

1 AN ACT concerning civil law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Adoption Act is amended by changing Sections
5 1, 2.1, 4.1, and 6 as follows:

6 (750 ILCS 50/1) (from Ch. 40, par. 1501)

7 Sec. 1. Definitions. When used in this Act, unless the
8 context otherwise requires:

9 A. "Child" means a person under legal age subject to
10 adoption under this Act.

11 B. "Related child" means a child subject to adoption where
12 either or both of the adopting parents stands in any of the
13 following relationships to the child by blood or marriage:
14 parent, grand-parent, brother, sister, step-parent,
15 step-grandparent, step-brother, step-sister, uncle, aunt,
16 great-uncle, great-aunt, or cousin of first degree. A child
17 whose parent has executed a final irrevocable consent to
18 adoption or a final irrevocable surrender for purposes of
19 adoption, or whose parent has had his or her parental rights
20 terminated, is not a related child to that person, unless the
21 consent is determined to be void or is void pursuant to
22 subsection O of Section 10.

23 C. "Agency" for the purpose of this Act means a public

1 child welfare agency or a licensed child welfare agency.

2 D. "Unfit person" means any person whom the court shall
3 find to be unfit to have a child, without regard to the
4 likelihood that the child will be placed for adoption. The
5 grounds of unfitness are any one or more of the following,
6 except that a person shall not be considered an unfit person
7 for the sole reason that the person has relinquished a child in
8 accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act:

9 (a) Abandonment of the child.

10 (a-1) Abandonment of a newborn infant in a hospital.

11 (a-2) Abandonment of a newborn infant in any setting
12 where the evidence suggests that the parent intended to
13 relinquish his or her parental rights.

14 (b) Failure to maintain a reasonable degree of
15 interest, concern or responsibility as to the child's
16 welfare.

17 (c) Desertion of the child for more than 3 months next
18 preceding the commencement of the Adoption proceeding.

19 (d) Substantial neglect of the child if continuous or
20 repeated.

21 (d-1) Substantial neglect, if continuous or repeated,
22 of any child residing in the household which resulted in
23 the death of that child.

24 (e) Extreme or repeated cruelty to the child.

25 (f) There is a rebuttable presumption, which can be
26 overcome only by clear and convincing evidence, that a

1 parent is unfit if:

2 (1) Two or more findings of physical abuse have
3 been entered regarding any children under Section 2-21
4 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, the most recent of
5 which was determined by the juvenile court hearing the
6 matter to be supported by clear and convincing
7 evidence; or

8 (2) The parent has been convicted or found not
9 guilty by reason of insanity and the conviction or
10 finding resulted from the death of any child by
11 physical abuse; or

12 (3) There is a finding of physical child abuse
13 resulting from the death of any child under Section
14 2-21 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

15 No conviction or finding of delinquency pursuant
16 to Article 5 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be
17 considered a criminal conviction for the purpose of
18 applying any presumption under this item (f).

19 (g) Failure to protect the child from conditions within
20 his environment injurious to the child's welfare.

21 (h) Other neglect of, or misconduct toward the child;
22 provided that in making a finding of unfitness the court
23 hearing the adoption proceeding shall not be bound by any
24 previous finding, order or judgment affecting or
25 determining the rights of the parents toward the child
26 sought to be adopted in any other proceeding except such

1 proceedings terminating parental rights as shall be had
2 under either this Act, the Juvenile Court Act or the
3 Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

4 (i) Depravity. Conviction of any one of the following
5 crimes shall create a presumption that a parent is deprived
6 which can be overcome only by clear and convincing
7 evidence: (1) first degree murder in violation of paragraph
8 1 or 2 of subsection (a) of Section 9-1 of the Criminal
9 Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012 or conviction of
10 second degree murder in violation of subsection (a) of
11 Section 9-2 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal
12 Code of 2012 of a parent of the child to be adopted; (2)
13 first degree murder or second degree murder of any child in
14 violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code
15 of 2012; (3) attempt or conspiracy to commit first degree
16 murder or second degree murder of any child in violation of
17 the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; (4)
18 solicitation to commit murder of any child, solicitation to
19 commit murder of any child for hire, or solicitation to
20 commit second degree murder of any child in violation of
21 the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; (5)
22 predatory criminal sexual assault of a child in violation
23 of Section 11-1.40 or 12-14.1 of the Criminal Code of 1961
24 or the Criminal Code of 2012; (6) heinous battery of any
25 child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961; or (7)
26 aggravated battery of any child in violation of the

1 Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012.

2 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is
3 deprived if the parent has been criminally convicted of at
4 least 3 felonies under the laws of this State or any other
5 state, or under federal law, or the criminal laws of any
6 United States territory; and at least one of these
7 convictions took place within 5 years of the filing of the
8 petition or motion seeking termination of parental rights.

9 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is
10 deprived if that parent has been criminally convicted of
11 either first or second degree murder of any person as
12 defined in the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code
13 of 2012 within 10 years of the filing date of the petition
14 or motion to terminate parental rights.

15 No conviction or finding of delinquency pursuant to
16 Article 5 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be
17 considered a criminal conviction for the purpose of
18 applying any presumption under this item (i).

