

1 AN ACT relating to health and family services.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 199.510 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) Upon filing a petition for the adoption of a minor child, the clerk of the court shall
5 forward two (2) copies of the petition to the cabinet. The cabinet, or any person,
6 agency or institution designated by it or the court shall, to the extent of available
7 facilities, investigate and report in writing to the court:
- 8 (a) Whether the contents of the petition required by KRS 199.490 are true;
- 9 (b) Whether the proposed adoptive parents are financially able and morally fit to
10 have the care, custody and training of the child; and
- 11 (c) Whether the adoption is to the best interest of the child and the child is
12 suitable for adoption.
- 13 (2) The report of the cabinet or the designated person, agency or institution shall be
14 filed with the court as soon as practicable but not later than ninety (90) days from
15 the placement of the child or ninety (90) days after the filing date of the petition,
16 whichever is longer, unless for good cause the court by written order extends the
17 period of time for filing the report. If the cabinet or the designated person, agency or
18 institution is unable to make the report, it shall within ten (10) days of receipt of the
19 petition notify the court of its inability to conduct the investigation, and the court
20 may designate some other person, agency or institution to make the necessary
21 investigation. If the court designates some other person, agency or institution, the
22 clerk shall forward one (1) copy of the petition to such person, agency or institution
23 and shall notify the cabinet of such other designation at the time he ***or she*** forwards
24 the petition to the cabinet.
- 25 (3) If the cabinet is a party defendant, its reports, if it files no other pleadings, shall be
26 considered its answer to the petition.
- 27 (4) The clerk's fee for copying and forwarding the copies of the petitions required by

1 this section shall be taxed as a cost of the action.