



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 381 [2015 Assembly Bill 42]	Child Welfare Data on Adopted Children
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2015 Wisconsin Act 381 requires a notation of adoption status on certain documents when a child enters the child welfare or juvenile justice system and requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide annual reports on that data.

Specifically, the Act requires a petition or agreement in the following circumstances to state whether the child who is the subject of the action is an adopted child:

- A petition for a child alleged to be in need of protection or services under the Children's Code.
- A petition for a juvenile alleged to be delinquent or in need of protection or services under the Juvenile Justice Code.
- A written agreement for informal disposition under the Children's Code.
- A written agreement for deferred prosecution of a juvenile.
- A written agreement for voluntary placement of a child in a foster home, group home, or a shelter care facility.
- A petition for appointment of a guardian for a child or juvenile who has been found to be in need of protection or services under the Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code.
- A petition for appointment of a guardian of a minor under the general guardianship provisions.
- A petition for court approval of a delegation of parental powers to an agent who is not a relative of the child.
- A petition for termination of parental rights.

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>.

The Act further requires DCF to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the number of children who enter out-of-home care in the child welfare or juvenile justice system each year who have previously been adopted or placed under guardianship. The report may include information on the circumstances of each child's prior adoption or guardianship, such as the child's age at the time of the adoption or guardianship and the type of agency involved in the placement, and any other relevant information, in order to better understand why children enter the child welfare or juvenile justice system after finalization of an adoption or guardianship.

Effective date: The required notation of adoption status in certain documents takes effect on April 27, 2016. The first annual report by DCF is due on December 31, 2017.

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