

STATE OF NEW YORK

4055

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 2, 2021

Introduced by Sens. PERSAUD, COMRIE, GOUNARDES, KAVANAGH, LIU, RIVERA --
read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to
the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to the adoption
subsidies provided for disabled or hard to place children

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 of section 453 of the social
2 services law, as amended by chapter 83 of the laws of 1995, is amended
3 and four new paragraphs (c-2), (c-3), (c-4) and (c-5) are added to read
4 as follows:

5 (c) No payments may be made pursuant to this subdivision if the social
6 services official determines that the adoptive parents are no longer
7 legally responsible for the support of the child or the child is no
8 longer receiving any support from such parents. For purposes of this
9 section:

10 (i) "any support" shall be limited to support that is directly for the
11 benefit of the adopted child that meets the food, clothing, education,
12 medical and shelter needs of the adopted child and that has an identifi-
13 able value;

14 (ii) "no longer legally responsible for the support of the child"
15 means (A) the child has become legally emancipated, married or joined
16 the military; or (B) a court has ruled that the adoptive parent is no
17 longer legally responsible for the support of the child.

18 (c-1) The social services official on [~~a biennial~~] an annual basis
19 shall:

20 (i) require adoptive parents to certify that they are fulfilling their
21 obligations pursuant to any adoption subsidy agreement entered into in
22 accordance with this section, including their obligation to provide
23 support for the child;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[~~-~~] is old law to be omitted.

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(ii) remind the adoptive parents of ~~[their obligation]~~ the following obligations, which shall also be included in any agreement entered into with an adoptive parent concerning payments made for the care and maintenance of the child pursuant to this section:

(A) to support the child [and];

(B) to notify the social services official if the adoptive parents are no longer providing any support of the child or are no longer legally responsible for the support of the child[-]; and

(C) to notify the social services official if: (I) another person has been granted physical custody of the child; (II) another person has been appointed guardian for the child; or (III) the child no longer resides with the adoptive parent.

(c-2) If the adoptive parent fails to respond to an annual certification notice within thirty days of the receipt of the certification notice from the social services official, the social services official may:

(i)(A) contact the adoptive parent by letter, telephone or electronic means; or (B) if other means of contact have not been successful, visit the home of the adoptive parent; and

(ii) require the adoptive parent, as a condition for the continuation of the subsidy payments, to produce evidence of the support that is being provided on behalf of the adopted child.

(c-3) (i) If the social services official receives from any person information that provides reasonable cause to suspect that the adoptive parent is no longer providing any support to the child, the social services official shall review whether the adoptive parents are legally responsible for the support of the child and whether the child is receiving any support from the adoptive parents. Circumstances in which the social services official shall conduct this review include the following:

(A) the child has been placed in foster care;

(B) a person alleges to the social services official that:

(I) a person other than the adoptive parent has been granted legal custody of the child;

(II) another person has been appointed guardian for the child, or

(III) the child is found to no longer reside with the adoptive parent.

(ii) In conducting the review described in this paragraph, the social services official may:

(A) contact the adoptive parent by letter, telephone, electronic, or other means;

(B) visit the home of the adoptive parent; and

(C) require the adoptive parent, as a condition for the continuation of the subsidy payments, to produce evidence of the support that is being provided on behalf of the adopted child.

(iii) If the child is not in foster care and the social services official determines that the adoptive parents are no longer legally responsible for the support of the child or that the child is no longer receiving any support from the adoptive parents, the social services official shall terminate the assistance provided to the adoptive parents pursuant to this section. The adoptive parents may appeal the termination of assistance to the department in accordance with section twenty-two of this chapter.

(iv) If the child is in foster care and the social services official determines that the child is no longer receiving any support from the adoptive parents, the social services official may reduce, suspend, or terminate the assistance provided to the adoptive parents pursuant to

1 this section. The adoptive parents may appeal the termination of assist-
2 ance to the department in accordance with section twenty-two of this
3 chapter. If assistance is reduced, suspended or terminated pursuant to
4 this paragraph and the child is returned from foster care to the care of
5 the adoptive parents, the social services official shall resume assist-
6 ance effective from the date when the child was returned to the adoptive
7 parent's care.

8 (c-4) If the social services official terminates the adoption assist-
9 ance provided to adoptive parents pursuant to paragraph (c-three) of
10 this subdivision and the child resides with another person who has been
11 granted physical custody or appointed as guardian of the child, the
12 social services official shall enter into a written agreement to make
13 adoption assistance payments to the custodian or guardian. Such payments
14 shall be made retroactive from the termination of assistance to the
15 adoptive parents pursuant to paragraph (c-three) of this subdivision and
16 shall be made until the child's twenty-first birthday. A custodian or
17 guardian who receives adoption assistance payments pursuant to this
18 paragraph shall be subject to the same requirements that apply to adop-
19 tive parents under this section.

20 (c-5) If the social services official terminates the adoption assist-
21 ance provided to adoptive parents pursuant to paragraph (c-three) of
22 this subdivision after the eighteenth birthday and before the twenty-
23 first birthday of the adopted child, and no person other than the adop-
24 tive parents has legal custody or guardianship of the child, the social
25 services official shall make payments to the child:

26 (i) through direct payments to the child, if the social services offi-
27 cial determines the child demonstrates the ability to manage such direct
28 payments; or

29 (ii) to a representative payee certified by the social services offi-
30 cial in accordance with paragraph (g) of this subdivision.

31 § 2. Clause (B) of subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (g) of subdivision
32 1 of section 453 of the social services law, as added by chapter 518 of
33 the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

34 (B) If the twenty-first birthday of the child occurs while awaiting
35 the certification of a representative payee, the child shall be entitled
36 to retroactive direct payment of subsidy payments since the death of the
37 adoptive parent or parents or the termination of assistance to the adop-
38 tive parent or parents pursuant to paragraph (c-three) of this subdivi-
39 sion after the eighteenth birthday of the child.

40 § 3. Subdivision 2 of section 453 of the social services law, as
41 amended by chapter 83 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as
42 follows:

43 2. ~~The~~ Any agreement provided for in subdivision one of this section
44 shall be subject to the approval of the department upon the application
45 of the social services official; provided, however, that in accordance
46 with the regulations of the department, the department may authorize the
47 social services official to approve or disapprove the agreement on
48 behalf of the department. In either situation, if the agreement is not
49 approved or disapproved by the social services official within thirty
50 days of submission, the voluntary authorized agency may submit the
51 agreement directly to the department for approval or disapproval. If the
52 agreement is not disapproved in writing by the department within thirty
53 days after its submission to the department, it shall be deemed
54 approved. Any such disapproval shall be accompanied by a written state-
55 ment of the reasons therefor.

56 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.