



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 379
[2015 Assembly Bill 40]

Preadoption Preparation

2015 Wisconsin Act 379 relates to preadoption preparation requirements and referrals to postadoption resource centers.

First, the Act modifies certain aspects of the preadoptive training that is generally required for proposed adoptive parents who have not previously adopted a child. The aspects include the hours required, the subjects that must be covered, and how the training must be delivered.

Specifically, the Act requires 25 total hours of preadoptive training, rather than 18 hours as under prior administrative rule. At least six of the hours must be delivered in person, either individually or in a group, and at least six of the hours must be appropriate to the specific needs of the child to be adopted. Training on the issues of trauma and sexual abuse must be given in all cases, in addition to the training on attachment, abuse, and neglect required under prior administrative rule.

Second, the Act requires the agency providing the training to offer at least six additional hours of optional training for the family after the adoption is granted, on issues that are appropriate to the needs of the family.

Third, the Act specifies that preadoptive training from another state may be accepted for an adoption that is finalized in Wisconsin if the Department of Children and Families approves the training as equivalent to Wisconsin's requirements.

Lastly, the Act requires each finalized adoption to be reported to the state-funded postadoption resource center that serves the area in which the parent resides. Unless a parent chooses that the information not be referred, an agency that arranged an adoption must report the names and contact information of each adoptive parent, and name and date of birth of the adopted child, within 90 days of the adoption being granted.

Effective date: April 27, 2016

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April 26, 2016

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.