

PRESS RELEASE

Governor signs bill establishing foster care agency

(May 18, 2016)—JACKSON—Last week Governor Phil Bryant signed Senate Bill 2179 establishing the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS). MDCPS was formerly operating as the Division of Family & Children’s Services under the Mississippi Department of Human Services, but has recently undergone restructuring as part of the settlement resulting from the lawsuit filed on behalf of *Olivia Y.* Commissioner David Chandler has been working diligently with Gov. Bryant to increase the level of care for Mississippi’s foster children. The signing of Senate Bill 2179 brings the MDCPS one step closer to achieving their goal of protecting children and nurturing Mississippi families. Gov. Bryant outlined this bill as one of his highest priorities in his 2016 State of the State address and the Mississippi Legislature acted on that request during the 2016 Legislative Session.



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