  
 6 jurisdiction.

7  
 8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-28-405(h), concerning the Child Welfare  
 9 Agency Review Board, is amended to read as follows:

10 (h)(1) The board or its designee may grant an agency’s request for  
 11 alternative compliance upon a finding that the child welfare agency does not  
 12 meet the letter of a regulation promulgated under this subchapter but that  
 13 the child welfare agency meets or exceeds the intent of that rule through  
 14 alternative means.

15 (2)(A) If the board or its designee grants a request for  
 16 alternative compliance, the child welfare agency’s practice as described in  
 17 the request for alternative compliance shall be the compliance terms under  
 18 which the child welfare agency will be held responsible.

19 (B) The board or its designee may grant an agency’s  
 20 request for special consideration upon a finding that the request is in the  
 21 best interest of the child or children or does not pose a risk to the persons  
 22 served by the agency.

23 (C) Violations of those terms shall constitute a rule  
 24 violation.

25  
 26 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-28-406(e), concerning the enforcement  
 27 duties of the Department of Human Services, is amended to read as follows:

28 (e)(1) The department shall ~~issue a report following inspections of~~  
 29 inspect child welfare agencies as provided in this subsection.

30 (2) If the department finds that a child welfare agency has  
 31 failed to comply with an applicable law or rule ~~and this failure does not~~  
 32 ~~imminently endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the persons served by~~  
 33 ~~the program~~, the department shall issue a ~~corrective action notice with the~~  
 34 ~~report~~ notice of noncompliance to the child welfare agency. ~~The corrective~~  
 35 ~~action notice must require the licensee to outline a corrective action plan.~~  
 36 The department’s ~~corrective action~~ notice of noncompliance shall contain:

1 (A) A factual description of the conditions that  
2 constitute a violation of the law or rule;

3 (B) The specific law or rule violated; and

4 (C) A reasonable time frame within which the violation  
5 must be corrected.

6 (3)(A)(i) If the child welfare agency believes that the contents  
7 of the department's ~~corrective action~~ notice of noncompliance are in error,  
8 the child welfare agency may ask licensing authorities to reconsider the  
9 parts of the ~~corrective action~~ notice of noncompliance that are alleged to be  
10 in error.

11 (ii) The request for reconsideration must be in  
12 writing, delivered by certified mail, ~~specify the parts of the corrective~~  
13 ~~action notice that are alleged to be in error, explain why they are in error,~~  
14 ~~and include documentation to support the allegation of error~~ within twenty  
15 (20) business days of receipt of the notice of noncompliance.

16 (iii) The request shall specify the parts of the  
17 notice of noncompliance that are alleged to be in error, explaining why they  
18 are in error, and include documentation to support the allegation of error.

19 (B)(i) The department shall render a decision on the  
20 request for reconsideration within ~~fifteen (15)~~ twenty (20) working days  
21 after the date the request for reconsideration was received.

22 (ii) The licensee's request for reconsideration and  
23 supporting documentation shall be retained by the department and made a part  
24 of the licensee's record.

25 (4)(A) If upon reinspection or other acceptable means of  
26 verification, the department finds that the licensee has corrected the  
27 violation or violations specified in the ~~corrective action~~ notice of  
28 noncompliance, the department ~~employee~~ shall ~~indicate this~~ note the  
29 correction and the date the correction was verified in the licensee's ~~file~~  
30 record.

31 (B) If upon reinspection, the department finds that the  
32 licensee has not corrected the violations specified in the ~~corrective action~~  
33 ~~order~~ notice of noncompliance within the required time frame, the department  
34 may in its discretion petition the board to impose appropriate adverse action  
35 against the licensee.

36 (C) In the case of an applicant for a license, if the



1 board or its designee finds that the applicant has not corrected the  
2 violations in a previously issued ~~corrective action~~ notice of noncompliance,  
3 the department may recommend denial of the application for a child welfare  
4 agency license.

5  
6 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 9-28-407(c)(2)(A), concerning licenses  
7 required and issued, is amended to read as follows:

8 (2)(A) The Department of Human Services shall also furnish  
9 to the applicant upon request ~~a copy of this subchapter and the policies and~~  
10 ~~procedures of the board at the time the person requests~~ an application form.

