

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1814

By: Representative Gazaway

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN CERTAIN HEARINGS HELD UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PARENT" UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN CERTAIN HEARINGS HELD UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989; AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PARENT" UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(41), concerning the definition of "parent" under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as follows:

(41) "Parent" means:

(A) a A biological mother;

(B) ~~an~~ An adoptive parent; or

(C) a A man;

(i) ~~to~~ To whom the biological mother was married at the time of conception or birth;

(ii) ~~or who~~ Who has signed an acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to § 9-10-120;



(iii) ~~or who~~ Who has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the biological father of the juvenile or to have otherwise established paternity; or

(iv) Who is listed as the parent on the birth certificate of the child;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-27-325(1)(3)(A), concerning hearings held under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) The court shall allow foster parents, preadoptive parents, and relative caregivers an opportunity to be heard in any proceeding held with respect to a child in their care but only as a witness.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-27-325(1)(3), concerning hearings held under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(D) A foster parent, adoptive parent, preadoptive parent, or relative caregiver may not offer evidence to be considered by the court unless he or she is called as a witness.

APPROVED: 4/21/21