

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 6, 2021

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
5 BILL NO. 2367

6 By: Burns, Lawson, Munson and  
7 Dills of the House

8 and

9 Coleman of the Senate

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

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-9-125 of Title 10A, unless  
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

1 Department of Human Services **or the Department of Mental Health and**  
2 **Substance Abuse Services** to provide care for an unaccompanied child  
3 pursuant to this section.

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

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

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

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

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.

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
5 April 6, 2021 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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