

Executive Order

GWB 96-7

Relating to the Formation of the Governor's Committee to Promote Adoption

WHEREAS, every Texas child deserves a living, nurturing, and permanent family;

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has legal responsibility for children of many diverse backgrounds who are currently awaiting adoptive homes;

WHEREAS, the population of needy, abused and neglected children is growing steadily, with more children entering the foster care system than exiting, and the need for adoptive families is urgent;

WHEREAS, adoption is an often-overlooked option that: (i) improves the physical, emotional and learning capacities of adopted children; (ii) enriches the life prospects of birth mothers; (iii) saves significant tax dollars; (iv) promotes the value of stable families; and (v) brings joy to everyone involved;

WHEREAS, the State of Texas honors and celebrates all families formed through the adoption of children of all ages, physical and mental abilities, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, adoptable Texas children awaiting homes merit a child-centered system that is free of delay and unnecessary legal, judicial, and administrative obstacles, and that ensures swift, secure, and successful adoptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. Bush, Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby create and establish the Governor's Committee to Promote Adoption to serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor. This Committee shall: (i) review pertinent laws, regulations, and judicial procedures that impact the State's adoption system; (ii) determine which of these items impede the goal of timely adoptions; and (iii) issue specific recommendations as to how Texas can create an "adoption-friendly" system free of biases, laws, and policies that needlessly complicate or delay the adoption process. The Committee shall have no final action authority.

The Committee shall consist of 13 members. The Chair shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Committee shall meet as frequently as necessary upon the call of the Chair. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Committee.

The Committee shall convene at the earliest practicable time after appointment and shall accomplish its charge by September 1, 1996. It shall submit to the Governor a written summary of its findings and recommendations.

The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation. Reasonable and necessary travel and per diem expenses may be reimbursed when such expenses are incurred in direct performance of official duties; but such reimbursement shall not exceed \$80.00 per day as permitted by Article IX, Section 33, of House Bill 1, of the Texas General Appropriations Act.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Issued in Austin, Texas on May 22, 1996.

TRD-9607152 George W. Bush
 Governor of Texas



MOYRA CHATEL
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JOHN KYLE