

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

# A Bill

Act 1743 of 2003  
HOUSE BILL 1958

5 By: Representative Bright  
6  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 9-9-220(c)(1)  
9 RELATING TO THE RELINQUISHMENT AND TERMINATION OF  
10 PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14 TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 9-9-220(c)(1)  
15 RELATING TO THE RELINQUISHMENT AND  
16 TERMINATION OF PARENT AND CHILD  
17 RELATIONSHIP.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-9-220(c)(1), relating to termination of  
24 the parent and child relationship, is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) Abandonment;

26 (A) A child support order shall provide notice to the non-  
27 custodial parent that failure to pay child support or to visit the child for  
28 at least one (1) year shall provide the custodial parent with the right to  
29 initiate proceedings to terminate the parental rights of the non-custodial  
30 parent.

31 (B) If the notification clause required by subdivision  
32 (c)(1)(A) is not in the child support order, the custodial parent, prior to  
33 termination of parental rights, shall notify the non-custodial parent that he  
34 or she intends to petition the court to terminate parental rights.

35 (C)(1) The non-custodial parent shall have three (3) months  
36 from the filing of the petition to pay a substantial amount of past due



1 payments owed and to establish a relationship with his or her child or  
2 children.

3 (2) Once the requirements under subdivision  
4 (c)(1)(C)(1) are met, the custodial parent shall not be permitted to proceed  
5 with the adoption nor the termination of parental rights of the non-custodial  
6 parent.

7 (3) The court may terminate parental rights of the  
8 non-custodial parent upon a showing that:

9 (i) Child support payments have not been made  
10 for one (1) year or the non-custodial parent has not visited the child in the  
11 preceding year and the non-custodial parent has not fulfilled the  
12 requirements of subdivision (c)(1)(C)(1); and

13 (ii) It would be in the best interest of the  
14 child to terminate the parental relationship.

15 (D) The provisions of subdivisions (c)(1)(A) through  
16 (c)(1)(C) of this section apply only to child support orders entered after  
17 August 13, 2001.

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21 APPROVED: 4/22/2003  
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