

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 521

SENATE BILL NO. 1702

By Overbey, Barnes, Beavers, Berke, Black, Bunch, Burchett, Burks, Crowe, Faulk, Finney, Ford, Gresham, Harper, Haynes, Henry, Herron, Jackson, Johnson, Ketron, Kyle, Marrero, McNally, Norris, Southerland, Stanley, Stewart, Tate, Tracy, Watson, Woodson, Yager, Mr. Speaker Ramsey

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1629

By McCord, Montgomery, Sherry Jones, Hardaway, Favors, Brown

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 ongoing 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; and

(2) 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.

(e) It is the legislative intent, hereby declared, that this section shall be carried out subject to the availability of funds with which to do so and that this section shall not be implemented beyond budgetary limitations.

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.

PASSED: June 9, 2009



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 25th day of June 2009



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR