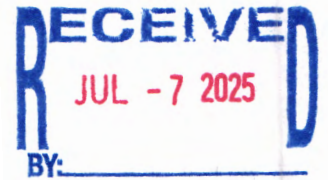


06/28/2025



Lakeshia Wheeler
2113 Wedgewood Rd NW
Huntsville, AL 35816
keekee360@yahoo.com
256-468-6995

Supreme Court of Alabama Clerk's Office
Attention: Advisory Committee on Child Support Guidelines
300 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104-3741

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Child Support Committee of the State of Alabama consider an amendment to **Rule 32** to exempt adoptive parents from child support obligations—both retroactive and ongoing—in cases where an adopted child reenters the custody of the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) **through no fault of the adoptive family**.

In our case, we adopted a child from DHR who had been diagnosed with severe emotional and behavioral disorders and had already been in at least 17 placements by the age of ten. Over the course of five years, we provided care and support well beyond what is typically expected for the average child in Alabama. We underwent specialized training to become therapeutic foster parents and committed ourselves to providing a stable, loving home.

Despite our efforts, the child made multiple false allegations that ultimately led to the disruption of our home and DHR regaining custody. After a difficult and emotionally taxing year of working with DHR, we were left with no viable options other than to relinquish parental rights. The child is now being adopted by a biological relative of her Biological family .

Now, we are being asked to pay child support to the very agency that failed to provide adequate support services to help us preserve the adoption and address the child's escalating needs. We find this to be both **unfair and unjust**. It punishes adoptive families who step up to help children in the most difficult circumstances and discourages future families from adopting children with trauma histories or complex behavioral challenges.

We entered into adoption to give a child a better life—not to be penalized by a system that offers inadequate support and then seeks reimbursement when things go wrong through no fault of the adoptive parents.

Please consider revising Rule 32 to reflect the reality and complexity of failed adoptions due to systemic and behavioral challenges. Doing so would not only protect well-meaning families from

financial hardship but also encourage more people to consider adoption in the future—particularly of children with special needs.

Thank you for your time, attention, and service to the children and families of Alabama. I would be happy to provide additional documentation or speak further on this matter if needed.

Sincerely,
Lakeshia Wheeler