



Division of Programs
627 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(O) 225.342.6715
(F) 225.342.8636
www.dcfslouisiana.gov

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

August 5, 2016

The Honorable John A. Alario
President of the Senate
P. O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Senator Alario:

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hereby announces its plan to proceed with rulemaking by finalizing the Notice of Intent titled "Health Status" that was promulgated and published on page 928 of the June 2016 *Louisiana Register*. Copies of the notice and fiscal statement were provided to you on, or about, June 10, 2016.

The proposed rule provides for the expansion of the number of potential applicants which enables the department to certify additional foster and adoptive parents who will provide a safe and nurturing environment for our most vulnerable children. It allows potential applicants that were previously excluded because of their health status to become certified foster or adoptive parents. The potential applicant must have a signed statement by a licensed physician or health care professional verifying that their health status is under medical care and does not present a health or safety risk to a child placed in their home.

DCFS held a public hearing on July 26, 2016 and no comments were received on the proposal. At this time the department intends to submit the Final Rule to the Office of State Register for publication in the September issue of the *Louisiana Register*. This Rule is effective October 1, 2016.

Please contact me at (225) 342-4044 if the department may be of any assistance to you concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhenda Hodnett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rhenda Hodnett
Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Fred H. Mills, Jr., Chairman
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
P. O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Senator Mills:

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hereby announces its plan to proceed with rulemaking by finalizing the Notice of Intent titled "Health Status" that was promulgated and published on page 928 of the June 2016 *Louisiana Register*. Copies of the notice and fiscal statement were provided to you on, or about, June 10, 2016.

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John Bel Edwards, Governor
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August 5, 2016

The Honorable Taylor Barras
Speaker of the House
P. O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Representative Barras:

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hereby announces its plan to proceed with rulemaking by finalizing the Notice of Intent titled "Health Status" that was promulgated and published on page 928 of the June 2016 *Louisiana Register*. Copies of the notice and fiscal statement were provided to you on, or about, June 10, 2016.

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Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Frank A. Hoffmann, Chairman
House Committee on Health and Welfare
P. O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Representative Hoffmann:

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hereby announces its plan to proceed with rulemaking by finalizing the Notice of Intent titled "Health Status" that was promulgated and published on page 928 of the June 2016 *Louisiana Register*. Copies of the notice and fiscal statement were provided to you on, or about, June 10, 2016.

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