

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 HOUSE BILL 1507

By: Strohm

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children and juvenile code;
8 permitting private child-placing agency to refuse
9 participation in any placement that violates written
10 religious convictions or policies of the agency;
11 prohibiting denial, revocation or suspension of
12 agency license due to refusal; providing for
13 codification; and providing an effective date.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-8-112 of Title 10A, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. No private child-placing agency shall be required to
19 perform, assist, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer or
20 participate in any placement of a child for foster care or adoption
21 when the proposed placement would violate the written religious or
22 moral convictions or policies of the agency.

23 B. The Department of Human Services shall not deny an
24 application for an initial license or renewal of a license or revoke
the license of a private child-placing agency because of the

1 agency's objection to performing, assisting, counseling,
2 recommending, consenting to, referring or participating in a
3 placement that violates the written religious or moral convictions
4 or policies of the agency.

5 C. A state or local government department, agency, board,
6 commission or entity shall not deny a private child-placing agency
7 any grant, contract or participation in a government program because
8 of the agency's objection to performing, assisting, counseling,
9 recommending, consenting to, referring or participating in a
10 placement that violates the written religious or moral convictions
11 or policies of the agency.

12 D. Refusal of a private child-placing agency to perform,
13 assist, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer or participate in a
14 placement that violates the written religious or moral convictions
15 or policies of the agency shall not form the basis of any action for
16 damages.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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19 56-1-6011 LRB 01/17/17

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