



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1076

HOUSE BILL NO. 1476

By Representatives Zachary, Howell, Hardaway, Powers, Kane, Lundberg, Harry Brooks, Kevin Brooks, Marsh, Casada, Windle, Love, Akbari

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1670

By Senators McNally, Haile, Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 6, Part 3, relative to grandparent visitation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-306(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(a) Any of the following circumstances, when presented in a petition for grandparent visitation to the circuit, chancery, general sessions courts with domestic relations jurisdiction, or juvenile court in matters involving children born out of wedlock of the county in which the petitioned child currently resides, necessitates a hearing if such grandparent visitation is opposed by the custodial parent or parents or custodian or if the grandparent visitation has been severely reduced by the custodial parent or parents or custodian:

- (1) The father or mother of an unmarried minor child is deceased;
- (2) The child's father or mother are divorced, legally separated, or were never married to each other;
- (3) The child's father or mother has been missing for not less than six (6) months;
- (4) The court of another state has ordered grandparent visitation;
- (5) The child resided in the home of the grandparent for a period of twelve (12) months or more and was subsequently removed from the home by the parent, parents, or custodian (this grandparent-grandchild relationship establishes a rebuttable presumption that denial of visitation may result in irreparable harm to the child); or
- (6) The child and the grandparent maintained a significant existing relationship for a period of twelve (12) months or more immediately preceding severance or severe reduction of the relationship, this relationship was severed or severely reduced by the parent, parents, or custodian for reasons other than abuse or presence of a danger of substantial harm to the child, and severance or severe reduction of this relationship is likely to occasion substantial emotional harm to the child.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-306(b), is amended by deleting the word "loss" wherever it appears and substituting instead the words "loss or severe reduction".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-306(b), is further amended by deleting the word "cessation" wherever it appears and substituting instead the words "cessation or severe reduction".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-306, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

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For purposes of this section, "severe reduction" or "severely reduced" means reduction to no contact or token visitation as defined in § 36-1-102(1).

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 21, 2016



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 20th day of May 2016



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR