

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1814

5 By: Representative Gazaway
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
16 OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN CERTAIN
17 HEARINGS HELD UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE
18 CODE OF 1989; AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITION
19 OF "PARENT" UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE
20 CODE OF 1989.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(41), concerning the definition of
27 "parent" under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (41) "Parent" means:

30 (A) ~~a~~ A biological mother;;

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

32 (C) ~~a~~ A man;

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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21 **APPROVED: 4/21/21**
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