

**REVENUE DEPARTMENT[701]**

**Adopted and Filed**

**Rule making related to adoption tax credit**

The Revenue Department hereby amends Chapter 42, “Adjustments to Computed Tax and Tax Credits,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 421.14 and 422.12A.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 422.12A.

*Purpose and Summary*

During the 2019 Legislative Session, Governor Reynolds signed 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 779, which provided changes to the adoption tax credit set forth in Iowa Code section 422.12A. In particular, retroactive to January 1, 2019, for tax years beginning on or after that date, these changes require taxpayers claiming the adoption tax credit to claim qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred prior to or during the tax year in which the adoption becomes final in the tax year in which the adoption becomes final. These changes also require such taxpayers with qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred after the tax year in which the adoption becomes final to claim said expenses in the tax year in which the adoption expenses are paid or incurred. Therefore, the Department adopts this rule making to implement the aforementioned changes.

*Public Comment and Changes to Rule Making*

Notice of Intended Action for this rule making was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 23, 2020, as **ARC 5181C**. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

*Adoption of Rule Making*

This rule making was adopted by the Department on November 12, 2020.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact beyond that of the legislation it is intended to implement.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 701—7.28(17A).

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee’s

meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

*Effective Date*

This rule making will become effective on January 6, 2021.

The following rule-making action is adopted:

Amend rule 701—42.52(422) as follows:

**701—42.52(422) Adoption tax credit.** Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, an adoption tax credit is available for individual income tax equal to the amount of qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred by a taxpayer ~~during the tax year~~ related to the adoption of a child. For an adoption finalized on or after January 1, 2014, but before January 1, 2017, the total adoption tax credit claimed for the adoption may not exceed \$2,500. For an adoption finalized on or after January 1, 2017, the total adoption tax credit claimed for the adoption may not exceed \$5,000.

**42.52(1) to 42.52(3)** No change.

**42.52(4) Claiming the credit.**

a. No change.

b. ~~Claiming the credit in the year the adoption becomes final~~ tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, but before January 1, 2019. ~~To~~

(1) Claiming the credit in the year the adoption becomes final. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, but before January 1, 2019, to claim an adoption tax credit, a taxpayer must claim the credit for all qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred in the tax year the adoption becomes final, up to the maximum credit amount provided in paragraph 42.52(4) “a.”

EXAMPLE: Michael and Lori are married. Michael and Lori adopt a child who is permanently placed in Iowa. The adoption process begins and becomes final in 2015. Because the adoption becomes final on or after January 1, 2014, but prior to January 1, 2017, Michael and Lori qualify for a maximum credit amount of \$2,500. Michael and Lori incur and pay unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses of \$20,000 in 2015. Michael and Lori jointly file their Iowa individual income tax return in 2015. Michael and Lori may claim an Iowa adoption tax credit of \$2,500 in 2015.

e. (2) Claiming the credit in years other than the year the adoption becomes final. If Claiming the credit in years other than the year the adoption becomes final. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, but before January 1, 2019, if a taxpayer cannot claim the maximum credit amount provided in paragraph 42.52(4) “a” for the year the adoption becomes final, the taxpayer may amend a prior year’s return to claim any remaining credit for expenses paid in that prior year, or the taxpayer may claim any remaining credit on a subsequent year’s return for expenses paid in that subsequent year. If a qualified adoption expense was incurred in one tax year and paid in another tax year, the taxpayer may only claim a credit for that expense in one year. The total adoption tax credit claimed for all years combined may not exceed the maximum credit amount per adoption provided in paragraph 42.52(4) “a.” An adjustment to a prior’s year return is subject to the limitations in rule 701—40.20(422).

EXAMPLE: Erin adopts a child as a single parent. The child is permanently placed in Iowa. The adoption process begins in 2016 and becomes final in 2017. Because the adoption becomes final on or after January 1, 2017, Erin qualifies for a maximum credit amount of \$5,000. Erin pays and incurs unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses of \$20,000 in 2016 and \$1,000 in 2017. In tax year 2017, Erin may claim an Iowa adoption tax credit equal to the \$1,000 in unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses paid and incurred in 2017. After claiming the credit for tax year 2017, Erin may amend the 2016 return to claim the remaining \$4,000 credit for unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses paid and incurred in 2016.

c. Claiming the credit in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

(1) Claiming the credit in the year the adoption becomes final. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, to claim an adoption tax credit, a taxpayer must claim the credit in the tax year the adoption is finalized for all qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred prior to or in the tax year the

adoption becomes final, up to the maximum credit amount of \$5,000. A taxpayer shall not amend a prior year return in an attempt to claim the credit for unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred prior to the tax year in which the adoption becomes final.

EXAMPLE: Y and Z are married. Y and Z adopt a child who is permanently placed in Iowa. The adoption process begins in 2016 and becomes final in 2019. Because the adoption becomes final on or after January 1, 2017, Y and Z qualify for a maximum credit amount of \$5,000. Additionally, because the adoption becomes final on or after January 1, 2019, Y and Z may claim an Iowa adoption tax credit for unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred prior to or in the year the adoption becomes final. Y and Z incur and pay unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses of \$5,000 in 2016, \$10,000 in 2017, \$2,000 in 2018, and \$2,000 in 2019. Y and Z jointly file their Iowa individual income tax return in 2019. Y and Z may claim an Iowa adoption tax credit of \$5,000 on their 2019 Iowa income tax return. Y and Z are not allowed to amend a prior year return in an attempt to claim the credit for unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred prior to the tax year in which the adoption became final.

(2) Claiming the credit in years after the adoption becomes final. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, if a taxpayer cannot claim the maximum credit amount of \$5,000 for the year the adoption becomes final, the taxpayer may claim an adoption tax credit for any unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred after the tax year in which the adoption becomes final in the tax year in which unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses are paid or incurred.

EXAMPLE: W and X are married. W and X adopt a child who is permanently placed in Iowa. The adoption process begins in 2018 and becomes final in 2019. Because the adoption becomes final on or after January 1, 2017, W and X qualify for a maximum credit amount of \$5,000. W and X incur and pay unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses of \$1,000 in 2018, and \$1,000 in 2019. W and X jointly file their Iowa individual income tax return in 2019. W and X may claim the Iowa adoption tax credit in 2019 in the amount of \$2,000. In 2020, W and X incur and pay \$5,000 in unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses in connection to the adoption finalized in 2019. W and X may claim the remaining \$3,000 credit on their jointly filed Iowa individual income tax return for 2020 for unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses incurred and paid in 2020. W and X shall not amend their 2019 return to reflect the additional unreimbursed qualified adoption expenses from 2020.

*d. to f.* No change.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.12A as amended by 2016 Iowa Acts, House File 2468;~~and~~ by 2017 Iowa Acts, Senate File 433; and 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 779.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 12/2/20.