

CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

Safe Children, Healthy
Families, Caring
Communities

Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
June 20, 2014

EXHIBIT H - CHILDWELFARE
Document consists of 14 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 06-20-14

Rehoming Adopted Children

2

- Typically, the term “rehousing” is used by pet owners seeking other homes for animals in their care.
- “Rehoming” adopted children is the practice of placing children with non-relative strangers outside of the purview of courts or public child welfare agencies.
- September 2013: Reuters News Agency published an investigative series about the rehoming of adopted children called “The Child Exchange” that examines the online network created by parents unable to meet the complex emotional and behavioral needs of their adopted children.
- These parents used online forums to advertise, relinquish care and facilitate placements of their adopted children.

Rehoming Adopted Children

3

- The series found that some children who were adopted and rehomed endured severe abuse.
- Children were exchanged in motel parking lots and truck stops with pedophiles and other adults who had their children removed because of abuse and neglect in some instances.
- The exact number of disrupted adoptions resulting in rehoming is unknown.
- Wisconsin was the first state that enacted a law against rehoming adopted children. Ohio, Florida and Colorado also considering law.

Wisconsin

4

- Wisconsin Act 314 (April 2014) criminalizes certain acts of advertising related to adoption or other permanent physical placements of a child and unauthorized interstate placements of children.
- Outside of legally approved placements, “any person who sends a child out of this state, brings a child into this state, or causes a child to be sent out of this state or brought into this state for the purpose of permanently transferring physical custody of the child to a person who is not a relative ... is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.”
- “Advertise” means “communicate by any public medium that originates within this state, including by newspaper, periodical, telephone book listing, outdoor advertising sign, radio, television, or by any computerized communication system, including by electronic mail, Internet site, Internet account, or any similar medium of communication provided via the Internet.”

Ohio

5

- SB 311 (in committee) attempts to limit entities that can advertise the adoption of children.
- Power of attorney may not grant the authority to consent to the adoption of a child or terminate parental rights concerning the custody of the child or parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the child.
- Would require state child welfare agency to study adoption disruption and dissolution, review prevention efforts, require tracking and provide programs to prospective and current adoptive parents.
- Defines “advertise” with the exact Wisconsin language.
- Under the proposal, anyone who violates the law would be guilty of a misdemeanor under Ohio law – with penalties that include fines between \$500 and \$1,000 or imprisonment not more than six months, or both.

Colorado

6

- HB 1149 amends the crime of trafficking children to include a person who advertises a child through any public medium that originates in the state to find a child to adopt or otherwise take into permanent physical custody or to find an adoptive or other permanent physical placement to assist in or arrange adoption and adoptive placement.
- Defines “advertise” with the exact Wisconsin language.
- Proposes the act of advertising children and receiving advertised children both as felonies punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Florida

7

- SB 1666 (awaiting the governor's desk), creates and defines terms and establishes the criminal offense of “unlawful abandonment of a child.” The bill also provides criminal penalties and exceptions.
- “Abandon” means to leave a child in a place or with a person other than a relative with the intent not to return to the child and with the intent not to provide for the care of the child.
- A caregiver who “abandons a child under circumstances in which the caregiver knew or should have known that the abandonment exposes the child to unreasonable risk of harm commits a felony of the third degree.”

Administration for Children and Families Memorandum

8

- In May 2014, the Administration for Children and Families released an informational memorandum regarding rehoming as a direct result of Reuters investigative series.
- The purpose was to provide an overview of the practice of rehoming children, convey concerns and encourage agencies to revisit their post-adoption services and review their laws and policies.
- Federal government says the delegation of parental responsibility through power of attorney for purposes of rehoming does not remove the legal responsibility parents have for assuring that their children are safe.

Nevada

9

- NRS 127.310 addresses unlawful placement or advertising to place children for adoption – but does not address rehoming of adopted children.
- To be consistent and proactive with other jurisdictions nationwide, Nevada could address this issue by:
 - ▣ Adding language to current Nevada trafficking laws or create new/amend existing language in NRS 432B and/or NRS 127.
 - ▣ Define the words “rehoming,” “advertise,” “adoption disruption,” and “adoption dissolution.”
 - ▣ Address the delegation of parental responsibility through power of attorney or guardianship for the purposes of rehoming.

