

(2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, A CHILD SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE ENTERED AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT 30 DAYS AFTER THE CHILD IS PLACED INTO AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT.

~~(2)~~ (3) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE A PETITION OR JOIN AN ACTION IF:

(I) THE CHILD IS BEING CARED FOR BY A RELATIVE;

(II) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT HAS DOCUMENTED IN THE CASE PLAN, WHICH SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR COURT REVIEW, A COMPELLING REASON WHY TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS WOULD NOT BE IN THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS; OR

(III) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT HAS NOT PROVIDED SERVICES TO THE FAMILY CONSISTENT WITH THE TIME PERIOD IN THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT'S CASE PLAN THAT THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS NECESSARY FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF THE CHILD TO THE CHILD'S HOME.

(C) IF A PETITION IS FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY, RECRUIT, PROCESS, AND SEEK TO APPROVE A QUALIFIED FAMILY FOR ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP, OR OTHER PERMANENT PLACEMENT.

(D) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO:

(1) PROHIBIT THE FILING OF A PETITION AT AN EARLIER DATE OR UNDER OTHER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES; OR

(2) REQUIRE A LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO FILE A PETITION OR, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, REQUIRE EXPEDITED TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR A CHILD IN KINSHIP CARE, AS DEFINED IN § 5-501 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

Part IV. [Foster Care] OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT Review Boards.

5-539.

(a) (1) The State Board may adopt policies and procedures that:

(i) relate to the functions of the local boards; and

(ii) are consistent with the goals set forth in § 5-544 of this subtitle.

(2) If the Administration concurs, the State Board may establish categories of [foster care] children IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT for whom a satisfactory permanent placement has been made and who may be exempt from review by the local boards.

(b) The State Board shall:

(1) provide a training program for members of the local boards;

(2) review and coordinate the activities of the local boards;