

State of Arkansas
77th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1989
By: Senator Steve Bell

SENATE BILL 186

"AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (b) OF §9-9-212 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE; TO MAKE DISCRETIONARY WITH THE COURT THE ORDERING OF AN INVESTIGATION REPORT BEFORE AN ADOPTION PROCEEDING CAN TAKE PLACE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (b) of §9-9-212 of the Arkansas Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(b) Upon the filing of a petition for adoption, the court may, in its discretion, order an investigation be made by the Department of Human Services or any other licensed agency or person designated by the court, including any agency licensed under §§9-28-401 - 9-28-411 and any licensed social worker, including licensed social workers who are residents of the same state of a petitioner so wishing to adopt a child in Arkansas. If such investigation is performed by a nonresident, such investigator need not be licensed to make child placements. All investigations shall be prepared and submitted in conformity with the Arkansas Child Placement Licensing Act, §9-28-401 et seq. The investigation need not be ordered if an investigation report has been submitted and reviewed by the court with the petition for adoption. The investigation shall inquire into the conditions and antecedents of a minor sought to be adopted and of the petitioner for the purpose of ascertaining whether the adoptive home is a suitable home for the minor and whether the proposed adoption is in the best interest of the minor. If an investigation is ordered by the court, a written report of the investigation shall be filed with the court by the investigator before the petition is heard. The report of the investigation shall contain an evaluation of the placement with a recommendation as to the granting of the petition for adoption or any other information the court requires regarding the petitioner

or minor. If an investigation is ordered, the court shall further order that a report of the investigation shall be filed with the court by the investigator within sixty (60) working days from the issuance of the order for investigation, unless time therefor is extended by the court. If an investigation is ordered, the court shall not enter any order respecting the placement of the minor for adoption until the investigation report has been submitted and reviewed by the court."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.