

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 SENATE BILL 1645

By: Prieto

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Children's Code;
8 amending 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-1-105, which
9 relates to definitions; modifying definitions; and
10 providing an effective date.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-1-105, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 1-1-105. When used in the Oklahoma Children's Code,
15 unless the context otherwise requires:

16 1. "Abandonment" means:

- 17 a. the willful intent by words, actions, or omissions not
18 to return for a child, or
19 b. the failure to maintain a significant parental
20 relationship with a child through visitation or
21 communication in which incidental or token visits or
22 communication are not considered significant, or
23 c. the failure to respond to notice of deprived
24 proceedings;

1 2. "Abuse" means harm or threatened harm to the health, safety,
2 or welfare of a child by a person responsible for the child's
3 health, safety, or welfare, including but not limited to
4 nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, or sexual
5 exploitation. Provided, however, that nothing contained in the
6 Oklahoma Children's Code shall prohibit any parent from using
7 ordinary force as a means of discipline including, but not limited
8 to, spanking, switching, or paddling.

9 a. "Harm or threatened harm to the health or safety of a
10 child" means any real or threatened physical, mental,
11 or emotional injury or damage to the body or mind that
12 is not accidental including but not limited to sexual
13 abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect, or dependency.

14 b. "Sexual abuse" includes but is not limited to rape,
15 incest, and lewd or indecent acts or proposals made to
16 a child, as defined by law, by a person responsible
17 for the health, safety, or welfare of the child.

18 c. "Sexual exploitation" includes but is not limited to
19 allowing, permitting, encouraging, or forcing a child
20 to engage in prostitution, as defined by law, by any
21 person eighteen (18) years of age or older or by a
22 person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare
23 of a child, or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or
24 engaging in the lewd, obscene, or pornographic, as

1 defined by law, photographing, filming, or depicting
2 of a child in those acts by a person responsible for
3 the health, safety, and welfare of the child;

4 3. "Adjudication" means a finding by the court that the
5 allegations in a petition alleging that a child is deprived are
6 supported by a preponderance of the evidence;

7 4. "Adjudicatory hearing" means a hearing by the court as
8 provided by Section 1-4-601 of this title;

9 5. "Age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate" means:

10 a. activities or items that are generally accepted as
11 suitable for children of the same age or level of
12 maturity or that are determined to be developmentally
13 appropriate for a child, based on the development of
14 cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral
15 capacities that are typical for an age or age group,
16 and

17 b. in the case of a specific child, activities or items
18 that are suitable for that child based on the
19 developmental stages attained by the child with
20 respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and
21 behavioral capacities of the specific child.

22 In the event that any age-related activities have implications
23 relative to the academic curriculum of a child, nothing in this
24 paragraph shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of

1 the federal government to mandate, direct, or control a state or
2 local educational agency, or the specific instructional content,
3 academic achievement standards and assessments, curriculum, or
4 program of instruction of a school;

5 6. "Assessment" means a comprehensive review of child safety
6 and evaluation of family functioning and protective capacities that
7 is conducted in response to a child abuse or neglect referral that
8 does not allege a serious and immediate safety threat to a child;

9 7. "Behavioral health" means mental health, substance abuse, or
10 co-occurring mental health and substance abuse diagnoses, and the
11 continuum of mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring mental
12 health and substance abuse treatment;

13 8. "Child" means any unmarried person under eighteen (18) years
14 of age;

15 9. "Child advocacy center" means a center and the
16 multidisciplinary child abuse team of which it is a member that is
17 accredited by the National Children's Alliance or that is completing
18 a sixth year of reaccreditation. Child advocacy centers shall be
19 classified, based on the child population of a district attorney's
20 district, as follows:

- 21 a. nonurban centers in districts with child populations
22 that are less than sixty thousand (60,000), and
- 23 b. midlevel nonurban centers in districts with child
24 populations equal to or greater than sixty thousand

1 (60,000), but not including Oklahoma and Tulsa
2 Counties;

3 10. "Child with a disability" means any child who has a
4 physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more
5 of the major life activities of the child, or who is regarded as
6 having such an impairment by a competent medical professional;

