

LDIR#002

ADOPTION CODE

HCR 19

EXTRACT OF A PORTION OF A STATEMENT MADE TO THE ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING A PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, NOVEMBER 16, 1959. THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION IS REVISION OF THE ALASKA LAW ON ADOPTION AND THE TESTIMONY WAS RECORDED ON TAPE. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE MRS. MILDRED HAYES OF ANCHORAGE, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, DIVISION OF HEALTH, A ONE-TIME EMPLOYEE OF THE FORMER DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE, SPEAKING ON HER OWN BEHALF, AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL -- SENATOR RALPH E. MOODY AND REPRESENTATIVE PETER J. KALAMARIDES, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN.

MRS. HAYES: (In response to a statement of Rep. Morene)

Well, I think that what we have always done is try to find the best possible home for the individual child among those that are looking for children. At the same time considering -- I think that adoptive agencies or people that assume responsibility for children, they feel that the first responsibility is to the child and their focus is on what is the best home for this child. Now they have waiting lists and these people are on. They come in and they're put on lists, you know, as they come in. People also ask for certain things and certain qualities in a child when they are adopting. It isn't quite like you having your own child where you take what you get. But people do say we want a little boy or we want a little girl. Now, again you find people who say we don't care what we have, just so its a healthy child. But you know parents of natural children have preferences as to a boy or girl and you will find a mother dreaming about a little girl and what she's going to do with this little girl. And you will find a father dreaming maybe about a little boy and he's going to be president and a few more things, and this is natural and this is normal and you find adoptive parents having certain specifications that they would like in terms of a child and these things are important. You try to meet them. They can usually accept -- we usually know at the end of a study whether these people -- whether this is really awfully important or whether this is just their preference because they usually end up saying "You know it really doesn't matter just so long as it's a healthy child and just as long as it's a child. We could love any child." That's what we like to hear. But that doesn't mean that the other families that have sound -- you know regular specifications as to sex and so forth that you wouldn't meet the demands too.

SENATOR MOODY:

You would recommend then -- now let me get this straight -- You would recommend a year's waiting period. Is that the period from the time the child is put into the prospective parents' home? Now after the adoption proceedings has gone through with, would you say that was final at that time -- at the end of that year?