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**RULES OF**  
**THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 290-1-8**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS AUTHORIZING CONSUMER**  
**REPORTS FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH**

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** The Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (the Department) proposes the adoption of new rules authorizing the Department to obtain consumer reports (credit reports) for each child in the legal custody of the Department, who has attained sixteen (16) years of age, each year, until the child is discharged from the custody of the Department and to assist these youth in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies. Adoption of these rules will permit the Department to comply with Section 106(b) of the federal Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (P. L. 112-34), Section 475(5)(I) of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 675(5)(I) and to meet the requirements for the receipt of federal funds under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. These rules are being proposed pursuant to the authority granted to the Board of Human Services in O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-43, which permits the Board to adopt rules and regulations necessary to prevent conflict with federal law or the loss of federal funds as a result of Article 5 of Chapter 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

The proposed rules amend the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Human Services to require the Department of Human Services to provide consumer (credit) reports to children, sixteen or older, in its custody and to assist these youth in interpreting and correcting inaccuracies in the consumer reports. The proposed rules also authorize the Department to provide information to credit reporting agencies, from its child abuse and neglect records, in order to obtain credit reports and to provide information to persons and entities outside the Department to correct inaccurate information in consumer credit reports.

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**MAIN FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED RULES:** The Rules and Regulations authorizing Consumer Reports for Foster Care Youth include the following features:

- The Department is required to obtain credit reports, each year, for children in the custody of the Department, who are sixteen years or older, free of charge to the youth.
- Each child, 16 years and older, must receive assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the reports.
- The Department is authorized to disclose information from its child welfare records to obtain consumer reports (credit reports) as directed by the rules and to ensure that youth receive assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report.
- Information from child welfare records may be provided to entities providing credit reports, entities and persons providing inaccurate information to consumer reporting agencies and individuals assisting youth in the custody of the Department to correct inaccurate reports.