7 11. "Child-placing agency" means an agency that arranges for or
8 places a child in a foster family home, family-style living program,
9 group home, adoptive home, or a successful adulthood program;

10 12. "Children's emergency resource center" means a community-
11 based program that may provide emergency care and a safe and
12 structured homelike environment or a host home for children
13 providing food, clothing, shelter and hygiene products to each child
14 served; after-school tutoring; counseling services; life-skills
15 training; transition services; assessments; family reunification;
16 respite care; transportation to or from school, doctors'
17 appointments, visitations and other social, school, court or other
18 activities when necessary; and a stable environment for children in
19 crisis who are in custody of the Department of Human Services if
20 permitted under the Department's policies and regulations, or who
21 have been voluntarily placed by a parent or custodian during a
22 temporary crisis;

23 13. "Community-based services" or "community-based programs"
24 means services or programs which maintain community participation or

1 supervision in their planning, operation, and evaluation.

2 Community-based services and programs may include, but are not
3 limited to, emergency shelter, crisis intervention, group work, case
4 supervision, job placement, recruitment and training of volunteers,
5 consultation, medical, educational, home-based services, vocational,
6 social, preventive and psychological guidance, training, counseling,
7 early intervention and diversionary substance abuse treatment,
8 sexual abuse treatment, transitional living, independent living, and
9 other related services and programs;

10 14. "Concurrent permanency planning" means, when indicated, the
11 implementation of two plans for a child entering foster care. One
12 plan focuses on reuniting the parent and child; the other seeks to
13 find a permanent out-of-home placement for the child with both plans
14 being pursued simultaneously;

15 15. "Court-appointed special advocate" or "CASA" means a
16 responsible adult volunteer who has been trained and is supervised
17 by a court-appointed special advocate program recognized by the
18 court, and when appointed by the court, serves as an officer of the
19 court in the capacity as a guardian ad litem;

20 16. "Court-appointed special advocate program" means an
21 organized program, administered by either an independent, not-for-
22 profit corporation, a dependent project of an independent, not-for-
23 profit corporation or a unit of local government, which recruits,
24

1 screens, trains, assigns, supervises and supports volunteers to be
2 available for appointment by the court as guardians ad litem;

3 17. "Custodian" means an individual other than a parent, legal
4 guardian or Indian custodian, to whom legal custody of the child has
5 been awarded by the court. As used in this title, the term
6 "custodian" shall not mean the Department of Human Services;

7 18. "Day treatment" means a nonresidential program which
8 provides intensive services to a child who resides in the child's
9 own home, the home of a relative, group home, a foster home or
10 residential child care facility. Day treatment programs include,
11 but are not limited to, educational services;

12 19. "Department" means the Department of Human Services;

13 20. "Dependency" means a child who is homeless or without
14 proper care or guardianship through no fault of his or her parent,
15 legal guardian, or custodian;

16 21. "Deprived child" means a child:

- 17 a. who is for any reason destitute, homeless, or
18 abandoned,
19 b. who does not have the proper parental care or
20 guardianship,
21 c. who has been abused, neglected, or is dependent,
22 d. whose home is an unfit place for the child by reason
23 of depravity on the part of the parent or legal
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1 guardian of the child, or other person responsible for
2 the health or welfare of the child,

3 e. who is a child in need of special care and treatment
4 because of the child's physical or mental condition,
5 and the child's parents, legal guardian, or other
6 custodian is unable or willfully fails to provide such
7 special care and treatment. As used in this
8 paragraph, a child in need of special care and
9 treatment includes, but is not limited to, a child who
10 at birth tests positive for alcohol or a controlled
11 dangerous substance and who, pursuant to a drug or
12 alcohol screen of the child and an assessment of the
13 parent, is determined to be at risk of harm or
14 threatened harm to the health or safety of a child,

15 f. who is a child with a disability deprived of the
16 nutrition necessary to sustain life or of the medical
17 treatment necessary to remedy or relieve a life-
18 threatening medical condition in order to cause or
19 allow the death of the child if such nutrition or
20 medical treatment is generally provided to similarly
21 situated children without a disability or children
22 with disabilities; provided that no medical treatment
23 shall be necessary if, in the reasonable medical
24

