



ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1128

family adoptions; social studies; requirements

Purpose

Modifies the requirements for a limited social study for prospective adoptive parents who are related to the child.

Background

Any adult resident of Arizona is eligible to qualify to adopt children, regardless of marital status, and a husband and wife may jointly adopt children. At least 10 days before an adoption hearing, the Department of Economic Security (DES), an adoption agency or an officer of the court must submit a social study on the adoption to the court. The social study must include: the social history and heritage of the child; the mental and physical condition of the child and the child's birth parents; the child's current placement in the prospective adoptive home and the child's adjustment to that home; the prospective adoptive parent's suitability to adopt; current custody and financial arrangements; and state and federal criminal records checks and a Child Protective Services (CPS) central registry check of the prospective adoptive parent and any adult living in the prospective adoptive home. The study also contains a recommendation for or against the proposed adoption and the reasons for the recommendation.

Certain adoptive placements may qualify for a more limited social study. Specifically, if the prospective adoptive parent is the child's stepparent, adult sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent or great-grandparent and the child has resided with the person for at least one year, the social study may consist only of the results of the criminal records checks and CPS central registry check.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires, instead of allows, the social study to only consist of a criminal records and CPS central registry check if the prospective adoptive parent is related to the child and the child has resided with the relative for a certain period of time.
2. Reduces that period of time from one year to six months.
3. Makes technical changes.

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4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

January 20, 2012

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