11  
12 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 9-28-407(f), concerning licenses required  
13 and issued, is amended to read as follows:

14 (f)(1) A license to operate a child welfare agency shall apply only to  
15 the ~~address and location~~ owner stated on the application ~~and license issued,~~  
16 ~~and it may be transferable from one (1) holder of the license to another,~~  
17 ~~along with all capacity and rights of licensure, if permitted under~~  
18 ~~subdivision (f)(2) of this section.~~

19 (2) The license shall be transferable, along with all capacity  
20 and rights of licensure, from:

21 (A) One (1) location to another; and

22 (B) One (1) owner to another, if permitted under  
23 subdivision (f)(3) of this section.

24 (3) Whenever ownership of a controlling interest in the  
25 operation of a child welfare agency is sold, the following procedures shall  
26 be followed:

27 (A) The seller shall notify the Department of Human  
28 Services of the sale at least thirty (30) days before the completed sale;

29 (B) The seller shall remain responsible for the operation  
30 of the child welfare agency until the agency is closed or an amended license  
31 is issued to the buyer;

32 (C) The seller shall remain liable for all penalties  
33 assessed against the child welfare agency that are imposed for violations  
34 occurring before the transfer of a license to the buyer;

35 (D) The buyer shall provide all documentation required of  
36 a new applicant to the Department of Human Services;

1            (E) The buyer shall be subject to any corrective action  
 2 notices to which the seller was subject; and

3            ~~(E)~~(F) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
 4 including those provisions regarding obtaining licenses or permits from the  
 5 Office of Long-Term Care and regarding obtaining any permits from the Health  
 6 Services Permit Agency or the Health Services Permit Commission, shall apply  
 7 in their entirety to the new owner of the child welfare agency.

8  
 9            SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 9-28-407(h)(1), concerning licenses  
 10 required and issued, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as  
 11 follows:

12            (X) To a child fatality review panel as authorized by the  
 13 Department of Human Services.

14  
 15            SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 9-28-407(h)(3), concerning licenses  
 16 required and issued, is amended to read as follows:

17            (3)(A) Any person or agency to whom disclosure is made shall not  
 18 disclose to any other person reports or other information obtained pursuant  
 19 to this subsection.

20            (B) Any person disclosing information in violation of this  
 21 subsection shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

22            (C) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to  
 23 prevent subsequent disclosure by the child or his or her parent or guardian.

24            (D) Any data, records, reports, or documents released  
 25 under this section to a law enforcement agency, the prosecuting attorney, or  
 26 a court by the Department of Human Services are confidential and shall be  
 27 sealed and not redisclosed without a protective order to ensure that items of  
 28 evidence for which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy are not  
 29 distributed to persons or institutions without a legitimate interest in the  
 30 evidence.

31  
 32            SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 9-28-409 is amended to read as follows:

33            9-28-409. Criminal record and child maltreatment checks.

34            (a)(1) Each of the following persons in a child welfare agency shall  
 35 be checked with the Child Maltreatment Central Registry in his or her state  
 36 of residence and any state of residence in which the person has lived for the

1 past ~~six (6)~~ five (5) years and in the person's state of employment, if  
 2 different, for reports of child maltreatment in compliance with policy and  
 3 procedures promulgated by the Child Welfare Agency Review Board:

4 (A) An employee having direct and unsupervised contact  
 5 with children;

6 (B) A volunteer having direct and unsupervised contact  
 7 with children;

8 (C) A foster parent and all household members ~~ten (10)~~  
 9 fourteen (14) years of age and older, excluding children in foster care;

10 (D) An adoptive parent and all household members ~~ten (10)~~  
 11 fourteen (14) years of age and older, excluding children in foster care;

12 (E) An owner having direct and unsupervised contact with  
 13 children; and

14 (F) A member of the agency's board of directors having  
 15 direct and unsupervised contact with children.

16 (2) The board shall have the authority to deny a license or  
 17 church-operated exemption to any applicant found to have any record of  
 18 founded child maltreatment in the official record of the registry.

19 (3)(A) Any person required to be checked under this section who  
 20 is found to have any record of child maltreatment in the official record of  
 21 the registry shall be reviewed by the owner or operator of the facility in  
 22 consultation with the board to determine appropriate corrective action  
 23 measures that would indicate, but are not limited to, training, probationary  
 24 employment, or nonselection for employment.