19 (j) Open and notorious adultery or fornication.

20 (j-1) (Blank).

21 (k) Habitual drunkenness or addiction to drugs, other
22 than those prescribed by a physician, for at least one year
23 immediately prior to the commencement of the unfitness
24 proceeding.

25 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is
26 unfit under this subsection with respect to any child to

1 which that parent gives birth where there is a confirmed
2 test result that at birth the child's blood, urine, or
3 meconium contained any amount of a controlled substance as
4 defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the Illinois
5 Controlled Substances Act or metabolites of such
6 substances, the presence of which in the newborn infant was
7 not the result of medical treatment administered to the
8 mother or the newborn infant; and the biological mother of
9 this child is the biological mother of at least one other
10 child who was adjudicated a neglected minor under
11 subsection (c) of Section 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of
12 1987.

13 (1) Failure to demonstrate a reasonable degree of
14 interest, concern or responsibility as to the welfare of a
15 new born child during the first 30 days after its birth.

16 (m) Failure by a parent (i) to make reasonable efforts
17 to correct the conditions that were the basis for the
18 removal of the child from the parent, or (ii) to make
19 reasonable progress toward the return of the child to the
20 parent within 9 months after an adjudication of neglected
21 or abused minor under Section 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act
22 of 1987 or dependent minor under Section 2-4 of that Act,
23 or (iii) to make reasonable progress toward the return of
24 the child to the parent during any 9-month period after the
25 end of the initial 9-month period following the
26 adjudication of neglected or abused minor under Section 2-3

1 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 or dependent minor under
2 Section 2-4 of that Act. If a service plan has been
3 established as required under Section 8.2 of the Abused and
4 Neglected Child Reporting Act to correct the conditions
5 that were the basis for the removal of the child from the
6 parent and if those services were available, then, for
7 purposes of this Act, "failure to make reasonable progress
8 toward the return of the child to the parent" includes (I)
9 the parent's failure to substantially fulfill his or her
10 obligations under the service plan and correct the
11 conditions that brought the child into care within 9 months
12 after the adjudication under Section 2-3 or 2-4 of the
13 Juvenile Court Act of 1987 and (II) the parent's failure to
14 substantially fulfill his or her obligations under the
15 service plan and correct the conditions that brought the
16 child into care during any 9-month period after the end of
17 the initial 9-month period following the adjudication
18 under Section 2-3 or 2-4 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.
19 Notwithstanding any other provision, when a petition or
20 motion seeks to terminate parental rights on the basis of
21 item (iii) of this subsection (m), the petitioner shall
22 file with the court and serve on the parties a pleading
23 that specifies the 9-month period or periods relied on. The
24 pleading shall be filed and served on the parties no later
25 than 3 weeks before the date set by the court for closure
26 of discovery, and the allegations in the pleading shall be

1 treated as incorporated into the petition or motion.
2 Failure of a respondent to file a written denial of the
3 allegations in the pleading shall not be treated as an
4 admission that the allegations are true.

5 (m-1) Pursuant to the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, a
6 child has been in foster care for 15 months out of any 22
7 month period which begins on or after the effective date of
8 this amendatory Act of 1998 unless the child's parent can
9 prove by a preponderance of the evidence that it is more
10 likely than not that it will be in the best interests of
11 the child to be returned to the parent within 6 months of
12 the date on which a petition for termination of parental
13 rights is filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. The
14 15 month time limit is tolled during any period for which
15 there is a court finding that the appointed custodian or
16 guardian failed to make reasonable efforts to reunify the
17 child with his or her family, provided that (i) the finding
18 of no reasonable efforts is made within 60 days of the
19 period when reasonable efforts were not made or (ii) the
20 parent filed a motion requesting a finding of no reasonable
21 efforts within 60 days of the period when reasonable
22 efforts were not made. For purposes of this subdivision
23 (m-1), the date of entering foster care is the earlier of:
24 (i) the date of a judicial finding at an adjudicatory
25 hearing that the child is an abused, neglected, or
26 dependent minor; or (ii) 60 days after the date on which

1 the child is removed from his or her parent, guardian, or
2 legal custodian.

3 (n) Evidence of intent to forgo his or her parental
4 rights, whether or not the child is a ward of the court,
5 (1) as manifested by his or her failure for a period of 12
6 months: (i) to visit the child, (ii) to communicate with
7 the child or agency, although able to do so and not
8 prevented from doing so by an agency or by court order, or
9 (iii) to maintain contact with or plan for the future of
10 the child, although physically able to do so, or (2) as
11 manifested by the father's failure, where he and the mother
12 of the child were unmarried to each other at the time of
13 the child's birth, (i) to commence legal proceedings to
14 establish his paternity under the Illinois Parentage Act of
15 1984 or the law of the jurisdiction of the child's birth
16 within 30 days of being informed, pursuant to Section 12a
17 of this Act, that he is the father or the likely father of
18 the child or, after being so informed where the child is
19 not yet born, within 30 days of the child's birth, or (ii)
20 to make a good faith effort to pay a reasonable amount of
21 the expenses related to the birth of the child and to
22 provide a reasonable amount for the financial support of
23 the child, the court to consider in its determination all
24 relevant circumstances, including the financial condition
25 of both parents; provided that the ground for termination
26 provided in this subparagraph (n)(2)(ii) shall only be

1 available where the petition is brought by the mother or
2 the husband of the mother.

