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Subject: Legislation that Passed in the 2026 General Assembly

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: May 15, 2026

TO: Licensed Child-Placing Agencies

FROM: Tara Ragland, Director
Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: 2026 Legislation Affecting Licensed Child-Placing Agencies

This memo gives an overview of new laws passed in the 2026 General Assembly that affect licensing child-placing agencies.

House Bill 301 – Adult Adoptees and Original Birth Certificates

[House Bill 301](#) changes state law to give adult adoptees more access to their original birth certificates. Starting **July 1, 2026**, an adult adoptee may request their original birth certificate by showing proof of identity and paying the required fee. Birth parents may also fill out a contact-preference form to share how they want to be contacted.

Senate Bill 640 – Centralized Hotline for Reports or Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect

[Senate Bill 640](#) creates a statewide hotline for all reports of child abuse or neglect. Local departments of social services will no longer take these reports directly. Instead, they must send any report they receive to the state hotline. This change is intended to create a consistent, statewide intake process.

Timeline:

- Centralized intake begins **July 1, 2027**.
- The full transition to the state hotline will take place from **July 1, 2028, to July 1, 2030**.

Mandated reporters may continue to use the **Mandated Reporter Portal**.

<https://vacps.dss.virginia.gov/VACPSWeb/faces/landingPage.xhtml>

Senate Bill 305 – Barrier Crime Waivers for Kinship Foster Homes

[Senate Bill 305](#) allows local departments of social services to approve certain barrier-crime waivers for kinship foster homes. However, licensed child-placing agencies **cannot** give these waivers and must continue following the requirements in 22VAC40-191 for waiver decisions.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

House Bill 1060 – Barrier Crime Exceptions for Foster and Adoptive Homes

[House Bill 1060](#) brings all the rules for barrier-crime exceptions for foster and adoptive parents to one section in the Code of Virginia. It also expands these exceptions so they can be used for kinship foster homes and adult household members. Licensed child-placing agencies will continue to approve foster homes for relatives under 22VAC40-131 and may only apply barrier-crime exceptions for foster or adoptive parents and adult household members.

The law also removes the exception that allowed approval of someone convicted of statutory burglary. This change was made to align with federal rules, which do not allow approval of foster or adoptive parents with violent felony convictions.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

House Bill 1327: Fictive Kin Definition

[House Bill 1327](#) updates the definition of *fictive kin*. Under this law, a person can be considered fictive kin if they had a relationship with the child or the child's family **before** the child entered foster care.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to children and families.

If you have questions about any of these laws, please contact your licensing inspector.