

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.  
13  
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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.