- 1 judgment of the attending physician, such treatment
2 would be futile in saving the life of the child,
3 g. who, due to improper parental care and guardianship,
4 is absent from school such that the child has been
5 referred by the district attendance officer to the
6 district attorney in the county where the school is
7 located for juvenile proceedings as specified in
8 Section 10-106 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
9 if the child is subject to compulsory school
10 attendance,
11 h. whose parent, legal guardian or custodian for good
12 cause desires to be relieved of custody,
13 i. who has been born to a parent whose parental rights to
14 another child have been involuntarily terminated by
15 the court and the conditions which led to the making
16 of the finding, which resulted in the termination of
17 the parental rights of the parent to the other child,
18 have not been corrected, or
19 j. whose parent, legal guardian, or custodian has
20 subjected another child to abuse or neglect or has
21 allowed another child to be subjected to abuse or
22 neglect and is currently a respondent in a deprived
23 proceeding.
24

1 Nothing in the Oklahoma Children's Code shall be construed to
2 mean a child is deprived for the sole reason the parent, legal
3 guardian, or person having custody or control of a child, in good
4 faith, selects and depends upon spiritual means alone through
5 prayer, in accordance with the tenets and practice of a recognized
6 church or religious denomination, for the treatment or cure of
7 disease or remedial care of such child.

8 Evidence of material, educational or cultural disadvantage as
9 compared to other children shall not be sufficient to prove that a
10 child is deprived; the state shall prove that the child is deprived
11 as defined pursuant to this title.

12 Nothing contained in this paragraph shall prevent a court from
13 immediately assuming custody of a child and ordering whatever action
14 may be necessary, including medical treatment, to protect the
15 child's health or welfare;

16 22. "Dispositional hearing" means a hearing by the court as
17 provided by Section 1-4-706 of this title;

18 23. "Drug-endangered child" means a child who is at risk of
19 suffering physical, psychological or sexual harm as a result of the
20 use, possession, distribution, manufacture or cultivation of
21 controlled substances, or the attempt of any of these acts, by a
22 person responsible for the health, safety or welfare of the child,
23 as defined in this section. This term includes circumstances
24 wherein the substance abuse of the person responsible for the

1 health, safety or welfare of the child interferes with that person's
2 ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment for
3 the child;

4 24. "Emergency custody" means the custody of a child prior to
5 adjudication of the child following issuance of an order of the
6 district court pursuant to Section 1-4-201 of this title or
7 following issuance of an order of the district court pursuant to an
8 emergency custody hearing, as specified by Section 1-4-203 of this
9 title;

10 25. "Facility" means a place, an institution, a building or
11 part thereof, a set of buildings, or an area whether or not
12 enclosing a building or set of buildings used for the lawful custody
13 and treatment of children;

14 26. "Failure to protect" means failure to take reasonable
15 action to remedy or prevent child abuse or neglect, and includes the
16 conduct of a nonabusing parent or guardian who knows the identity of
17 the abuser or the person neglecting the child, but lies, conceals or
18 fails to report the child abuse or neglect or otherwise take
19 reasonable action to end the abuse or neglect;

20 27. "Family-style living program" means a residential program
21 providing sustained care and supervision to residents in a homelike
22 environment not located in a building used for commercial activity;

23 28. "Foster care" or "foster care services" means continuous
24 twenty-four-hour care and supportive services provided for a child

1 in foster placement including, but not limited to, the care,
2 supervision, guidance, and rearing of a foster child by the foster
3 parent;

4 29. "Foster family home" means the private residence of a
5 foster parent who provides foster care services to a child. Such
6 term shall include a nonkinship foster family home, a therapeutic
7 foster family home, or the home of a relative or other kinship care
8 home;

9 30. "Foster parent eligibility assessment" includes a criminal
10 background investigation including, but not limited to, a national
11 criminal history records search based upon the submission of
12 fingerprints, home assessments, and any other assessment required by
13 the Department of Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or
14 any child-placing agency pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma
15 Child Care Facilities Licensing Act;

16 31. "Guardian ad litem" means a person appointed by the court
17 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-4-306 of this title having
18 those duties and responsibilities as set forth in that section. The
19 term "guardian ad litem" shall refer to a court-appointed special
20 advocate as well as to any other person appointed pursuant to the
21 provisions of Section 1-4-306 of this title to serve as a guardian
22 ad litem;

1 32. "Guardian ad litem of the estate of the child" means a
2 person appointed by the court to protect the property interests of a
3 child pursuant to Section 1-8-108 of this title;

4 33. "Group home" means a residential facility licensed by the
5 Department to provide full-time care and community-based services
6 for more than five but fewer than thirteen children;

7 34. "Harm or threatened harm to the health or safety of a
8 child" means any real or threatened physical, mental, or emotional
9 injury or damage to the body or mind that is not accidental
10 including, but not limited to, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation,
11 neglect, or dependency;

12 35. "Heinous and shocking abuse" includes, but is not limited
13 to, aggravated physical abuse that results in serious bodily,
14 mental, or emotional injury. "Serious bodily injury" means injury
15 that involves:

- 16 a. a substantial risk of death,
- 17 b. extreme physical pain,
- 18 c. protracted disfigurement,
- 19 d. a loss or impairment of the function of a body member,
20 organ, or mental faculty,
- 21 e. an injury to an internal or external organ or the
22 body,
- 23 f. a bone fracture,
- 24 g. sexual abuse or sexual exploitation,

- 1 h. chronic abuse including, but not limited to, physical,
2 emotional, or sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation
3 which is repeated or continuing,
4 i. torture that includes, but is not limited to,
5 inflicting, participating in or assisting in
6 inflicting intense physical or emotional pain upon a
7 child repeatedly over a period of time for the purpose
8 of coercing or terrorizing a child or for the purpose
9 of satisfying the craven, cruel, or prurient desires
10 of the perpetrator or another person, or
11 j. any other similar aggravated circumstance;

12 36. "Heinous and shocking neglect" includes, but is not limited
13 to:

- 14 a. chronic neglect that includes, but is not limited to,
15 a persistent pattern of family functioning in which
16 the caregiver has not met or sustained the basic needs
17 of a child which results in harm to the child,
18 b. neglect that has resulted in a diagnosis of the child
19 as a failure to thrive,
20 c. an act or failure to act by a parent that results in
21 the death or near death of a child or sibling, serious
22 physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, sexual
23 exploitation, or presents an imminent risk of serious
24 harm to a child, or
25

1 d. any other similar aggravating circumstance;

2 37. "Individualized service plan" means a document written
3 pursuant to Section 1-4-704 of this title that has the same meaning
4 as "service plan" or "treatment plan" where those terms are used in
5 the Oklahoma Children's Code;

6 38. "Infant" means a child who is twelve (12) months of age or
7 younger;

8 39. "Institution" means a residential facility offering care
9 and treatment for more than twenty residents;

10 40. a. "Investigation" means a response to an allegation of
11 abuse or neglect that involves a serious and immediate
12 threat to the safety of the child, making it necessary
13 to determine:

14 (1) the current safety of a child and the risk of
15 subsequent abuse or neglect, and

16 (2) whether child abuse or neglect occurred and
17 whether the family needs prevention- and
18 intervention-related services.

19 b. "Investigation" results in a written response stating
20 one of the following findings:

21 (1) "substantiated" means the Department has
22 determined, after an investigation of a report of
23 child abuse or neglect and based upon some
24 credible evidence, that child abuse or neglect
25

1 has occurred. When child abuse or neglect is
2 substantiated, the Department may recommend:

3 (a) court intervention if the Department finds
4 the health, safety, or welfare of the child
5 is threatened, or

6 (b) child abuse and neglect prevention- and
7 intervention-related services for the child,
8 parents or persons responsible for the care
9 of the child if court intervention is not
10 determined to be necessary,

11 (2) "unsubstantiated" means the Department has
12 determined, after an investigation of a report of
13 child abuse or neglect, that insufficient
14 evidence exists to fully determine whether child
15 abuse or neglect has occurred. If child abuse or
16 neglect is unsubstantiated, the Department may
17 recommend, when determined to be necessary, that
18 the parents or persons responsible for the care
19 of the child obtain child abuse and neglect
20 prevention- and intervention-related services, or

21 (3) "ruled out" means a report in which a child
22 protective services specialist has determined,
23 after an investigation of a report of child abuse
24

1 or neglect, that no child abuse or neglect has
2 occurred;

3 41. "Kinship care" means full-time care of a child by a kinship
4 relation;

5 42. "Kinship guardianship" means a permanent guardianship as
6 defined in this section;

7 43. "Kinship relation" or "kinship relationship" means
8 relatives, stepparents, or other responsible adults who have a bond
9 or tie with a child and/or to whom has been ascribed a family
10 relationship role with the child's parents or the child; provided,
11 however, in cases where the Indian Child Welfare Act applies, the
12 definitions contained in 25 U.S.C., Section 1903 shall control;

13 44. "Mental health facility" means a mental health or substance
14 abuse treatment facility as defined by the Inpatient Mental Health
15 and Substance Abuse Treatment of Minors Act;

16 45. "Minor" means the same as the term "child" as defined in
17 this section;

18 46. "Minor in need of treatment" means a child in need of
19 mental health or substance abuse treatment as defined by the
20 Inpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment of Minors Act;

21 47. "Multidisciplinary child abuse team" means any team
22 established pursuant to Section 1-9-102 of this title of three or
23 more persons who are trained in the prevention, identification,
24 investigation, prosecution, and treatment of physical and sexual
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1 child abuse and who are qualified to facilitate a broad range of
2 prevention- and intervention-related services and services related
3 to child abuse. For purposes of this definition, "freestanding"
4 means a team not used by a child advocacy center for its
5 accreditation;

6 48. "Near death" means a child is in serious or critical
7 condition, as certified by a physician, as a result of abuse or
8 neglect;

9 49. a. "Neglect" means:

10 (1) the failure or omission to ~~provide any of the~~
11 ~~following~~:

12 (a) ~~adequate nurturance and affection,~~ provide
13 food, clothing, and shelter necessary to
14 sustain the life and health of the child,

15 (b) provide sanitation, and hygiene, or
16 appropriate excluding failure caused
17 primarily by financial inability unless
18 relief services have been offered and
19 refused,

20 (c) provide education for the child as provided
21 in Section 10-105 of Title 70 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes,

23 ~~(b)~~ (d) seek, obtain, or follow through with
24 medical care for a child resulting in or

1 presenting an immediate danger of death,
2 disfigurement, or bodily injury,

3 (e) seek, obtain, or follow through with dental,
4 or behavioral health care for a child,
5 excluding failure caused primarily by
6 financial inability unless relief services
7 have been offered and refused,

8 ~~(e)~~ (f) provide supervision or appropriate
9 caretakers to protect the child from harm or
10 threatened harm of which any reasonable and
11 prudent person responsible for the child's
12 health, safety or welfare would be aware, or

13 ~~(d)~~ (g) provide special care made necessary
14 for the child's health and safety by the
15 physical or mental condition of the child,

16 (2) the failure or omission to protect a child from
17 exposure to any of the following:

18 (a) the use, possession, sale, or manufacture of
19 illegal drugs,

20 (b) illegal activities, or

21 (c) sexual acts or materials that are not age-
22 appropriate, or

23 (3) abandonment.
24
25

1 It shall not be deemed neglect if a parent or guardian
2 requests relief services for any condition specified
3 in this subparagraph.

4 b. "Neglect" shall not mean a child who engages in
5 independent activities, except if the person
6 responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare
7 willfully disregards any harm or threatened harm to
8 the child, given the child's level of maturity,
9 physical condition or mental abilities. Such
10 independent activities include but are not limited to:

- 11 (1) traveling to and from school including by
12 walking, running or bicycling,
- 13 (2) traveling to and from nearby commercial or
14 recreational facilities,
- 15 (3) engaging in outdoor play,
- 16 (4) remaining at home unattended for a reasonable
17 amount of time,
- 18 (5) remaining in a vehicle if the temperature inside
19 the vehicle is not or will not become dangerously
20 hot or cold, except under the conditions
21 described in Section 11-1119 of Title 47 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes, or
- 23 (6) engaging in similar activities alone or with
24 other children.