3 Contact or communication by a parent with his or her
4 child that does not demonstrate affection and concern does
5 not constitute reasonable contact and planning under
6 subdivision (n). In the absence of evidence to the
7 contrary, the ability to visit, communicate, maintain
8 contact, pay expenses and plan for the future shall be
9 presumed. The subjective intent of the parent, whether
10 expressed or otherwise, unsupported by evidence of the
11 foregoing parental acts manifesting that intent, shall not
12 preclude a determination that the parent has intended to
13 forgo his or her parental rights. In making this
14 determination, the court may consider but shall not require
15 a showing of diligent efforts by an authorized agency to
16 encourage the parent to perform the acts specified in
17 subdivision (n).

18 It shall be an affirmative defense to any allegation
19 under paragraph (2) of this subsection that the father's
20 failure was due to circumstances beyond his control or to
21 impediments created by the mother or any other person
22 having legal custody. Proof of that fact need only be by a
23 preponderance of the evidence.

24 (o) Repeated or continuous failure by the parents,
25 although physically and financially able, to provide the
26 child with adequate food, clothing, or shelter.

1 (p) Inability to discharge parental responsibilities
2 supported by competent evidence from a psychiatrist,
3 licensed clinical social worker, or clinical psychologist
4 of mental impairment, mental illness or an intellectual
5 disability as defined in Section 1-116 of the Mental Health
6 and Developmental Disabilities Code, or developmental
7 disability as defined in Section 1-106 of that Code, and
8 there is sufficient justification to believe that the
9 inability to discharge parental responsibilities shall
10 extend beyond a reasonable time period. However, this
11 subdivision (p) shall not be construed so as to permit a
12 licensed clinical social worker to conduct any medical
13 diagnosis to determine mental illness or mental
14 impairment.

15 (q) (Blank).

16 (r) The child is in the temporary custody or
17 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family
18 Services, the parent is incarcerated as a result of
19 criminal conviction at the time the petition or motion for
20 termination of parental rights is filed, prior to
21 incarceration the parent had little or no contact with the
22 child or provided little or no support for the child, and
23 the parent's incarceration will prevent the parent from
24 discharging his or her parental responsibilities for the
25 child for a period in excess of 2 years after the filing of
26 the petition or motion for termination of parental rights.

1 (s) The child is in the temporary custody or
2 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family
3 Services, the parent is incarcerated at the time the
4 petition or motion for termination of parental rights is
5 filed, the parent has been repeatedly incarcerated as a
6 result of criminal convictions, and the parent's repeated
7 incarceration has prevented the parent from discharging
8 his or her parental responsibilities for the child.

9 (t) A finding that at birth the child's blood, urine,
10 or meconium contained any amount of a controlled substance
11 as defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the Illinois
12 Controlled Substances Act, or a metabolite of a controlled
13 substance, with the exception of controlled substances or
14 metabolites of such substances, the presence of which in
15 the newborn infant was the result of medical treatment
16 administered to the mother or the newborn infant, and that
17 the biological mother of this child is the biological
18 mother of at least one other child who was adjudicated a
19 neglected minor under subsection (c) of Section 2-3 of the
20 Juvenile Court Act of 1987, after which the biological
21 mother had the opportunity to enroll in and participate in
22 a clinically appropriate substance abuse counseling,
23 treatment, and rehabilitation program.

24 E. "Parent" means the father or mother of a lawful child of
25 the parties or child born out of wedlock. For the purpose of
26 this Act, a person who has executed a final and irrevocable

1 consent to adoption or a final and irrevocable surrender for
2 purposes of adoption, or whose parental rights have been
3 terminated by a court, is not a parent of the child who was the
4 subject of the consent or surrender, unless the consent is void
5 pursuant to subsection O of Section 10.

6 F. A person is available for adoption when the person is:

7 (a) a child who has been surrendered for adoption to an
8 agency and to whose adoption the agency has thereafter
9 consented;

10 (b) a child to whose adoption a person authorized by
11 law, other than his parents, has consented, or to whose
12 adoption no consent is required pursuant to Section 8 of
13 this Act;

14 (c) a child who is in the custody of persons who intend
15 to adopt him through placement made by his parents;

16 (c-1) a child for whom a parent has signed a specific
17 consent pursuant to subsection O of Section 10;

18 (d) an adult who meets the conditions set forth in
19 Section 3 of this Act; or

20 (e) a child who has been relinquished as defined in
21 Section 10 of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.

22 A person who would otherwise be available for adoption
23 shall not be deemed unavailable for adoption solely by reason
24 of his or her death.

25 G. The singular includes the plural and the plural includes
26 the singular and the "male" includes the "female", as the

1 context of this Act may require.

