

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H2/4/25 H2/13/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1292

By: Representative Bentley

By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) The stepchild of the petitioner; or

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

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



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

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

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

or

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

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

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

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

/s/Bentley

APPROVED: 2/25/25