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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

July 19, 2017

Child Welfare Licensing Memo 2017-24-Lic

To: Private Adoption Agencies

From: Ron Hermes
Bureau Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Hermes".

RE: Review and Certification of Adoption Documents

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide Private Child Placing Agencies facilitating international adoptions with information to regarding the Department's review and certification of adoption documents.

BACKGROUND

2015 Wisconsin Act 380, Effect and Recognition of Foreign Adoption and Guardianship Decrees, changed the requirements to recognize a foreign adoption of a child adopted in a foreign country who was not a citizen of the United States at birth and was admitted to the U.S. with an IR-3 or IH-3 visa.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Under Act 380, Wisconsin law no longer requires the Department's approval of an adoptive placement for a child adopted in a foreign country for the foreign adoption to be recognized under Wisconsin law.

Act 380 created procedures to obtain a court order for the registration of a child's adoption in a foreign country with Wisconsin State Registrar. These procedures include providing the court with certain information regarding the adoption within 365 days of the adoption as provided under Wisconsin Statute Section 48.97(2). Your agency and adopting families may wish to consult legal counsel regarding these requirements.

If requested by the agency or otherwise required by state or federal law, the Department will continue to provide the service of reviewing and approving any necessary documents for a fee of \$75. This change does not impact requirements for agencies to maintain adoption documentation in adoptions files. Agencies are still subject to all requirements under DCF Ch. 54 Administrative code, including the review of documentation by Child Welfare Licensing staff.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Adoptions Program Specialist
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MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>