25 (B) The board shall also have the authority to deny a  
 26 license or church-operated exemption to an applicant who continues to employ  
 27 a person with any record of founded child maltreatment.

28 (4) All persons required to be checked with the registry under  
 29 this subsection shall repeat the check at a minimum of every two (2) years,  
 30 ~~except that~~ including adoptive parents who reside in Arkansas ~~shall repeat~~  
 31 ~~the check every year~~ pending court issuance of a final decree of adoption, at  
 32 which point repeat checks shall no longer be required.

33 (b)(1) Each of the following persons in a child welfare agency ~~who has~~  
 34 ~~lived in Arkansas continuously for six (6) years or more~~ shall be checked  
 35 with the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police ~~for~~  
 36 convictions to determine if the person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere

1 to or has been found guilty of the offenses listed in this subchapter in  
2 compliance with policy and procedures promulgated by the board:

3 (A) An employee having direct and unsupervised contact  
4 with children;

5 (B) A volunteer having direct and unsupervised contact  
6 with children;

7 (C) An owner having direct and unsupervised contact with  
8 children;

9 (D) A member of the agency's board of directors having  
10 direct and unsupervised contact with children;

11 (E) Foster parents, house parents, and each member of the  
12 household eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in foster  
13 care; and

14 (F)(i) Adoptive parents and each member of the household  
15 eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in foster care.

16 (ii) Adoptive parents and each member of the  
17 household eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in foster  
18 care, who are not residents of Arkansas shall provide state-of-residence  
19 criminal records checks, if available.

20 (2) A child in the custody of the Department of Human Services  
21 shall not be placed in an approved home of any foster parent or adoptive  
22 parent unless all household members eighteen ~~(18)~~ and one-half (18 1/2) years  
23 of age and older, excluding children in foster care, have been checked with  
24 the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police ~~for~~  
25 ~~convictions~~ to determine if any of the persons have pleaded guilty or nolo  
26 contendere to or been found guilty of the offenses listed in this subchapter  
27 in compliance with policy and procedures promulgated by the board at a  
28 minimum of every two (2) years.

29 (3)(A) The owner or operator of a child welfare agency shall  
30 maintain on file, subject to inspection by the board, evidence that  
31 Department of Arkansas State Police criminal records checks have been  
32 initiated on all persons required to be checked and the results of the  
33 checks.

34 (B) Failure to maintain that evidence on file will be  
35 prima facie grounds to revoke the license or church-operated exemption of the  
36 owner or operator of the child welfare agency.

1           (4) All persons required to be checked with the Department of  
2 Arkansas State Police under this subsection shall repeat the check at a  
3 minimum of every five (5) years, except that adoptive parents who reside in  
4 Arkansas shall repeat the check every year pending court issuance of a final  
5 decree of adoption, at which point repeat checks shall no longer be required.

6           (c)(1) Each of the following persons in a child welfare agency who has  
7 not lived in Arkansas continuously for the past ~~six (6)~~ five (5) years shall  
8 have a fingerprint-based criminal background check performed by the Federal  
9 Bureau of Investigation in compliance with federal law and regulation ~~for~~  
10 convictions to determine if the person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere  
11 to or been found guilty of the offenses listed in this subchapter:

12                       (A) An employee having direct and unsupervised contact  
13 with children;

14                       (B) A volunteer having direct and unsupervised contact  
15 with children;

16                       (C) An owner having direct and unsupervised contact with  
17 children;

18                       (D) A member of the agency's board of directors having  
19 direct and unsupervised contact with children;

20                       (E) Foster parents, house parents, and each member of the  
21 household eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in foster  
22 care; and

23                       (F)(i) Adoptive parents and each member of the household  
24 eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in foster care.

25                               (ii) Adoptive parents and each member of the  
26 household eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in foster  
27 care, shall not be required to have a criminal background check performed by  
28 the Federal Bureau of Investigation if:

29                                       (a) The adoptive parents and each member of  
30 the household age eighteen (18) years of age and older, excluding children in  
31 foster care, have continuously resided in a state for at least ~~six (6)~~ five  
32 (5) years before the adoption; and

33                                       (b) The state-of-residence criminal records  
34 check is available.

