



CENTER FOR THE RIGHTS  
OF ABUSED CHILDREN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Arizona Joins 22 States with New Law Allowing for the Restoration of the Parent-Child Relationship**

**Phoenix, Ariz.** - The Arizona legislature unanimously passed [House Bill 2486](#), allowing courts to consider restoring the parent-child relationship when a child who has not found their forever home can safely return to live with their biological parents and when doing so is in their best interests.

Once the parent-child relationship has been terminated due to an unwillingness or inability to parent, a child is legally free to be placed for adoption. However, each year, throughout the country, approximately [18,500](#) children exit foster care without a family. Furthermore, only about [four percent](#) of children who get adopted each year are 16 or older. These youth face an uphill battle against dire outcomes.

Laws restoring the parent-child relationship acknowledge that parents capable and willing to provide a safe home should have the opportunity to ask the court to reunite with their child, preventing the child from exiting state care without a permanent family.

To ensure that a child can safely return to their parents, House Bill 2486 includes numerous safeguards. For example, the restoration of the parent-child relationship is only available when the prior relationship did not involve severe physical or sexual abuse, abuse that resulted in a death or near death, or a dangerous crime. Additionally, parents must show sufficient remediation, demonstrate they've made necessary changes, and ensure their child's overall well-being – socially, mentally, and emotionally. Finally, to ensure a good fit, the bill will provide for an in-home trial placement.

This legislation, sponsored by Representative Selina Bliss, could help the 700 Arizona youth who exited foster care without a family to rebuild relationships and have the lifelong support of family. Governor Hobbs is anticipated to sign the bill into law later this month.

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**About the Center for the Rights of Abused Children:** The Center for the Rights of Abused Children believes every child deserves a safe and loving home. Join our mission today, [thecenterforchildren.org](https://thecenterforchildren.org).

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