

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 1601

By: Rosino of the Senate

3 and

4 Kannady of the House

5  
6  
7 An Act relating to transfer of child custody;  
8 creating the Uniform Unregulated Child Custody  
9 Transfer Act; providing short title; defining terms;  
10 limiting applicability to certain child custody;  
11 defining terms; stating applicability of act;  
12 prohibiting transfer of custody of child for certain  
13 purposes; providing exceptions; prohibiting receiving  
14 custody of child under certain circumstances;  
15 providing exception; creating misdemeanor offense;  
16 authorizing Department of Human Services to take  
17 certain actions; prohibiting certain solicitation or  
18 advertisement; providing for uniformity of  
19 application; clarifying application of certain act;  
20 providing for codification; and providing an  
21 effective date.

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

23 ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

24 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-101 of Title 43, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Uniform  
Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act".

1       SECTION 2.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-102 of Title 43, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4       As used in this act:

5       1. "Child" means an unemancipated individual under eighteen  
6 (18) years of age;

7       2. "Child-placing agency" means a person with authority under  
8 the laws of this state to identify or place a child for adoption.  
9 Child-placing agency does not include a parent of the child;

10      3. "Custody" means the exercise of physical care and  
11 supervision of a child;

12      4. "Intercountry adoption" means an adoption or placement for  
13 adoption of a child who resides in a foreign country at the time of  
14 adoption or placement, which includes an adoption finalized in the  
15 child's country of residence or in a state;

16      5. "Parent" means an individual recognized as a parent under  
17 the laws of this state;

18      6. "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit  
19 entity, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision,  
20 agency, or instrumentality, or other legal entity;

21      7. "Record" means information:

22          a. inscribed on a tangible medium, or

23          b. stored in an electronic or other medium and  
24             retrievable in perceivable form; and

1        8. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of  
2 Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any  
3 other territory or possession subject to the jurisdiction of the  
4 United States, including a federally recognized Indian tribe.

5        SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-103 of Title 43, unless  
7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8        This act shall not apply to custody of an Indian child as  
9 defined in Section 4(4) of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25  
10 U.S.C. Section 1903(4), as amended, to the extent custody is  
11 governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. Sections  
12 1901 through 1963, as amended.

13        ARTICLE 2 - PROHIBITION OF UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFER

14        SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-201 of Title 43, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17        As used in this article:

18        1. "Guardian" means a person recognized as a guardian under the  
19 laws of this state; and

20        2. "Intermediary" means a person that assists or facilitates a  
21 transfer of custody of a child, regardless of whether the person  
22 receives compensation for such assistance or facilitation.

1       SECTION 5.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-202 of Title 43, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4       The provisions of this article shall not apply to a transfer of  
5 custody of a child by a parent or guardian of the child to:

6       1. A parent of the child;

7       2. A stepparent of the child;

8       3. An adult who is related to the child by blood, marriage,  
9 adoption, or other relationship recognized by the laws of this  
10 state;

11       4. An adult who, at the time of the transfer, had a close  
12 relationship with the child or the parent or guardian of the child  
13 for a substantial period, and whom the parent or guardian reasonably  
14 believes, at the time of the transfer, to be a fit custodian of the  
15 child;

16       5. An Indian custodian, as defined in Section 4(6) of the  
17 Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. Section 1903(6), as  
18 amended, of the child; or

19       6. A member of the child's customary family unit recognized by  
20 the child's indigenous group under the laws of this state.

21       SECTION 6.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-203 of Title 43, unless  
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1       A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, a parent  
2 or guardian of a child or an individual with whom a child has been  
3 placed for adoption may not transfer custody of the child to another  
4 person with the intent, at the time of the transfer, to abandon the  
5 rights and responsibilities concerning the child.

6       B. A parent or guardian of a child or an individual with whom a  
7 child has been placed for adoption may transfer custody of the child  
8 to another person with the intent, at the time of the transfer, to  
9 abandon the rights and responsibilities concerning the child only  
10 through:

- 11       1. Adoption or guardianship;
- 12       2. A judicial award of custody;
- 13       3. Placement by or through a child-placing agency; or
- 14       4. Any other judicial or tribal action.

15       C. A person may not receive custody of a child or act as an  
16 intermediary in a transfer of custody of a child, if the person  
17 knows or reasonably should know the transfer violates the  
18 requirements of subsection A of this section. Such prohibition does  
19 not apply if the person, as soon as practicable after the transfer,  
20 notifies the Department of Human Services or the appropriate law  
21 enforcement entity of the transfer, or takes appropriate action to  
22 establish custody under the requirements of subsection B of this  
23 section.

1 D. A person in violation of this section shall, upon  
2 conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor.

3 E. Violation of subsection A of this section is not established  
4 solely because a parent or guardian who transfers custody of a child  
5 does not regain custody.

6 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-204 of Title 43, unless  
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. If the Department of Human Services has a reasonable basis  
10 to believe that a person has transferred or will transfer custody of  
11 a child in violation of subsection A of Section 6 of this act, the  
12 Department may conduct a home visit and take appropriate action to  
13 protect the welfare of the child as authorized by law.

14 B. If the Department conducts a home visit for a child adopted  
15 or placed through an intercountry adoption, the Department shall:

16 1. Prepare a report on the welfare and plan for permanent  
17 placement of the child; and

18 2. Provide a copy to the United States Department of State.

19 C. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to prevent  
20 the Department from taking appropriate action under any other law of  
21 this state.

22 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-205 of Title 43, unless  
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. A person shall not solicit or advertise to:

2       1. Identify a person to which to make a transfer of custody in  
3 violation of subsection A of Section 6 of this act;

4       2. Identify a child for a transfer of custody in violation of  
5 subsection C of Section 6 of this act; or

6       3. Act as an intermediary in a transfer of custody in violation  
7 of subsection C of Section 6 of this act.

8       B. A person in violation of this section shall, upon  
9 conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor.

10       SECTION 9.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-401 of Title 43, unless  
12 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13       In applying and construing this uniform act, a court shall  
14 consider the promotion of uniformity of the law among jurisdictions  
15 that enact it.

16       SECTION 10.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 561-402 of Title 43, unless  
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19       This act modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic  
20 Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section  
21 7001 et seq., as amended, but does not modify, limit, or supersede  
22 15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any  
23 of the notices described in 15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b).

24       SECTION 11. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

1 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2024.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2024.

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives