

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 HOUSE BILL 2367

 By: Burns and **Lawson**

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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to children; permitting certain child
9 to enter into housing contracts; requiring
10 certification from a youth services provider;
11 providing certification requirement; mandating notice
12 of certification to the parent or legal guardian;
13 listing contents of notice; providing an exception;
14 providing for report to the Department of Human
15 Services; prohibiting discharge of parental or legal
16 authority or duty; authorizing Department to
17 promulgate rules; providing for codification; and
18 providing an effective date.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-9-125 of Title 10A, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A child who is sixteen (16) years of age or older may enter
into contracts to obtain housing if the child receives a
certification of unaccompanied status from a youth services provider
that is licensed, accredited, monitored or contracted by the

1 Department of Human Services to provide care for an unaccompanied
2 child pursuant to this section.

3 B. The certification provided in subsection A of this section
4 shall show that the provider has determined the child is homeless, a
5 victim of domestic violence or a victim of abuse as defined in
6 Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

7 C. The provider shall issue the certification fourteen (14)
8 days after sending notice via certified mail, return receipt
9 requested, to the parent or legal guardian of the child. The notice
10 shall include the child's full name, date of birth and a statement
11 that the child is seeking to be certified by the agency as an
12 unaccompanied child. If, after due diligence, the provider is
13 unable to identify the whereabouts of the parent or legal guardian
14 of the child, notice to the parent or legal guardian shall not be
15 required.

16 D. In the event that the parent or legal guardian of the child
17 contacts the provider and the provider believes that returning home
18 would place the child at risk of abuse or neglect, the provider
19 shall make a report to the Department of Human Services.

20 E. A certification of unaccompanied status pursuant to this
21 section shall not discharge the parent or legal guardian of any
22 parental or legal authority or duty regarding the care and custody
23 of the child.

24

1 F. The Department of Human Services may promulgate rules for
2 the purposes of implementing and administering this section.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.
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5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY
6 SERVICES, dated 02/16/2021 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.
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