



**Georgia Department  
of Human Services**  
Office of General Counsel

# **DHS Rule Changes**

*Office of General Counsel*

Stephen Harris, General Counsel





*stronger families*

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



# Rule Change Procedure

1. Board Considers Motion to Publish Proposed Rule
2. 30-Day Public Comment Period
3. Public Hearing
4. Motion for Final Adoption of Proposed Rule
5. Send Final Rule to Secretary of State



# For Consideration Today

- Initial Approval
  - Safe Place for Newborns Act (amend)
  - Regulatory Reduction Effort (repeal)
  - Residential Child Care Licensing (RCCL) (amend)
  - Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Child Protective Services Information System (repeal)
- Final Approval
  - DFCS Administrative Procedure



# Initial – Safe Place for Newborns

Act Provides Immunity from Prosecution When an Infant Child is Given to Participating  
Medical Facility, Police Station or Fire Station

O.C.G.A. § 19-10A-8 Requires DHS to Create Standards for Signs  
Alerting Public of Safe Haven Locations  
Current Rule Effective November 1, 2018

## Current Rule:

- 290-1-9-.01
- Contains basic language

Rule Published October 6 –  
November 5

## Proposed Change:

- Provides more detail
- DHS to also amend logo
- Aligns with national efforts
- Allows use of previous signs

Public Hearing November 5





# Initial – Safe Place for Newborns



# Initial – Regulatory Reduction Effort

Executive Branch agencies asked to review any rules that could be safely eliminated or reduced for the benefit of all Georgians.

DHS identified ~ 505 rules no longer related to DHS responsibilities or functions.

## Current Rules:

- 290-1-3 Vital Records
- 290-1-7 Y2K
- 290-4 Mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases
- 290-5 Public Health
- 290-9-37 Community Living Arrangements

Rules Published October 6 – November 5

## Proposed Change:

- Addressed these rules with the Departments of Community Health, Public Health, and Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
- To be eliminated from DHS rule chapters

Public Hearing November 5



# Request to Board

## Motion to Publish Notice of Rulemaking

- Safe Place for Newborns Signage – Rule 290-1-9-.01

- Regulatory Reduction Effort – Rule Chapters

290-1-3, 290-1-7, 290-4-2, 290-4-5, 290-4-6, 290-4-7, 290-4-9, 290-4-10, 290-4-12, 290-4-13, 290-5-5, 290-5-12, 290-5-22, 290-5-27, 290-5-32, 290-5-37, 290-5-41, 290-5-44, 290-5-46 and 290-9-37





# Questions

**Stephen C. Harris**

General Counsel

[stephen.harris@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:stephen.harris@dhs.ga.gov)

404-656-9817

