

Introduced: 5/26/83  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services, Judiciary  
and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY KOPONEN

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 427

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to an adoption preplacement inves-  
7 tigation."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 25.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 25.23.095. PREPLACEMENT INVESTIGATION. (a) Except as  
11 provided in (c) of this section, before placing a minor sought to be  
12 adopted into an adoptive home, an investigation shall be made by the  
13 department, an agency or a person approved by the department for the  
14 purpose of ascertaining whether the adoptive home is a suitable home  
15 for the minor and whether the proposed adoption is in the best  
16 interest of the minor. The department shall provide to any person the  
17 names of department approved investigators under this section. In the  
18 event that investigative services are not reasonably accessible to the  
19 adoptive person as determined by the department, the department may  
20 provide the investigation of the adoptive person under this section.

21 (b) A written report of the investigation shall be filed with  
22 the placing agency or the department before the placement of the minor  
23 sought to be adopted. The report of the investigation shall contain  
24 an evaluation of the proposed placement with a recommendation based on  
25 the inquiries stated in (a) of this section and other information the  
26 department or agency may reasonably require on the proposed placement.

27 (c) Unless otherwise required by law, an investigation and  
28 report under this section is not required in cases in which an agency  
29 is a party or joins in the petition for adoption, a step-parent is the

1 adoptive person, the person to be adopted is within the fourth degree  
2 of lineal or collateral consanguinity to the adoptive person, or the  
3 person to be adopted is an adult. In other cases, after the filing of  
4 the petition to adopt the court may waive the preplacement investiga-  
5 tion only if it appears that waiver is in the best interest of the  
6 minor and that the adoptive home and the minor are suited to each  
7 other.

8 (d) The department or the agency or person making the inves-  
9 tigation may request other departments or agencies within or outside  
10 of the state to make investigations of designated portions of the  
11 inquiry as may be appropriate and to make a written report as a sup-  
12 plemental report and shall make similar investigations and reports on  
13 behalf of other agencies or persons designated under the laws of the  
14 state or another state. A copy of the preplacement report shall be  
15 filed in the court.

16 \* Sec. 2. AS 25.23.080(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

17 (9) that the preplacement investigation has been made and  
18 that the petitioner has been approved or plead facts showing that a  
19 preplacement investigation is not required.

20 \* Sec. 3. AS 25.23.100(d) is amended to read:

21 (d) Except as provided in (g) and (i) of this section, an inves-  
22 tigation shall be made by the department or any other qualified agency  
23 or person designated by the court to inquire into the conditions and  
24 antecedents of a minor sought to be adopted and of the petitioner for  
25 the purpose of ascertaining [WHETHER THE ADOPTIVE HOME IS A SUITABLE  
26 HOME FOR THE MINOR AND] whether the proposed adoption is in the best  
27 interest of the minor.