35           (2)(A)(i) A child in the custody of the Department of Human  
36 Services shall not be placed in an approved home of any foster or adoptive

1 parent unless all household members eighteen (18) years of age and older,  
2 excluding children in foster care, have a fingerprint-based criminal  
3 background check performed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in  
4 compliance with federal law and regulation ~~for convictions~~ to determine if  
5 any of the persons has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found  
6 guilty of the offenses listed in this subchapter.

7 (ii) A household member who turns eighteen (18)  
8 years of age has up to six (6) months from the date of his or her eighteenth  
9 birthday to have a background check completed.

10 (B) The owner or operator of a child welfare agency shall  
11 maintain on file, subject to inspection by the board, evidence that the  
12 Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal records checks have been initiated  
13 on all persons required to be checked and the results of the checks.

14 (C) Failure to maintain that evidence on file will be  
15 prima facie grounds to revoke the license or church-operated exemption of the  
16 owner or operator of the child welfare agency.

17 (d)(1) Each person required to have a criminal records check under  
18 this subchapter shall complete a criminal records check form developed by the  
19 Department of Human Services and shall sign the form that contains the  
20 following under oath before a notary public:

21 (A) Certification that the subject of the check consents  
22 to the completion of the check;

23 (B) Certification that the subject of the check has not  
24 ~~been convicted of~~ pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty  
25 of a crime and if the subject of the check has been convicted of a crime,  
26 contains a description of the crime and the particulars of the conviction;

27 (C) Notification that the subject of the check may  
28 challenge the accuracy and completeness of any information in any report and  
29 obtain a prompt determination as to the validity of the challenge before a  
30 final determination is made by the board with respect to his or her  
31 employment status or licensing status;

32 (D) Notification that the subject of the check may be  
33 denied a license or exemption to operate a child welfare agency or may be  
34 denied unsupervised access to children in the care of a child welfare agency  
35 due to information obtained by the check that indicates that the subject of  
36 the check has ~~been convicted of~~ pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been

1 found guilty of or is under pending indictment for, a crime listed in this  
2 subchapter; and

3 (E) Notification that any background check and the results  
4 thereof shall be handled in accordance with the requirements of Pub. L. No.  
5 92-544.

6 (2) The owner or operator of the child welfare agency shall  
7 submit the criminal records check form to the Identification Bureau of the  
8 Department of Arkansas State Police for processing within ten (10) days of  
9 hiring the employee or volunteer, who shall remain under conditional  
10 employment or volunteerism until the registry check and criminal records  
11 checks required under this subchapter are completed.

12 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the  
13 board from denying a license or exemption to an owner or preventing an  
14 operator or employee in a child welfare agency from having unsupervised  
15 access to children by reason of the pending appeal of a criminal conviction  
16 or child maltreatment determination.

17 (4) In the event a legible set of fingerprints as determined by  
18 the Department of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of  
19 Investigation cannot be obtained after a minimum of two (2) attempts by  
20 qualified law enforcement personnel, the board shall determine eligibility  
21 based upon a name check by the Department of Arkansas State Police and the  
22 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

23 (5)(A) An owner or operator of a child welfare agency shall not  
24 be liable during a conditional period of service for hiring any person  
25 required to have a background check pursuant to this subchapter who may be  
26 subject to a charge of false swearing upon completion of central registry and  
27 criminal records check.

28 (B)(i) Pursuant to this subchapter, false swearing shall  
29 occur when a person while under oath provides false information or omits  
30 information that the person knew or reasonably should have known was  
31 material.

32 (ii) Lack of knowledge that information is material  
33 is not a defense to a charge of false swearing.

34 (C) For purposes of this subchapter, false swearing is a  
35 Class A misdemeanor.

36 (e)(1) ~~Except as provided in subdivision (d)(2) or subdivision (h)(1)~~

1 of this section, no person who is required to have a criminal check under  
 2 subdivision (b)(1) or subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be eligible to  
 3 have direct and unsupervised contact with a child in the care of a child  
 4 welfare agency if that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or  
 5 has been found guilty of, any of the following offenses by any court in the  
 6 State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of  
 7 any similar offense by a federal court unless the conviction was vacated or  
 8 reversed;

9 (A) ~~Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;~~

10 (B) ~~Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102~~  
 11 ~~and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;~~