2 H. "Adoption disruption" occurs when an adoptive placement
3 does not prove successful and it becomes necessary for the
4 child to be removed from placement before the adoption is
5 finalized.

6 I. "Habitual residence" has the meaning ascribed to it in
7 the federal Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 and regulations
8 promulgated thereunder. ~~"Foreign placing agency" is an agency~~
9 ~~or individual operating in a country or territory outside the~~
10 ~~United States that is authorized by its country to place~~
11 ~~children for adoption either directly with families in the~~
12 ~~United States or through United States based international~~
13 ~~agencies.~~

14 J. "Immediate relatives" means the biological parents, the
15 parents of the biological parents and siblings of the
16 biological parents.

17 K. "Intercountry adoption" is a process by which a child
18 from a country other than the United States is adopted by
19 persons who are habitual residents of the United States, or the
20 child is a habitual resident of the United States who is
21 adopted by persons who are habitual residents of a country
22 other than the United States.

23 L. "Intercountry Adoption Coordinator" means ~~is~~ a staff
24 person of the Department of Children and Family Services
25 appointed by the Director to coordinate the provision of
26 services related to an intercountry adoption. ~~by the public and~~

1 ~~private sector to prospective parents of foreign-born~~
2 ~~children.~~

3 M. "Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" is a
4 law enacted by all most states and certain territories for the
5 purpose of establishing uniform procedures for handling the
6 interstate placement of children in foster homes, adoptive
7 homes, or other child care facilities.

8 N. (Blank) ~~"Non Compact state" means a state that has not~~
9 ~~enacted the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.~~

10 O. "Preadoption requirements" means any conditions or
11 standards established by the laws or administrative rules of
12 this State ~~are any conditions established by the laws or~~
13 ~~regulations of the Federal Government or of each state that~~
14 must be met by a prospective adoptive parent prior to the
15 placement of a child in an adoptive home.

16 P. "Abused child" means a child whose parent or immediate
17 family member, or any person responsible for the child's
18 welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the
19 child, or a paramour of the child's parent:

20 (a) inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be
21 inflicted upon the child physical injury, by other than
22 accidental means, that causes death, disfigurement,
23 impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or
24 impairment of any bodily function;

25 (b) creates a substantial risk of physical injury to
26 the child by other than accidental means which would be

1 likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of
2 physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any
3 bodily function;

4 (c) commits or allows to be committed any sex offense
5 against the child, as sex offenses are defined in the
6 Criminal Code of 2012 and extending those definitions of
7 sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;

8 (d) commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of
9 torture upon the child; or

10 (e) inflicts excessive corporal punishment.

11 Q. "Neglected child" means any child whose parent or other
12 person responsible for the child's welfare withholds or denies
13 nourishment or medically indicated treatment including food or
14 care denied solely on the basis of the present or anticipated
15 mental or physical impairment as determined by a physician
16 acting alone or in consultation with other physicians or
17 otherwise does not provide the proper or necessary support,
18 education as required by law, or medical or other remedial care
19 recognized under State law as necessary for a child's
20 well-being, or other care necessary for his or her well-being,
21 including adequate food, clothing and shelter; or who is
22 abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for
23 the child's welfare.

24 A child shall not be considered neglected or abused for the
25 sole reason that the child's parent or other person responsible
26 for his or her welfare depends upon spiritual means through

1 prayer alone for the treatment or cure of disease or remedial
2 care as provided under Section 4 of the Abused and Neglected
3 Child Reporting Act. A child shall not be considered neglected
4 or abused for the sole reason that the child's parent or other
5 person responsible for the child's welfare failed to vaccinate,
6 delayed vaccination, or refused vaccination for the child due
7 to a waiver on religious or medical grounds as permitted by
8 law.

9 R. "Putative father" means a man who may be a child's
10 father, but who (1) is not married to the child's mother on or
11 before the date that the child was or is to be born and (2) has
12 not established paternity of the child in a court proceeding
13 before the filing of a petition for the adoption of the child.
14 The term includes a male who is less than 18 years of age.
15 "Putative father" does not mean a man who is the child's father
16 as a result of criminal sexual abuse or assault as defined
17 under Article 11 of the Criminal Code of 2012.

18 S. "Standby adoption" means an adoption in which a parent
19 consents to custody and termination of parental rights to
20 become effective upon the occurrence of a future event, which
21 is either the death of the parent or the request of the parent
22 for the entry of a final judgment of adoption.

23 T. (Blank).

24 U. "Interstate adoption" means the placement of a minor
25 child with a prospective adoptive parent for the purpose of
26 pursuing an adoption for that child that is subject to the

1 provisions of the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children.

2 V. "Endorsement letter" means the letter issued by the
3 Department of Children and Family Services to document that a
4 prospective adoptive parent has met preadoption requirements
5 and has been deemed suitable by the Department to adopt a child
6 who is the subject of an intercountry adoption.

7 W. "Denial letter" means the letter issued by the
8 Department of Children and Family Services to document that a
9 prospective adoptive parent has not met preadoption
10 requirements and has not been deemed suitable by the Department
11 to adopt a child who is the subject of an intercountry
12 adoption.

