

HB 2074 - DIGEST

Finds that it is not in the best interest of the child to delay action on a parent who has not indicated any desire to maintain contact with his or her child.

Declares that the state should file the petition for termination to allow a court to review the case and decide the appropriate course of action. This may encourage the parent to step forward and contact the child or indicate a willingness to become involved in the child's life. This will begin the process of connecting the child to the parent possibly years sooner than would otherwise be the case. However, if the parent truly does not wish to be involved in the life of the child, the court should have the opportunity to terminate the parental rights of that parent and move the case toward permanency.