



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 568

HOUSE BILL NO. 1377

**By Representatives Crawford, Hardaway, Williams, Moody, White, Hazlewood, Littleton,
Tim Hicks, Alexander, Howell, Helton, Jernigan**

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 867

By Senators Lundberg, Bowling, Haile, Massey, Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36 and Title 37, relative to dependent and neglected children.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as "Eli's law".

(b) Notwithstanding this part to the contrary, there is a presumption that any child that is born to a parent, from whose custody a child has previously been removed for being dependent or neglected and the child who was previously removed is in the custody of the department of children's services, may be dependent or neglected and that it is in the best interest of both children that the child's birth be brought to the court's attention.

(c) Upon learning of the birth of the subsequent child, the department shall notify the court that adjudicated the first child dependent and neglected and any other party entitled to notice of the subsequent child's birth.

(d) Upon receiving the notice, the court should immediately schedule a hearing to inquire into the effect of the subsequent child's birth upon the case before the court and to address any further needed steps to protect the safety and well-being of the family.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.