1 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to mean a child is
2 abused or neglected for the sole reason the parent, legal guardian
3 or person having custody or control of a child, in good faith,
4 selects and depends upon spiritual means alone through prayer, in
5 accordance with the tenets and practice of a recognized church or
6 religious denomination, for the treatment or cure of disease or
7 remedial care of such child. Nothing contained in this paragraph
8 shall prevent a court from immediately assuming custody of a child,
9 pursuant to the Oklahoma Children's Code, and ordering whatever
10 action may be necessary, including medical treatment, to protect the
11 child's health or welfare;

12 50. "Permanency hearing" means a hearing by the court pursuant
13 to Section 1-4-811 of this title;

14 51. "Permanent custody" means the court-ordered custody of an
15 adjudicated deprived child when a parent-child relationship no
16 longer exists due to termination of parental rights or due to the
17 death of a parent or parents;

18 52. "Permanent guardianship" means a judicially created
19 relationship between a child, a kinship relation of the child, or
20 other adult established pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-4-
21 709 of this title;

22 53. "Person responsible for a child's health, safety, or
23 welfare" includes a parent; a legal guardian; custodian; a foster
24 parent; a person eighteen (18) years of age or older with whom the

1 child's parent cohabitates or any other adult residing in the home
2 of the child; an agent or employee of a public or private
3 residential home, institution, facility or day treatment program as
4 defined in Section 175.20 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or
5 an owner, operator, or employee of a child care facility as defined
6 by Section 402 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

7 54. "Plan of safe care" means a plan developed for an infant
8 with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
9 Disorder upon release from the care of a health care provider that
10 addresses the health and substance use treatment needs of the infant
11 and mother or caregiver;

12 55. "Protective custody" means custody of a child taken by a
13 law enforcement officer or designated employee of the court without
14 a court order;

15 56. "Putative father" means an alleged father as that term is
16 defined in Section 7700-102 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

17 57. "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program
18 that:

- 19 a. has a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed
20 to address the needs including clinical needs as
21 appropriate, of children with serious emotional or
22 behavioral disorders or disturbances and, with respect
23 to a child, is able to implement the treatment
24 identified for the child from a required assessment,

1 b. has registered or licensed nursing staff and other
2 licensed clinical staff who:

3 (1) provide care within the scope of their practice
4 as defined by the laws of this state,

5 (2) are on-site according to the treatment model
6 referred to in subparagraph a of this paragraph,
7 and

8 (3) are available twenty-four (24) hours a day and
9 seven (7) days a week,

10 c. to the extent appropriate, and in accordance with the
11 child's best interest, facilitates participation of
12 family members in the child's treatment program,

13 d. facilitates outreach to the family members of the
14 child including siblings, documents how the outreach
15 is made including contact information, and maintains
16 contact information for any known biological family of
17 the child,

18 e. documents how family members are integrated into the
19 treatment process for the child including post-
20 discharge, and how sibling connections are maintained,

21 f. provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare
22 support for at least six (6) months post-discharge,
23 and

1 g. is licensed and accredited by any of the following
2 independent, not-for-profit organizations:

- 3 (1) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation
4 Facilities (CARF),
- 5 (2) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of
6 Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO),
- 7 (3) The Council on Accreditation (COA), or
- 8 (4) any other federally approved independent, not-
9 for-profit accrediting organization;

10 58. "Reasonable and prudent parent standard" means the standard
11 characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that
12 maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at
13 the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of
14 the child. This standard shall be used by the child's caregiver
15 when determining whether to allow a child to participate in
16 extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. For
17 purposes of this definition, the term "caregiver" means a foster
18 parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed, a
19 representative of a group home where a child has been placed or a
20 designated official for a residential child care facility where a
21 child in foster care has been placed;

22 59. "Relative" means a grandparent, great-grandparent, brother
23 or sister of whole or half blood, aunt, uncle or any other person
24 related to the child;

