

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1003

HOUSE BILL NO. 3428

By Representatives Hackworth, Litz

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 3003

By Senators Berke, Barnes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-14-103, relative to termination of parental rights.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-14-103(b)(1), is amended by deleting the first sentence and by substituting instead the following:

A defendant, who is provided with court-appointed counsel, including a defendant in a termination of parental rights case, shall be assessed by the court at the time of appointment a nonrefundable administrative fee in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-14-103(b)(1), is further amended by deleting the final sentence and by substituting instead the following:

Failure to pay the administrative fee assessed by the court shall not reduce or in any way affect the rendering of services by court-appointed counsel; provided, however, that the defendant's willful failure to pay the fee may be considered by the court as an enhancement factor when imposing sentence if the defendant is found guilty of criminal conduct, and may also be considered by the court as evidence of the defendant's financial responsibility, or lack thereof, in a determination of the best interest of the child.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 20, 2010

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KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron Ramsey", written over a horizontal line.

RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phil Bredesen", written over a horizontal line.

PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR