# *Division of Public Defender Services*
# *State of Connecticut*

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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN**
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**RAISED BILL 192 AN ACT CONCERNING FINALIZING ADOPTIONS BY THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR JUVENILE MATTERS.**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports **Raised Bill 192, An Act Concerning Finalizing Adoptions by the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters**. This Bill would allow the juvenile court to act more quickly on an adoption after a final determination that the rights of the biological parent should be terminated. Currently, adoptions must be sent to probate court, where a new proceeding is instituted. This delays the permanent resolution of the case and causes unnecessary cost and court proceedings. The Raised Bill makes the record in the underlying termination of parental rights case available to the court and requires that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) submit a new study specific to the adoption. Notice to the necessary and relevant parties, including the party that cared for the child prior to the adoption, is required before the adoption can be finalized.

In cases where parental rights have been terminated, the juvenile court judge has heard evidence of reunification efforts from both DCF and the parents. Once they have determined that a termination of rights is in the child's best interest, a permanent home should be found as quickly as possible. For children who are ready to be adopted subsequent to a termination proceeding, there is no reason to delay by starting a proceeding in probate court. The juvenile court judge is in the best position to hear the petition on the adoption and they should have the authority to enter adoption orders in these cases. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this committee to report favorably on this Raised Bill.

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