1 60. "Residential child care facility" means a twenty-four-hour
2 residential facility where children live together with or are
3 supervised by adults who are not their parents or relatives;

4 61. "Review hearing" means a hearing by the court pursuant to
5 Section 1-4-807 of this title;

6 62. "Risk" means the likelihood that an incident of child abuse
7 or neglect will occur in the future;

8 63. "Safety threat" means the threat of serious harm due to
9 child abuse or neglect occurring in the present or in the very near
10 future and without the intervention of another person, a child would
11 likely or in all probability sustain severe or permanent disability
12 or injury, illness, or death;

13 64. "Safety analysis" means action taken by the Department in
14 response to a report of alleged child abuse or neglect that may
15 include an assessment or investigation based upon an analysis of the
16 information received according to priority guidelines and other
17 criteria adopted by the Department;

18 65. "Safety evaluation" means evaluation of a child's situation
19 by the Department using a structured, evidence-based tool to
20 determine if the child is subject to a safety threat;

21 66. "Secure facility" means a facility which is designed and
22 operated to ensure that all entrances and exits from the facility
23 are subject to the exclusive control of the staff of the facility,
24 whether or not the juvenile being detained has freedom of movement
25

1 within the perimeter of the facility, or a facility which relies on
2 locked rooms and buildings, fences, or physical restraint in order
3 to control behavior of its residents;

4 67. "Sibling" means a biologically or legally related brother
5 or sister of a child. This includes an individual who satisfies at
6 least one of the following conditions with respect to a child:

- 7 a. the individual is considered by state law to be a
8 sibling of the child, or
- 9 b. the individual would have been considered a sibling
10 under state law but for a termination or other
11 disruption of parental rights, such as the death of a
12 parent;

13 68. "Specialized foster care" means foster care provided to a
14 child in a foster home or agency-contracted home which:

- 15 a. has been certified by the Developmental Disabilities
16 Services Division of the Department of Human Services,
- 17 b. is monitored by the Division, and
- 18 c. is funded through the Home- and Community-Based Waiver
19 Services Program administered by the Division;

20 69. "Successful adulthood program" means a program specifically
21 designed to assist a child to enhance those skills and abilities
22 necessary for successful adult living. A successful adulthood
23 program may include, but shall not be limited to, such features as
24 minimal direct staff supervision, and the provision of supportive

1 services to assist children with activities necessary for finding an
2 appropriate place of residence, completing an education or
3 vocational training, obtaining employment, or obtaining other
4 similar services;

5 70. "Temporary custody" means court-ordered custody of an
6 adjudicated deprived child;

7 71. "Therapeutic foster family home" means a foster family home
8 which provides specific treatment services, pursuant to a
9 therapeutic foster care contract, which are designed to remedy
10 social and behavioral problems of a foster child residing in the
11 home;

12 72. "Trafficking in persons" means sex trafficking or severe
13 forms of trafficking in persons as described in Section 7102 of
14 Title 22 of the United States Code:

15 a. "sex trafficking" means the recruitment, harboring,
16 transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing or
17 soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial
18 sex act, and

19 b. "severe forms of trafficking in persons" means:

20 (1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is
21 induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which
22 the person induced to perform such act has not
23 attained eighteen (18) years of age, or

1 (2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation,
2 provision, obtaining, patronizing or soliciting
3 of a person for labor or services, through the
4 use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose
5 of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage,
6 debt bondage, or slavery;

7 73. "Transitional living program" means a residential program
8 that may be attached to an existing facility or operated solely for
9 the purpose of assisting children to develop the skills and
10 abilities necessary for successful adult living. The program may
11 include, but shall not be limited to, reduced staff supervision,
12 vocational training, educational services, employment and employment
13 training, and other appropriate independent living skills training
14 as a part of the transitional living program; and

15 74. "Voluntary foster care placement" means the temporary
16 placement of a child by the parent, legal guardian or custodian of
17 the child in foster care pursuant to a signed placement agreement
18 between the Department or a child-placing agency and the child's
19 parent, legal guardian or custodian.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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