13 (Source: P.A. 96-1551, eff. 7-1-11; 97-227, eff. 1-1-12;
14 97-1109, eff. 1-1-13; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

15 (750 ILCS 50/2.1) (from Ch. 40, par. 1503)

16 Sec. 2.1. This Act shall be construed in concert with the
17 Juvenile Court Act of 1987, the Child Care Act of 1969, ~~and~~ the
18 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, and the
19 Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000.

20 (Source: P.A. 85-1209.)

21 (750 ILCS 50/4.1) (from Ch. 40, par. 1506)

22 Sec. 4.1. Adoption between multiple jurisdictions.

23 (a) The Department of Children and Family Services shall
24 promulgate rules regarding the approval and regulation of

1 agencies providing, in this State, adoption services, as
2 defined in Section 2.24 of the Child Care Act of 1969, which
3 shall include, but not be limited to, a requirement that any
4 agency shall be licensed in this State as a child welfare
5 agency as defined in Section 2.08 of the Child Care Act of
6 1969. Any out-of-state agency, if not licensed in this State as
7 a child welfare agency, must obtain the approval of the
8 Department in order to act as a sending agency, as defined in
9 Section 1 of the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children
10 Act, seeking to place a child into this State through a
11 placement subject to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of
12 Children. An out-of-state agency, if not licensed in this State
13 as a child welfare agency, is prohibited from providing in this
14 State adoption services, as defined by Section 2.24 of the
15 Child Care Act of 1969; shall comply with Section 12C-70 of the
16 Criminal Code of 2012; and shall provide all of the following
17 to the Department:

18 (1) A copy of the agency's current license or other
19 form of authorization from the approving authority in the
20 agency's state. If no license or authorization is issued,
21 the agency must provide a reference statement, from the
22 approving authority, stating that the agency is authorized
23 to place children in foster care or adoption or both in its
24 jurisdiction.

25 (2) A description of the program, including home
26 studies, placements, and supervisions, that the child

1 placing agency conducts within its geographical area, and,
2 if applicable, adoptive placements and the finalization of
3 adoptions. The child placing agency must accept continued
4 responsibility for placement planning and replacement if
5 the placement fails.

6 (3) Notification to the Department of any significant
7 child placing agency changes after approval.

8 (4) Any other information the Department may require.

9 ~~Except for children placed with relatives by the Department of~~
10 ~~Children and Family Services pursuant to subsection (b) of~~
11 ~~Section 7 of the Children and Family Services Act, placements~~
12 ~~under this Act shall comply with the Child Care Act of 1969 and~~
13 ~~the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. Placements~~
14 ~~of children born outside the United States or a territory~~
15 ~~thereof shall comply with rules promulgated by the United~~
16 ~~States Department of Immigration and Naturalization.~~

17 ~~Rules promulgated by the Department of Children and Family~~
18 ~~Services shall include but not be limited to the following:~~

19 ~~(a) Any agency providing adoption services as defined in~~
20 ~~Section 2.24 of the Child Care Act of 1969 in this State:~~

21 ~~(i) Shall be licensed in this State as a child welfare~~
22 ~~agency as defined in Section 2.08 of the Child Care Act of~~
23 ~~1969; or~~

24 ~~(ii) Shall be licensed as a child placement agency in a~~
25 ~~state which is a party to the Interstate Compact on the~~
26 ~~Placement of Children and shall be approved by the~~

1 ~~Department to place children into Illinois in accordance~~
2 ~~with subsection (a-5) of this Section; or~~

3 ~~(iii) Shall be licensed as a child placement agency in~~
4 ~~a country other than the United States or, if located in~~
5 ~~such a country but not so licensed, shall provide~~
6 ~~information such as a license or court document which~~
7 ~~authorizes that agency to place children for adoption and~~
8 ~~to establish that such agency has legal authority to place~~
9 ~~children for adoption; or~~

10 ~~(iv) Shall be a child placement agency which is so~~
11 ~~licensed in a non-compact state and shall be approved by~~
12 ~~the Department to place children into Illinois in~~
13 ~~accordance with subsection (a-5) of this Section, if such~~
14 ~~agency first files with the Department of Children and~~
15 ~~Family Services a bond with surety in the amount of \$5,000~~
16 ~~for each such child to ensure that such child shall not~~
17 ~~become a public charge upon this State. Such bond shall~~
18 ~~remain in effect until a judgment for adoption is entered~~
19 ~~with respect to such child pursuant to this Act. The~~
20 ~~Department of Children and Family Services may accept, in~~
21 ~~lieu of such bond, a written agreement with such agency~~
22 ~~which provides that such agency shall be liable for all~~
23 ~~costs associated with the placement of such child in the~~
24 ~~event a judgment of adoption is not entered, upon such~~
25 ~~terms and conditions as the Department deems appropriate.~~

26 The rules shall also provide that any agency that places

1 children for adoption in this State may not, in any policy or
2 practice relating to the placement of children for adoption,
3 discriminate against any child or prospective adoptive parent
4 on the basis of race.

5 (a-5) (Blank). ~~Out of state private placing agencies that~~
6 ~~seek to place children into Illinois for the purpose of foster~~
7 ~~care or adoption shall provide all of the following to the~~
8 ~~Department:~~

9 ~~(i) A copy of the agency's current license or other~~
10 ~~form of authorization from the approving authority in the~~
11 ~~agency's state. If no such license or authorization is~~
12 ~~issued, the agency must provide a reference statement from~~
13 ~~the approving authority stating the agency is authorized to~~
14 ~~place children in foster care or adoption or both in its~~
15 ~~jurisdiction.~~

16 ~~(ii) A description of the program, including home~~
17 ~~studies, placements, and supervisions that the child~~
18 ~~placing agency conducts within its geographical area, and,~~
19 ~~if applicable, adoptive placements and the finalization of~~
20 ~~adoptions. The child placing agency must accept continued~~
21 ~~responsibility for placement planning and replacement if~~
22 ~~the placement fails.~~

23 ~~(iii) Notification to the Department of any~~
24 ~~significant child placing agency changes after approval.~~

25 ~~(iv) Any other information the Department may require.~~
26 ~~If the adoption is finalized prior to bringing or sending~~

1 ~~the child to Illinois, Department approval of the out-of-state~~
2 ~~child placing agency involved is not required under this~~
3 ~~Section, nor is compliance with the Interstate Compact on the~~
4 ~~Placement of Children.~~

5 (b) Interstate Adoptions.

6 (1) All interstate adoption placements under this Act
7 shall comply with the Child Care Act of 1969 and the
8 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. The
9 placement of children with relatives by the Department of
10 Children and Family Services shall also comply with
11 subsection (b) of Section 7 of the Children and Family
12 Services Act.

13 (2) If an adoption is finalized prior to bringing or
14 sending a child to this State, compliance with the
15 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children is not
16 required.

17 ~~As an alternative to requiring the bond provided for in~~
18 ~~paragraph (a)(iv) of this Section, the Department of Children~~
19 ~~and Family Services may require the filing of such a bond by~~
20 ~~the individual or individuals seeking to adopt such a child~~
21 ~~through placement of such child by a child placement agency~~
22 ~~located in a state which is not a party to the Interstate~~
23 ~~Compact on the Placement of Children.~~

24 (c) Intercountry Adoptions.

25 (1) The adoption of a child, if the child is a habitual
26 resident of a country other than the United States and the

1 petitioner is a habitual resident of the United States, or,
2 if the child is a habitual resident of the United States
3 and the petitioner is a habitual resident of a country
4 other than the United States, shall comply with the
5 Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, as amended, and the
6 Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended.

7 (2) The Department of Children and Family Services
8 shall maintain the office of Intercountry Adoption
9 Coordinator in order to maintain and protect the rights of
10 prospective adoptive parents and children participating in
11 an intercountry adoption and shall develop ongoing
12 programs of support and services to such prospective
13 adoptive parents and children.

14 (3) In the case of an intercountry adoption of a child
15 by an Illinois resident, the Department shall promulgate
16 rules concerning preadoption requirements, which shall
17 include, but not be limited to, requirements relating to
18 home studies conducted by licensed child welfare agencies
19 and requirements relating to supporting documentation
20 concerning the prospective adoptive parent's suitability
21 to adopt a child.

22 (4) The Intercountry Adoption Coordinator shall
23 determine whether all preadoption requirements have been
24 met by a prospective adoptive parent. The Intercountry
25 Adoption Coordinator shall also determine whether the
26 prospective adoptive parent is suitable as the adoptive

1 parent. In determining suitability to adopt, the
2 Intercountry Adoption coordinator shall give considerable
3 weight to the home study, but is not bound by it. Even if
4 the home study is favorable, the Intercountry Adoption
5 Coordinator must issue a denial letter if, on the basis of
6 all the information provided, the Intercountry Adoption
7 Coordinator finds, for a specific and articulable reason,
8 that the prospective adoptive parent has failed to
9 establish that he or she is suitable as the adoptive
10 parent.

11 (5) The Intercountry Adoption Coordinator shall issue
12 an endorsement letter, indicating that all preadoption
13 requirements have been met, or a denial letter, indicating
14 the specific preadoption requirements that have not been
15 met, no later than 21 days from receipt of the home study
16 from the child welfare agency. If, upon receipt of the home
17 study, the Intercountry Adoption Coordinator determines
18 that more information is required before any determination
19 can be made with respect to compliance with the preadoption
20 requirements, the Intercountry Adoption Coordinator shall,
21 within 7 days of receipt of the home study, provide notice
22 describing the additional information, via facsimile or
23 through electronic communication, to the licensed child
24 welfare agency and the adoptive parent. Within 21 days of
25 receipt of the additional information, the Intercountry
26 Adoption Coordinator shall provide the child welfare

1 agency with an endorsement letter or a denial letter. The
2 Intercountry Adoption Coordinator shall mail a copy of the
3 endorsement letter or denial letter to the prospective
4 adoptive parent at the same time that the Intercountry
5 Adoption Coordinator provides the letter to the child
6 welfare agency.

