



## 2024 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1088

*Introduced by: The Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Chief Justice*

1 **An Act to remove the option for a court services officer to prepare documentation**  
 2 **in an adoption proceeding.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 25-6-10 be AMENDED:**

5 **25-6-10.** Whenever a person, ~~or a husband and wife~~ persons jointly, petition the  
 6 circuit court for leave to adopt a minor child, the judge of the circuit court ~~shall~~ must fix  
 7 a time for hearing not less than ten days from the filing of ~~such~~ the petition. ~~The petition~~  
 8 ~~may be filed.~~ A petitioner may file the petition with the circuit court before the six-month  
 9 period required by § 25-6-9 has passed. The circuit court may, in the case of a stepparent  
 10 adopting a stepchild, and shall in all other cases, direct ~~a court services officer or other~~  
 11 ~~officer of the court or~~ an agent of the Department of Social Services or ~~some other discreet~~  
 12 ~~and~~ another competent person to make a careful and thorough investigation of the matter  
 13 and report ~~such~~ the findings in writing to the court. ~~A~~ The investigative report must include  
 14 the history of any previous child support obligations of each prospective adoptive parent  
 15 ~~shall be included in the investigative report.~~