

LR:tlu

01/14/2005

1       **AN ACT** *to amend* 48.837 (7) (title); and *to create* 48.837 (4) (f) and 48.839 (2) (am)  
2           of the statutes; **relating to:** training for prospective adoptive parents.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This draft was prepared for the joint legislative council's special committee on adoption and termination of parental rights law. The draft requires a court, in a proceeding for the adoption of a child by nonrelatives, to order the person or persons who are petitioning to adopt the child to obtain 30 hours of training on issues that may confront adoptive parents, especially those who are adopting special needs children or children adopted from foreign countries. The training must cover, among other issues, reactive attachment disorder, the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome on children, how to advocate for services for children with special needs, how to obtain access to adoption subsidies, and how to work with social services and court systems. The training may be provided by a licensed child welfare agency, a licensed private adoption agency, or a state-funded post-adoption resource center. The proposed adoptive parents must pay for the training.

The draft also requires that persons who are petitioning to adopt a foreign child to obtain 30 hours of similar training, which must be provided by the licensed child welfare agency that is providing services to the child and the proposed adoptive parents. The proposed adoptive parents must also pay for that training.

3           **SECTION 1.** 48.837 (4) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

4           48.837 (4) (f) Shall order the petitioner to obtain 30 hours of training on issues that may  
5           confront adoptive parents, especially those who are adopting special needs children or  
6           children adopted from foreign countries. The training must cover, among other issues,  
7           reactive attachment disorder, the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome on children, how to  
8           advocate for services for children with special needs, how to obtain access to adoption  
9           subsidies, and how to work with social services and court systems. The training may be

1 provided by a licensed child welfare agency, a licensed private adoption agency, or a  
2 state-funded post-adoption resource center.

**NOTE:** Requires the court, in a proceeding on a petition for adoption of a child by nonrelatives, to order the petitioner to obtain 30 hours of training on issues that may confront adoptive parents. The training, which may be provided by a licensed child welfare agency, a licensed private adoption agency, or a state-funded post-adoption resource center.

3 **SECTION 2.** 48.837 (7) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 48.837 (7) (title) INVESTIGATION AND CARE COSTS; TRAINING COSTS. The proposed  
5 adoptive parents shall pay the cost of any investigation ordered under sub. (4) (c), according  
6 to a fee schedule established by the department based on ability to pay, and shall also, if the  
7 adoption is completed, pay the cost of any care provided for the child under sub. (4) (d). The  
8 proposed adoptive parents shall pay the costs of training required under sub. (4) (f).

**NOTE:** Requires the proposed adoptive parents to pay the costs of the 30 hours of required training.

9 **SECTION 3.** 48.839 (2) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

10 48.839 (2) (am) The guardian shall, prior to the entry of the order granting the adoption,  
11 obtain 30 hours of training on issues that may confront parents who are adopting a child from  
12 a foreign country. The training must include, among other issues, information on reactive  
13 attachment disorder, the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome on children, how to advocate for  
14 children with special needs, and how to work with social services and court systems. The  
15 training shall be provided by the licensed child welfare agency providing services to the child  
16 and to the proposed adoptive parents under sub. (5). The proposed adoptive parents shall pay  
17 the costs of the training.

**NOTE:** Requires that persons who are petitioning to adopt a foreign child to obtain 30 hours of training on issues which may confront parents who are adopting a child from a foreign country. The training must be

provided by the licensed child welfare agency that is providing services to the child and the proposed adoptive parents. The proposed adoptive parents must also pay for that training.

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(END)