

NEWS

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Feigenholtz Legislation to Aid Prospective Adoptive Parents Signed into Law

New Law Will Require Disclosure of Social and Behavioral Information

SPRINGFIELD – An adoption reform bill, introduced by State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), was signed into law last week by the Governor. The new law will require the Department of Children and Family Services to release a child's reported social and behavioral information to prospective adoptive and foster parents.

"As someone who knows the effects and difficulties of the adoption process firsthand, I have a special appreciation for everyone who chooses to take a foster child into their home," Feigenholtz said. "However, it is important that we take the necessary steps to ensure that these adoptive and foster parents have a clear understanding of each child's health and behavioral history in order to prepare them prior to placement. "

House Bill 4186, introduced by Feigenholtz, requires licensed child welfare agencies to provide detailed information related to the child's educational and health history as well as immunization records and a history of the child's previous placements including reasons for prior placement changes. Prospective parents will also learn of any other past social or behavioral issues such as criminal behavior, sexual abuse or substance abuse.

The legislation also gives the Department of Children & Family Services the right to revoke or refuse the renewal of the license of any adoption agency that fails to comply with these new guidelines.

"This new legislation is in everyone's best interest and will help guarantee a successful future for these children," Feigenholtz said.

House Bill 4186 passed both chambers with unanimous support.

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