12 (C) ~~Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;~~

13 (D) ~~Negligent homicide as prohibited in § 5-10-105;~~

14 (E) ~~Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;~~

15 (F) ~~False imprisonment in the first degree and false~~  
 16 ~~imprisonment in the second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-11-103 and 5-11-104;~~

17 (G) ~~Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in § 5-~~  
 18 ~~11-106;~~

19 (H) ~~Battery in the first degree, battery in the second~~  
 20 ~~degree, and battery in the third degree as prohibited in §§ 5-13-201, 5-13-~~  
 21 ~~202, and 5-13-203;~~

22 (I) ~~Aggravated assault as prohibited in § 5-13-204;~~

23 (J) ~~Assault in the first degree and assault in the second~~  
 24 ~~degree as prohibited in §§ 5-13-205 and 5-13-206;~~

25 (K) ~~Terroristic threatening in the first degree and~~  
 26 ~~terroristic threatening in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301(a)~~  
 27 ~~and (b);~~

28 (L) ~~Any sexual offense as prohibited in § 5-14-101 et~~  
 29 ~~seq.;~~

30 (M) ~~Permitting abuse of a child as prohibited in § 5-27-~~  
 31 ~~221;~~

32 (N) ~~Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree~~  
 33 ~~and endangering the welfare of a minor in the second degree as prohibited in~~  
 34 ~~§§ 5-27-205 and 5-27-206;~~

35 (O) ~~Contributing to the delinquency of a minor as~~  
 36 ~~prohibited in § 5-27-209;~~



1                   ~~(P) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use~~  
 2 ~~in visual or print medium, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual~~  
 3 ~~conduct, use of a child or consent to use of a child in sexual performance,~~  
 4 ~~and producing, directing, or promoting sexual performance by a child as~~  
 5 ~~prohibited in §§ 5-27-303, 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;~~

6                   ~~(Q) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;~~

7                   ~~(R) Interference with visitation as prohibited in § 5-26-~~  
 8 ~~501;~~

9                   ~~(S) Interference with custody as prohibited in § 5-26-502;~~

10                   ~~(T) Engaging in conduct with respect to controlled~~  
 11 ~~substances as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401 and § 5-64-419 — § 5-64-~~  
 12 ~~442;~~

13                   ~~(U) Distribution to minors as prohibited in § 5-64-406;~~

14                   ~~(V) Public display of obscenity as prohibited in § 5-68-~~  
 15 ~~205;~~

16                   ~~(W) Prostitution as prohibited in § 5-70-102;~~

17                   ~~(X) Promoting prostitution in the first degree, promoting~~  
 18 ~~prostitution in the second degree, and promoting prostitution in the third~~  
 19 ~~degree as prohibited in §§ 5-70-104, 5-70-105, and 5-70-106;~~

20                   ~~(Y) Computer child pornography as prohibited in § 5-27-~~  
 21 ~~603;~~

22                   ~~(Z) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree~~  
 23 ~~as prohibited in § 5-27-605(a);~~

24                   ~~(AA) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal~~  
 25 ~~solicitation, or criminal conspiracy as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-~~  
 26 ~~3-301, and 5-3-401 to commit any of the offenses listed in this section;~~

27                   ~~(BB) Any felony or any misdemeanor involving violence,~~  
 28 ~~threatened violence, or moral turpitude; and~~

29                   ~~(CC) Any former or future law of this or any other state~~  
 30 ~~or of the federal government that is substantially equivalent to one (1) of~~  
 31 ~~the aforementioned offenses.~~

32                   ~~(2)(A) Any person who is required to have a criminal check under~~  
 33 ~~subdivision (b)(1) or subdivision (c)(1) of this section who pleads guilty or~~  
 34 ~~nolo contendere to, or is found guilty of, any of the offenses listed in~~  
 35 ~~subdivision (c)(1) of this section, unless the conviction is vacated or~~  
 36 ~~reversed, shall be absolutely disqualified to be an owner, operator,~~

1 volunteer, foster parent, adoptive parent, member of an agency's board of  
 2 directors, or employee in a child welfare agency during the period of his or  
 3 her confinement, probation, or parole supervision.

