

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | HB 1965 |
| Version: | FS |
| Request No.: | 2080 |
| Author: | Sen. Bullard |
| Date: | 04/30/2025 |

Bill Analysis

HB 1965 defines time-limited reunification services as they relate to the Oklahoma Children's Code as reunification services provided only during the period of 15 months that begins on the date the child is considered to have entered foster care. The measure requires the court to issue a scheduling order within 30 days of any waived jury trial to determine whether parental rights should be terminated. The bench trial shall commence within 90 days of the issued scheduling order, unless the court issues a written order that determines there exists an exceptional circumstance to support a delay. The measure requires each service plan to consider each child's and family's circumstances. The measure provides that if a parent fails to correct the circumstances which led the child to be adjudicated to be a deprived child prior to the end of the time-limited reunification service period, the district attorney shall file a petition or motion for termination of parental rights. If the parent has made substantial progress toward eliminating the problem that caused the child's placement in foster care, the child has a close and positive relationship with a parent and a permanent plan that does not include termination of parental rights will provide the most secure and appropriate placement for the child, the child is 12 years of age or older and is firmly opposed to the termination of parental rights, the parent is terminally ill but in remission, the child is not capable of functioning if placed in a family setting, the child is a refugee, adoption is not an appropriate plan, or the parent's participation in a court-ordered residential substance abuse treatment program constitutes the primary factor in the child's placement, parental rights shall not be terminated at the expiration of the time-limited reunification service period.

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