

HOUSE BILL No. 4736

May 9, 2007, Introduced by Reps. Byrum, Brown, Agema, Stahl, Polidori, Gonzales, Espinoza and Lemmons and referred to the Committee on Families and Children's Services.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 203, entitled
"Foster care and adoption services act,"
by amending section 4a (MCL 722.954a), as added by 1997 PA 172.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 4a. (1) If a child has been placed in a supervising
2 agency's care under chapter XIIIA of **THE PROBATE CODE OF 1939**, 1939
3 PA 288, MCL 712A.1 to 712A.32, the supervising agency shall comply
4 with this section and sections 4b and 4c.

5 (2) Upon removal, as part of a child's initial case service
6 plan as required by rules promulgated under 1973 PA 116, MCL
7 722.111 to 722.128, and by section 18f of chapter XIIIA of **THE**
8 **PROBATE CODE OF 1939**, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.18f, the supervising
9 agency shall, within 30 days, identify, locate, and consult with

1 relatives to determine placement with a fit and appropriate
2 relative who would meet the child's developmental, emotional, and
3 physical needs as an alternative to foster care. Not more than 90
4 days after the child's removal from his or her home, the
5 supervising agency shall do all of the following:

6 (a) Make a placement decision and document in writing the
7 reason for the decision.

8 (b) Provide written notice of the decision and the reasons for
9 the placement decision to the child's attorney, guardian, guardian
10 ad litem, mother, and father; the attorneys for the child's mother
11 and father; each relative who expresses an interest in caring for
12 the child; the child if the child is old enough to be able to
13 express an opinion regarding placement; and the prosecutor.

14 (3) IN MAKING A DETERMINATION OF PLACEMENT FOR A CHILD IN ITS
15 CARE, A SUPERVISING AGENCY SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO PLACEMENT IN A
16 HOME THAT SHARES THE SAME RELIGION AS THE CHILD'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY
17 BEFORE REMOVAL, ESPECIALLY IF RELIGIOUS LAWS REGARDING FOOD HAVE
18 BEEN OBSERVED IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY BEFORE THE CHILD'S REMOVAL.
19 PLACEMENT OF A CHILD SHALL NOT BE DELAYED OR DENIED SOLELY TO
20 ACHIEVE A PLACEMENT IN A HOME OF THE SAME RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AS
21 THE CHILD.

22 (4) ~~(3)~~ A person who receives a written decision described in
23 subsection (2) may request in writing, within 5 days, documentation
24 of the reasons for the decision, and if the person does not agree
25 with the placement decision, he or she may request that the child's
26 attorney review the decision to determine if the decision is in the
27 child's best interest. If the child's attorney determines the

1 decision is not in the child's best interest, within 14 days after
2 the date of the written decision the attorney shall petition the
3 court that placed the child out of the child's home for a review
4 hearing. The court shall commence the review hearing not more than
5 7 days after the date of the attorney's petition and shall hold the
6 hearing on the record.