

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*Codification  
District of  
Columbia  
Official Code*

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To amend, on a temporary basis, the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 to establish that an individual with a certain criminal conviction, or who lives with other adults with certain criminal convictions, shall be disqualified from receiving a license, approval, or permission to adopt or foster a child or to otherwise have custody of a child as legal guardian, kinship caregiver, or custodian pursuant to court order under section 16-2320 of the District of Columbia Official Code, to identify a list of felony convictions for which an individual, despite a certain conviction, or the conviction of an adult living in the home of the individual, may qualify for approval, licensure, or permission to adopt or foster a child or to otherwise have custody of a child as legal guardian, kinship caregiver, or custodian pursuant to court order under section 16-2320 of the District of Columbia Official Code, if, after a discretionary agency review, a determination is made that the approval, licensure, or permission would be consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the child, and to establish that in such cases funds that would otherwise be available under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for adoption-assistance payments or foster-care-maintenance payments shall not be made on behalf of the child; and to amend section 16-308 of the District of Columbia Official Code to permit the court to dispense with an investigation, report, and interlocutory decree, but not a criminal records check, under specified circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Adoption and Safe Families Temporary Amendment Act of 2008".

Sec. 2. Section 506 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective June 27, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-136; D.C. Official Code § 4-1305.06), is amended as follows:

Note,  
§ 4-1305.06

(a) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(1) The lead-in language is amended by striking the phrase "Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, an" and inserting the word "An" in its place.

(2) Paragraph (5) is amended by striking the phrase "homicide, assault or battery" and inserting the phrase "or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery" in its

place.

(b) Subsection (c) is amended as follows:

(1) The lead-in language is amended as follows:

(A) Strike the phrase ", or an adult residing in the home of the individual,".

(B) Strike the phrase "check that the individual" and insert the phrase "check that the individual, or an adult residing in the home of the individual," in its place.

(2) Paragraph (1) is repealed.

(c) Subsection (d) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (c) of this section, an individual may be approved, licensed, or permitted as set forth in subsection (a) of this section if:

"(1) The individual has a felony conviction for any of the offenses listed in subsection (c) of this section and, after a discretionary agency review of the conviction and current circumstances, it is determined that an approval, licensure, or permission would be consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of children; provided, that any adoption-assistance payments or foster-care-maintenance payments made on behalf of a child to an individual pursuant to this paragraph shall not be made with federal funds provided through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, approved June 17, 1980 (94 Stat. 500; 42 U.S.C. § 670 *et seq.*); or

"(2) An adult residing in the home of the individual, but not the individual who seeks to be approved, licensed, or permitted as set forth in subsection (a) of this section, has a felony conviction for any of the offenses listed in subsection (c) of this section and, after a discretionary agency review of the conviction and current circumstances, it is determined that an approval, licensure, or permission would be consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of children."

Sec. 3. Section 16-308 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended to read as follows:

"§ 16-308. Investigations when prospective adoptee is adult or petitioner is spouse of natural parent.

Note,  
§ 16-308

"(a) The court may dispense with the investigation, report, and interlocutory decree provided for by this chapter when:

"(1) The prospective adoptee is an adult; or

"(2) The petitioner is a spouse of the natural parent of the prospective adoptee and the natural parent consents to the adoption or joins in the petition for adoption.

"(b) In the circumstances specified in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the petition need not contain the information concerning race and religion specified in § 16-305(4) and (5).

"(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to waive the requirements of Title V of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective June 27, 2000 (D.C. Law

13-136; D.C. Official Code § 4-1305.01 *et. seq.*), including the requirement of a fingerprint-based criminal records check.".

**Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.**

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

**Sec. 5. Effective date.**

(a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

(b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.

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Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia

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Mayor  
District of Columbia