

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 2367

By: Burns

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

29 A. A child who is sixteen (16) years of age or older may enter  
30 into contracts to obtain housing if the child receives a  
31 certification of unaccompanied status from a youth services provider  
32 that is licensed, accredited, monitored or contracted by the  
33 Department of Human Services to provide care for an unaccompanied  
34 child pursuant to this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

58-1-6272           EK           01/07/21