7 (6) If the Intercountry Adoption Coordinator issues a
8 denial letter, a prospective adoptive parent shall have the
9 right to a review. The Intercountry Adoption Coordinator
10 shall include in its denial letter notification advising
11 the prospective adoptive parent of the right to seek a
12 review, by the Director of the Department, of the
13 determination, if requested in writing within 30 days of
14 receipt of the denial letter. Failure to submit such a
15 request within 30 days waives the prospective parent's
16 right to a review.

17 (i) The review by the Director shall include, but
18 is not limited to, a review of documentation submitted
19 by the prospective adoptive parent and, if requested by
20 the prospective adoptive parent, a telephone
21 conference or a mutually convenient in-person meeting
22 with the Director, or the Director's designated
23 representative, to allow the prospective adoptive
24 parent to present the facts and circumstances
25 supporting the request for the endorsement letter.

26 (ii) The Director shall issue a decision within 30

1 days of receipt of the request for review.

2 (iii) If the Director concurs with the original
3 denial letter of the Intercountry Adoption
4 Coordinator, the Director's decision shall be
5 considered a final decision and the prospective
6 adoptive parent shall have all rights and remedies to
7 which he or she is entitled under applicable law,
8 including a mandamus action under Article XIV of the
9 Code of Civil Procedure and an action under the federal
10 Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1983.

11 (7) In the case of an intercountry adoption finalized
12 in another country, where a complete and valid Order of
13 Adoption is issued from that country to an Illinois
14 resident, as determined by the United States Department of
15 State, this State shall not impose any additional
16 preadoption requirements.

17 (8) The Department of Children and Family Services
18 shall provide a report to the General Assembly, on an
19 annual basis for the preceding year, beginning on September
20 1 of each year after the effective date of this amendatory
21 Act of the 98th General Assembly. The report shall provide
22 non-identifying statistical data on the endorsement and
23 denial letters and the requests for review of denial
24 letters and shall contain, but not limited to, the
25 following:

26 (i) the number of endorsement letters issued by the

1 Intercountry Adoption Coordinator;

2 (ii) the number of denial letters issued by the
3 Intercountry Adoption Coordinator;

4 (iii) the number of requests for review of denial
5 letters;

6 (iv) the number of denial letter reviews which
7 resulted in a reversal by the Director and an
8 endorsement letter being issued; and

9 (v) the basis of each denial letter and the basis
10 of each reversal of the denial letter in a particular
11 case.

12 ~~In the case of any foreign-born child brought to the United~~
13 ~~States for adoption in this State, the following preadoption~~
14 ~~requirements shall be met:~~

15 ~~(1) Documentation that the child is legally free for~~
16 ~~adoption prior to entry into the United States shall be~~
17 ~~submitted.~~

18 ~~(2) A medical report on the child, by authorized~~
19 ~~medical personnel in the country of the child's origin,~~
20 ~~shall be provided when such personnel are available.~~

21 ~~(3) Verification that the adoptive family has been~~
22 ~~licensed as a foster family home pursuant to the Child Care~~
23 ~~Act of 1969, as now or hereafter amended, shall be~~
24 ~~provided.~~

25 ~~(4) A valid home study conducted by a licensed child~~
26 ~~welfare agency that complies with guidelines established~~

1 ~~by the United States Immigration and Naturalization~~
2 ~~Service at 8 CFR 204.4(d)(2)(i), as now or hereafter~~
3 ~~amended, shall be submitted. A home study is considered~~
4 ~~valid if it contains:~~

5 ~~(i) A factual evaluation of the financial,~~
6 ~~physical, mental and moral capabilities of the~~
7 ~~prospective parent or parents to rear and educate the~~
8 ~~child properly.~~

9 ~~(ii) A detailed description of the living~~
10 ~~accommodations where the prospective parent or parents~~
11 ~~currently reside.~~

12 ~~(iii) A detailed description of the living~~
13 ~~accommodations in the United States where the child~~
14 ~~will reside, if known.~~

15 ~~(iv) A statement or attachment recommending the~~
16 ~~proposed adoption signed by an official of the child~~
17 ~~welfare agency which has conducted the home study.~~

18 ~~(5) The placing agency located in a non compact state~~
19 ~~or a family desiring to adopt through an authorized~~
20 ~~placement party in a non compact state or a foreign country~~
21 ~~shall file with the Department of Children and Family~~
22 ~~Services a bond with surety in the amount of \$5,000 as~~
23 ~~protection that a foreign born child accepted for care or~~
24 ~~supervision not become a public charge upon the State of~~
25 ~~Illinois.~~

26 ~~(6) In lieu of the \$5,000 bond, the placement agency~~

1 ~~may sign a binding agreement with the Department of~~
2 ~~Children and Family Services to assume full liability for~~
3 ~~all placements should, for any reason, the adoption be~~
4 ~~disrupted or not be completed, including financial and~~
5 ~~planning responsibility until the child is either returned~~
6 ~~to the country of its origin or placed with a new adoptive~~
7 ~~family in the United States and that adoption is finalized.~~

8 ~~(7) Compliance with the requirements of the Interstate~~
9 ~~Compact on the Placement of Children, when applicable,~~
10 ~~shall be demonstrated.~~

11 ~~(8) When a child is adopted in a foreign country and a~~
12 ~~final, complete and valid Order of Adoption is issued in~~
13 ~~that country, as determined by both the United States~~
14 ~~Department of State and the United States Department of~~
15 ~~Justice, this State shall not impose any additional~~
16 ~~preadoption requirements. The adoptive family, however,~~
17 ~~must comply with applicable requirements of the United~~
18 ~~States Department of Immigration and Naturalization as~~
19 ~~provided in 8 CFR 204.4 (d)(2)(ii), as now or hereafter~~
20 ~~amended.~~

21 (d) (Blank). ~~The Department of Children and Family Services~~
22 ~~shall maintain the office of Intercountry Adoption~~
23 ~~Coordinator, shall maintain and protect the rights of families~~
24 ~~and children participating in adoption of foreign born~~
25 ~~children, and shall develop ongoing programs of support and~~
26 ~~services to such families and children. The Intercountry~~

1 ~~Adoption Coordinator shall determine that all preadoption~~
2 ~~requirements have been met and report such information to the~~
3 ~~Department of Immigration and Naturalization.~~

4 (Source: P.A. 94-586, eff. 8-15-05.)

5 (750 ILCS 50/6) (from Ch. 40, par. 1508)

6 Sec. 6. A. Investigation; all cases. Within 10 days after
7 the filing of a petition for the adoption or standby adoption
8 of a child other than a related child, the court shall appoint
9 a child welfare agency approved by the Department of Children
10 and Family Services, or a person deemed competent by the court,
11 or in Cook County the Court Services Division of the Cook
12 County Department of Public Aid, or the Department of Children
13 and Family Services if the court determines that no child
14 welfare agency is available or that the petitioner is
15 financially unable to pay for the investigation, to investigate
16 accurately, fully and promptly, the allegations contained in
17 the petition; the character, reputation, health and general
18 standing in the community of the petitioners; the religious
19 faith of the petitioners and, if ascertainable, of the child
20 sought to be adopted; and whether the petitioners are proper
21 persons to adopt the child and whether the child is a proper
22 subject of adoption. The investigation required under this
23 Section shall include a fingerprint based criminal background
24 check with a review of fingerprints by the Illinois State
25 Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each petitioner

1 subject to this investigation, shall submit his or her
2 fingerprints to the Department of State Police in the form and
3 manner prescribed by the Department of State Police. These
4 fingerprints shall be checked against the fingerprint records
5 now and hereafter filed in the Department of State Police and
6 Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history records
7 databases. The Department of State Police shall charge a fee
8 for conducting the criminal history records check, which shall
9 be deposited in the State Police Services Fund and shall not
10 exceed the actual cost of the records check. The criminal
11 background check required by this Section shall include a
12 listing of when, where and by whom the criminal background
13 check was prepared. The criminal background check required by
14 this Section shall not be more than two years old.

15 Neither a clerk of the circuit court nor a judge may
16 require that a criminal background check or fingerprint review
17 be filed with, or at the same time as, an initial petition for
18 adoption.

19 B. Investigation; foreign-born child. In the case of a
20 child born outside the United States or a territory thereof, in
21 addition to the investigation required under subsection (A) of
22 this Section, a post-placement investigation shall be
23 conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Child Care
24 Act of 1969, the Interstate Compact on the Placement of
25 Children, and the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 ~~regulations~~
26 ~~of the foreign placing agency and the supervising agency.~~

1 The requirements of a post-placement investigation shall
2 be deemed to have been satisfied if a valid final order or
3 judgment of adoption has been entered by a court of competent
4 jurisdiction in a country other than the United States or a
5 territory thereof with respect to such child and the
6 petitioners.

7 C. Report of investigation. The court shall determine
8 whether the costs of the investigation shall be charged to the
9 petitioners. The information obtained as a result of such
10 investigation shall be presented to the court in a written
11 report. The results of the criminal background check required
12 under subsection (A) shall be provided to the court for its
13 review. The court may, in its discretion, weigh the
14 significance of the results of the criminal background check
15 against the entirety of the background of the petitioners. The
16 Court, in its discretion, may accept the report of the
17 investigation previously made by a licensed child welfare
18 agency, if made within one year prior to the entry of the
19 judgment. Such report shall be treated as confidential and
20 withheld from inspection unless findings adverse to the
21 petitioners or to the child sought to be adopted are contained
22 therein, and in that event the court shall inform the
23 petitioners of the relevant portions pertaining to the adverse
24 findings. In no event shall any facts set forth in the report
25 be considered at the hearing of the proceeding, unless
26 established by competent evidence. The report shall be filed

1 with the record of the proceeding. If the file relating to the
2 proceeding is not impounded, the report shall be impounded by
3 the clerk of the court and shall be made available for
4 inspection only upon order of the court.

5 D. Related adoption. Such investigation shall not be made
6 when the petition seeks to adopt a related child or an adult
7 unless the court, in its discretion, shall so order. In such an
8 event the court may appoint a person deemed competent by the
9 court.

10 (Source: P.A. 93-418, eff. 1-1-04.)