
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. 928

26 AUGUST 2020

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE THE CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL, 2020 IN PARLIAMENT IN TERMS OF RULES 271 AND 276 OF THE RULES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. Notice is hereby given in terms of Rules 271 and 276 of the Rules of the National Assembly that the Minister of Social Development intends to introduce the Children's Amendment Bill, 2020 ("the Bill") in the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces during 2020.

2. The Explanatory Summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with rules 271 and 276 of the Rules of the National Assembly.

3. The Bill seeks to amend the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No 38 of 2005) ("the Act") to address critical gaps and challenges in the underlying child care and protection system. In addition, it responds to a High Court order relating to the foster care challenges and seeks to contribute to a comprehensive legislative system in regards thereto.

4. It seeks to amend the Act, so as;

- a) to amend and insert certain definitions;
- b) to provide for children's right to privacy and protection of information;
- c) to further provide for the rights of unmarried fathers;
- d) to extend the children's court jurisdiction;
- e) to further provide for funding of early childhood development programmes;
- f) to provide for the designation and functions for a Registrar of the National Child Protection Register;

- g) to further provide for the care of abandoned or orphaned children and additional matters that may be regulated;
- h) to further provide for rules relating to care and protection proceedings;
- i) to further provide for medical testing of children in need of care and protection or adoption ;
- j) to provide for additional matters relating to children in alternative care;
- k) to further provide for matters relating to adoption and inter-country adoption;
- l) to further provide for the hearing of child abduction matters;
- m) to further provide for matters relating to surrogate motherhood; and
- n) to provide for matters connected therewith.

5. A copy of the Bill can be obtained from the Department of Social Development's website at <http://www.dsd.gov.za>. Alternatively, hardcopies may be requested, after the actual introduction of the Amendment Bill, from the Government Printers at Pretoria or Cape Town.

6. For further enquiries please contact: Mr Luyanda Mtshotshisa at LuyandaMt@dsd.gov.za, Ms. Matlhogonolo Sebopela at MatlhogonoloS@dsd.gov.za, or Ms Sarah Mabasa at SarahMab@dsd.gov.za