

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB3039 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Amendment submitted by: Gabe Woolley

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE  
SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 3039

By: Woolley

PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to children; enacting the In the  
Child's Best Interest Act; defining terms; providing  
adoptive, fostering, and legal guardianship  
arrangement requirements; limiting arrangement to no  
more than two adults; permitting other adults to  
assist in the care of the child; directing the courts  
to declare certain arrangements void; directing the  
Department of Human Services or other agency to find  
home for child; providing preference for biologically  
related adults; providing for codification; and  
providing an effective date.

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 2001 of Title 10, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "In the Child's  
Best Interest Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2002 of Title 10, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

For the purposes of this act:

1. "Adult female" means an individual who is eighteen (18) years of age or older and biologically female;

2. "Adult male" means an individual who is eighteen (18) years of age or older and biologically male;

3. "Adoption" means the legal process by which a person or persons become the legal parent or parents of a child;

4. "Biological relative" means a person related to the child by blood, including, but not limited to, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, or cousins;

5. "Foster care" means the temporary placement of a child in a home licensed or approved by the state for the purpose of providing care and supervision; and

6. "Legal guardianship" means the legal authority granted by a court to a person or persons to make decisions regarding the care, custody, and welfare of a child.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2003 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. In order to promote the best interest of the child, all adoptive, fostering, or legal guardianship arrangements approved or recognized by any court, agency, or entity in the State of Oklahoma shall consist of either:

1. One able and willing adult;

1        2. Two able and willing adults comprising one adult female and  
2 one adult male; or

3        3. Two able and willing adults, both of whom are biological  
4 relatives of the child.

5        B. The official adoptive, fostering, or legal guardianship  
6 arrangements shall be limited to no more than two positions and  
7 shall only be reserved for an adult female and an adult male,  
8 conjointly, or for a single adult as provided in subsection A of  
9 this section.

10        SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2004 of Title 10, unless there  
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13        A. Nothing in this act shall prohibit other adults, including,  
14 but not limited, to grandparents, relatives, or friends of the  
15 adoptive parents, foster parents, or legal guardians, from assisting  
16 in the care of the child in the approved home or in the child's  
17 everyday life.

18        B. Biological relatives of the child or of the adoptive  
19 parents, foster parents, or legal guardians may assist in caring for  
20 the child, provided such assistance does not alter the official  
21 adoptive, fostering, or legal guardianship arrangements, which shall  
22 remain limited to the provisions set forth in subsection A of  
23 Section 3 of this act.

24

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2005 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. If any adoption, foster care placement, or legal guardianship is found to violate the provisions of this act, the courts of the State of Oklahoma shall declare such arrangement void and not recognized by the state.

B. Upon a finding of violation, the state, through the Department of Human Services or other appropriate agency, shall immediately work to find a safe and suitable home for the child. Placement shall be made with either:

1. One able and willing adult;

2. Two able and willing adults comprising one adult male and one adult female; or

3. Two able and willing adults, both of whom are biological relatives of the child.

C. In determining placement under subsection B of this section, the state shall give preference to adults who are biologically related to the child in the closest degree of kinship, provided such relatives are proven to be safe and suitable for the child through background checks, home studies, and other evaluations required by state law.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

60-2-16027 CMA 01/30/26