4           (B) Except as provided in subdivision (f)(1) of this  
 5 section, any person who is required to have a criminal check under  
 6 subdivision (b)(1) or subdivision (c)(1) of this section who pleads guilty or  
 7 nolo contendere to, or is found guilty of, any of the offenses listed in  
 8 subdivision (c)(1) of this section, unless the conviction is vacated or  
 9 reversed, shall be presumed to be disqualified to be an owner, operator,  
 10 volunteer, foster parent, adoptive parent, member of an agency's board of  
 11 directors, or employee in a child welfare agency after the completion of his  
 12 or her term of confinement, probation, or parole supervision. The operator,  
 13 volunteer, foster parent, adoptive parent, household member of a foster  
 14 parent or an adoptive parent, member of any agency's board of directors, or  
 15 an employee in a child welfare agency cannot petition the board unless the  
 16 agency supports the petition. This presumption can be rebutted in the  
 17 following manner:

18           (i)(a) The applicant must petition the board to make  
 19 a determination that the applicant does not pose a risk of harm to any  
 20 person.

21           (b) The applicant shall bear the burden of  
 22 making such a showing; and

23           (ii) The board in its discretion may permit an  
 24 applicant to be an owner, operator, volunteer, foster parent, adoptive  
 25 parent, member of an agency's board of directors, or an employee in a child  
 26 welfare agency notwithstanding having been convicted of an offense listed in  
 27 this section upon making a determination that the applicant does not pose a  
 28 risk of harm to any person served by the facility. In making this  
 29 determination, the board shall consider the following factors:

30           (a) The nature and severity of the crime;

31           (b) The consequences of the crime;

32           (c) The number and frequency of crimes;

33           (d) The relation between the crime and the  
 34 health, safety, and welfare of any person, such as:

35           (1) The age and vulnerability of victims  
 36 of the crime;



1           (G) Murder in the second degree, § 5-10-103;

2           (H) Rape, § 5-14-103;

3           (I) Sexual assault in the first degree, § 5-14-124; and

4           (J) Sexual assault in the second degree, § 5-14-125;

5           (3) Except as provided under subdivision (f)(1) of this section,  
6 a person who is required to have a criminal records check under subdivision  
7 (b)(1) or (c)(1) of this section shall not be eligible to have direct and  
8 unsupervised contact with a child in the care of a child welfare agency if  
9 that person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of,  
10 any of the following offenses by a court in the State of Arkansas, of a  
11 similar offense in a court of another state, or of a similar offense by a  
12 federal court, unless the conviction is vacated or reversed:

13           (A) Criminal attempt, § 5-3-201 to commit any offenses in  
14 subdivision (e)(2) or (3) of this section;

15           (B) Criminal complicity, § 5-3-202 to commit any offenses  
16 in subdivision (e)(2) or (3) of this section;

17           (C) Criminal conspiracy, § 5-3-401 to commit any offenses  
18 in subdivision (e)(2) or (3) of this section;

19           (D) Criminal solicitation, § 5-3-301 to commit any  
20 offenses in subdivision (e)(2) or (3) of this section;

21           (E) Assault in the first, second, or third degree, §§ 5-  
22 13-205 - 5-13-207;

23           (F) Aggravated assault, § 5-13-204;

24           (G) Aggravated assault on a family or household member, §  
25 5-26-306;

26           (H) Battery in the first, second, or third degree, §§ 5-  
27 13-201 - 5-13-203;

28           (I) Breaking or entering, § 5-39-202;

29           (J) Burglary, § 5-39-201;

30           (K) Coercion, § 5-13-208;

31           (L) Computer crimes against minors, § 5-27-601 et seq.;

32           (M) Contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile, § 5-27-  
33 220;

34           (N) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, § 5-27-  
35 209;

36           (O) Criminal impersonation, § 5-37-208;

