

HB 1994 -- Adoption

Sponsor: Carlson

This bill authorizes the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to terminate the rights of a parent or approve the consent to adoption or waiver of consent to adoption by a parent, including a child who is a ward of the court, if a court finds that the termination or consent to adoption or waiver of consent to adoption is in the best interests of the child and the parent has consented in writing to the termination of his or her parental rights or consented or waived consent to the adoption.

Prospective adoptive parents and the parents of a prospective adoptee may enter into a written post adoption contract agreement to allow contact after the adoption between parents, siblings, or other relatives of the adoptee and the adoptee and the adoptive parents. Any agreement is at the discretion of the adoptive parents, must be in writing and signed by the parties to the agreement, and must be made part of the court record. The court must enforce an agreement unless to do so is not in the best interest of the adoptee.