Examples

10



Hi, we are looking for immediate respite for our 13 year old son. We are in California. He needs a home without any younger kids. Only child or with much older kids. We are also looking to rehome him. He was suspended again today for inappropriate touching and speaking to a female student. He just doesn't get it. The social skills are really hard for him and since the actions and consequences don't make sense he doesn't learn from past mistakes. We do not feel it is safe to keep him here with our other two kids any longer (one is younger) as he was inappropriate last summer with his younger brother as well. He is a great kid in general and we don't blame him for his broken brain that was caused before we met him. However, our other two children have been suffering as well for 10 years and there needs to be an end to it. He has even told us he would be happier in a new family without other kids or at least no younger ones. It's less anxiety and stress for him. This is horribly sad and frustrating at the same time. If anyone is interested or knows someone or has a process to share please message me. I won't hide a thing so unlike the 4 sentence health history we received from Russia when we adopted, you will get every detail 😊

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Follow Post](#) · August 27 at 4:10pm

Examples

11



11 yr old from Florida needing a new home. She was adopted around one year old from Russia...has FAS with some sexual interest but is not aggressive in behaviors. She needs a family. I have the email to the parents if you are seriously interested. Adoption only, florida would be great but anyone that is HS ready is accepted.

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Follow Post](#) · August 19 at 4:45pm



[View 3 more comments](#)



?

August 20 at 10:26pm · [Like](#)



 is the contact on this one.

August 20 at 10:26pm · [Like](#)



Write a comment...



Press Enter to post.

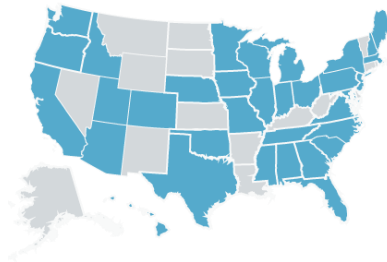
Who are the children? Reuters:

12

- Investigative series focused on international adoptions.
- Reality is that it can happen in Nevada, too.

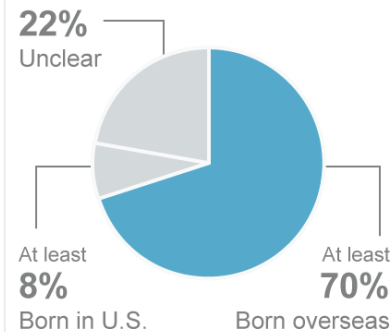
261

Reporters identified 261 individual children who were advertised. Participants offered children to others at least 271 times, an average of one offer of a child a week. The difference in these numbers shows some children were offered more than once.

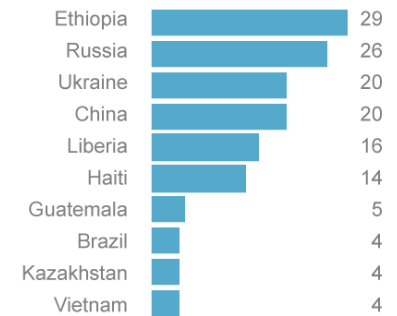


The children were living in at least 34 different states at the time they were offered.

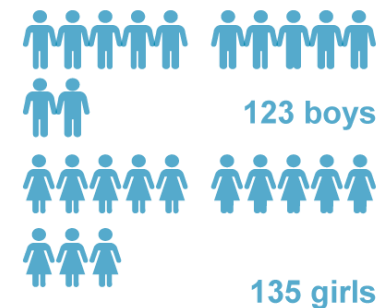
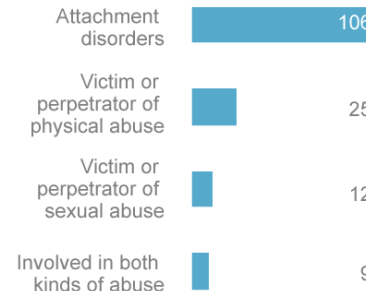
Most of the children were born abroad.



Children were identified from at least 23 foreign nations.



Many of the children were described as facing troubles.



The number of boys and girls was similar. It was impossible to identify the sex of three children.

Nevada Example

13

Seeking a baby boy!!! < **Seekinginfantboy** > 05/26 17:25:59

My husband and I are wanting to add a baby boy to our family. We have three girls, own our home, college grads, and have great jobs(I work from home) however, we aren't per say "made of money" so we were trying to stay away from the agencies as we have tried adoption a few years back and it is so expensive! We are however, willing to help however we can. My friend found her little girl on here and they moved the birth mother with them and paid for medical and what not. Please text me or email anytime!!
775- [REDACTED]

Questions?