- 1                   (P) Criminal use of a prohibited weapon, § 5-73-104;  
2                   (Q) Communicating a death threat concerning a school  
3 employee or student, § 5-17-101;  
4                   (R) Domestic battery in the first, second, or third  
5 degree, §§ 5-26-303 - 5-26-305;  
6                   (S) Employing or consenting to the use of a child in a  
7 sexual performance, § 5-27-402;  
8                   (T) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first or  
9 second degree, §§ 5-27-205 and 5-27-206;  
10                  (U) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in  
11 the second degree, § 5-27-202;  
12                  (V) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use  
13 in visual or print media, § 5-27-303;  
14                  (W) False imprisonment in the first or second degree, §§  
15 5-11-103 and 5-11-104;  
16                  (X) Felony abuse of an endangered or impaired person, § 5-  
17 28-103;  
18                  (Y) Felony interference with a law enforcement officer, §  
19 5-54-104;  
20                  (Z) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance  
21 Act, §§ 5-64-101 et seq. - 5-64-501 et seq.;  
22                  (A)(A) Financial identity fraud, § 5-37-227;  
23                  (B)(B) Forgery, § 5-37-201;  
24                  (C)(C) Incest, § 5-26-201;  
25                  (D)(D) Interference with court ordered custody, § 5-26-  
26 502;  
27                  (E)(E) Interference with visitation, § 5-26-501;  
28                  (F)(F) Introduction of controlled substance into the body  
29 of another person, § 5-13-210;  
30                  (G)(G) Manslaughter, § 5-10-104;  
31                  (H)(H) Negligent homicide, § 5-10-105;  
32                  (I)(I) Obscene performance at a live public show, § 5-68-  
33 305;  
34                  (J)(J) Offense of cruelty to animals, § 5-62-103;  
35                  (K)(K) Offense of aggravated cruelty to dog, cat, or  
36 horse, § 5-62-104;

1                   (L)(L) Pandering or possessing visual or print medium  
 2 depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, § 5-27-304;  
 3                   (M)(M) Sexual solicitation, § 5-70-103;  
 4                   (N)(N) Permanent detention or restraint, § 5-11-106;  
 5                   (O)(O) Permitting abuse of a minor, § 5-27-221;  
 6                   (P)(P) Producing, directing, or promoting a sexual  
 7 performance by a child, § 5-27-403;  
 8                   (Q)(Q) Promoting obscene materials, § 5-68-303;  
 9                   (R)(R) Promoting obscene performance, § 5-68-304;  
 10                   (S)(S) Promoting prostitution in the first, second, or  
 11 third degree, §§ 5-70-104 - 5-70-106;  
 12                   (T)(T) Prostitution, § 5-70-102;  
 13                   (U)(U) Public display of obscenity, §5-68-205;  
 14                   (V)(V) Resisting arrest, § 5-54-103;  
 15                   (W)(W) Robbery, § 5-12-102;  
 16                   (X)(X) Aggravated robbery, § 5-12-103;  
 17                   (Y)(Y) Sexual offenses, § 5-14-101 et seq.;  
 18                   (Z)(Z) Simultaneous possession of drugs and firearms, § 5-  
 19 74-106;  
 20                   (A)(A)(A) Soliciting money or property from incompetents,  
 21 § 5-27-229;  
 22                   (B)(B)(B) Stalking, § 5-71-229;  
 23                   (C)(C)(C) Terroristic act, § 5-13-310;  
 24                   (D)(D)(D) Terroristic threatening, § 5-13-301;  
 25                   (E)(E)(E) Theft of public benefits, § 5-36-202;  
 26                   (F)(F)(F) Theft by receiving, § 5-36-106;  
 27                   (G)(G)(G) Theft of property, § 5-36-103;  
 28                   (H)(H)(H) Theft of services, § 5-36-104;  
 29                   (I)(I)(I) Transportation of minors for prohibited sexual  
 30 conduct, § 5-27-305;  
 31                   (J)(J)(J) Unlawful discharge of a firearm from a vehicle,  
 32 § 5-74-107; and  
 33                   (K)(K)(K) Voyeurism, § 5-16-102.  
 34                   (4) A former or future law of this or any other state or of the  
 35 federal government that is substantially equivalent to one (1) of the  
 36 offenses listed in subdivision (e)(3) of this section shall be considered as

1 prohibiting under subdivisions (e)(2) and (3) of this section.

