

**ARKANSAS SENATE**  
92nd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2019  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 7**

TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ATTEND HEARINGS HELD UNDER THE  
ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989.

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**Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 7**

Amend Senate Bill No. 7 as originally introduced:

Delete SECTION 2 in its entirety

AND

Immediately following SECTION 1 add the following:

"SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-9-217(a)(1), concerning the confidentiality of hearings and records under the Revised Uniform Adoption Act, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) All hearings held in proceedings under this subchapter shall be held in closed court without admittance of any person other than essential officers of the court, the parties, their witnesses, counsel, persons who have not previously consented to the adoption but are required to consent, and representatives of the agencies present to perform their official duties.

(B)(i) A member of the General Assembly may attend an adoption hearing related to a juvenile case that is held under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, § 9-27-301 et seq., unless the court excludes the member of the General Assembly based on the:

(a) Best interest of the child; or

(b) Court's authority under the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure or the Arkansas Rules of Evidence.

(ii) Except as otherwise provided by law, a member of the General Assembly who attends a hearing in accordance with subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall not redisclose information obtained during his or her attendance at the hearing.

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

(i)(1)(A) All hearings involving allegations and reports of child maltreatment and all hearings involving cases of children in foster care shall be closed.



(B)(i) A member of the General Assembly may attend any hearing held under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, § 9-27-301 et seq., including a closed hearing, unless the court excludes the member of the General Assembly based on the:

(a) Best interest of the child; or

(b) Court's authority under the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure or the Arkansas Rules of Evidence.

(ii) Except as otherwise provided by law, a member of the General Assembly who attends a hearing in accordance with subdivision (i)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall not redisclose information obtained during his or her attendance at the hearing."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and \_\_\_\_\_

By: Senator A. Clark

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Secretary