2 (f)(1) ~~For purposes of this section, an expunged record of a~~  
 3 ~~conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to an offense listed in~~  
 4 ~~subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall not be considered a conviction,~~  
 5 ~~guilty plea, or nolo contendere plea to the offense unless the offense is~~  
 6 ~~also listed in subdivision (f)(2) of this section.~~

7 ~~(2) Because of the serious nature of the offenses and the close~~  
 8 ~~relationship to the type of work that is to be performed, the following shall~~  
 9 ~~result in permanent disqualification:~~

10 ~~(A) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;~~

11 ~~(B) Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102~~  
 12 ~~and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;~~

13 ~~(C) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;~~

14 ~~(D) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;~~

15 ~~(E) Sexual assault in the first degree and second degree~~  
 16 ~~as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 and 5-14-125;~~

17 ~~(F) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree~~  
 18 ~~and endangering the welfare of a minor in the second degree as prohibited in~~  
 19 ~~§§ 5-27-205 and 5-27-206;~~

20 ~~(G) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;~~

21 ~~(H) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;~~

22 ~~(I) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in~~  
 23 ~~the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201; and~~

24 ~~(J) Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in~~  
 25 ~~§ 5-28-103. A person who is required to have a criminal records check under~~  
 26 ~~subdivision (b)(1) or (c)(1) of this section who has pleaded guilty or nolo~~  
 27 ~~contendere to or been found guilty of any of the offenses listed in~~  
 28 ~~subdivision (e)(3) of this section shall be absolutely disqualified from~~  
 29 ~~being an owner, operator, volunteer, foster parent, adoptive parent, member~~  
 30 ~~of a child welfare agency's board of directors, or employee in a child~~  
 31 ~~welfare agency during the period of the person's confinement, probation, or~~  
 32 ~~parole supervision unless the conviction is vacated or reversed.~~

33 (2) Except as provided under subdivision (f)(3) of this section,  
 34 a person who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of  
 35 one (1) of the offenses listed in subdivision (e)(3) of this section shall  
 36 not work in a child welfare agency unless:

1           (A) The date of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or  
2 the finding of guilt for a misdemeanor offense is at least five (5) years  
3 from the date of the records check; and

4           (B) There have been no criminal convictions or pleas of  
5 guilty or nolo contendere of any type or nature during the five-year period  
6 preceding the background check request.

7           (3)(A) Except as provided under subdivision (f)(1) of this  
8 section, a person who is required to have a criminal records check under  
9 subdivision (b)(1) or (c)(1) of this section who has pleaded guilty or nolo  
10 contendere to or been found guilty of any of the offenses listed in  
11 subdivision (e)(3) of this section shall be presumed to be disqualified to be  
12 an owner, operator, volunteer, foster parent, adoptive parent, member of a  
13 child welfare agency's board of directors, or employee in a child welfare  
14 agency after the completion of his or her term of confinement, probation, or  
15 parole supervision unless the conviction is vacated or reversed.

16           (B) An owner, operator, volunteer, foster parent, adoptive  
17 parent, household member of a foster parent or adoptive parent, member of any  
18 child welfare agency's board of directors, or an employee in a child welfare  
19 agency shall not petition the Child Welfare Agency Review Board unless the  
20 agency supports the petition, which can be rebutted in the following manner:

21           (i) The applicant shall petition the Child Welfare  
22 Agency Review Board to make a determination that the applicant does not pose  
23 a risk of harm to any person;

24           (ii) The applicant shall bear the burden of making  
25 such a showing; and

26           (iii)(a) The Child Welfare Agency Review Board may  
27 permit an applicant to be an owner, operator, volunteer, foster parent,  
28 adoptive parent, member of an agency's board of directors, or an employee in  
29 a child welfare agency notwithstanding having pleaded guilty or nolo  
30 contendere to or been found guilty of an offense listed in this section upon  
31 making a determination that the applicant does not pose a risk of harm to any  
32 person served by the facility.

33           (b) In making a determination, the Child  
34 Welfare Agency Review Board shall consider:

35           (1) The nature and severity of the  
36 crime;



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(2) The consequences of the crime;

(3) The number and frequency of the crimes;

(4) The relation between the crime and the health, safety, and welfare of any person, such as the:

(A) Age and vulnerability of the crime victim;

(B) Harm suffered by the victim;

(C) Similarity between the victim and the persons served by a child welfare agency;

(5) The time elapsed without a repeat of the same or similar event;

(6) Documentation of successful completion of training or rehabilitation related to the incident; and

(7) Any other information that relates to the applicant's ability to care for children or is deemed relevant.

(c) The Child Welfare Agency Review Board's decision to disqualify a person from being an owner, operator, volunteer, foster parent, adoptive parent, member of a child welfare agency's board of directors, or an employee in a child welfare agency under this section shall constitute the final administrative agency action of the Child Welfare Agency Review Board and is subject to review.