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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to dependent children; amending s.
 39.001, F.S.; revising the purposes of chapter 39;
 requiring the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office and
 circuit guardian ad litem offices to participate in
 the development of a certain state plan; conforming a
 provision to changes made by the act; amending s.
 39.00145, F.S.; authorizing a child's attorney ad
 litem to inspect certain records; amending s.
 39.00146, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 by the act; amending s. 39.0016, F.S.; requiring a
 child's guardian ad litem be included in the
 coordination of certain educational services; amending
 s. 39.01, F.S.; providing and revising definitions;
 amending s. 39.013, F.S.; requiring the court to
 appoint a guardian ad litem for a child at the
 earliest possible time; authorizing the court to
 appoint an attorney ad litem for a child after it
 makes certain determinations; amending s. 39.01305,
 F.S.; revising provisions relating to the appointment
 of an attorney for certain children; revising
 legislative findings; authorizing the court to appoint
 an attorney ad litem for a child after making certain
 determinations; providing requirements for the
 appointment and discharge of an attorney ad litem;

26 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
27 providing applicability; amending s. 39.0132, F.S.;
28 authorizing a child's attorney ad litem to inspect
29 certain records; amending s. 39.0136, F.S.; revising
30 the parties who may request a continuance in a
31 proceeding; amending s. 39.0139, F.S.; conforming
32 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
33 39.202, F.S.; requiring that certain confidential
34 records be released to the guardian ad litem and
35 attorney ad litem; conforming a cross-reference;
36 amending s. 39.402, F.S.; requiring parents to consent
37 to provide certain information to the guardian ad
38 litem and attorney ad litem; conforming provisions to
39 changes made by the act; amending s. 39.4022, F.S.;
40 revising the participants who must be invited to a
41 multidisciplinary team staffing; amending s. 39.4023,
42 F.S.; requiring notice of a multidisciplinary team
43 staffing be provided to a child's guardian ad litem
44 and attorney ad litem; conforming provisions to
45 changes made by the act; amending s. 39.407, F.S.;
46 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
47 amending s. 39.4085, F.S.; providing a goal of
48 permanency; conforming provisions to changes made by
49 the act; amending s. 39.522, F.S.; conforming
50 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.

51 39.6012, F.S.; requiring a case plan to include
52 written descriptions of certain activities; conforming
53 a cross-reference; creating s. 39.6036, F.S.;
54 providing legislative findings and intent; requiring
55 the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office to work with
56 certain children to identify a supportive adult to
57 enter into a specified agreement; requiring such
58 agreement be documented in the child's court file;
59 requiring the office to coordinate with the Office of
60 Continuing Care for a specified purpose; amending s.
61 39.621, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by
62 the act; amending s. 39.6241, F.S.; requiring a
63 guardian ad litem to advise the court regarding
64 certain information and to ensure a certain agreement
65 has been documented in the child's court file;
66 amending s. 39.701, F.S.; requiring certain notice be
67 given to an attorney ad litem; requiring a court to
68 give a guardian ad litem an opportunity to address the
69 court in certain proceedings; requiring the court to
70 inquire and determine if a child has a certain
71 agreement documented in his or her court file at a
72 specified hearing; conforming provisions to changes
73 made by the act; amending s. 39.801, F.S.; conforming
74 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
75 39.807, F.S.; requiring a court to appoint a guardian

76 ad litem to represent the child; revising a guardian
77 ad litem's responsibilities and authorities; deleting
78 provisions relating to bonds and service of pleadings
79 or papers; amending s. 39.808, F.S.; conforming
80 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
81 39.815, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by
82 the act; repealing s. 39.820, F.S., relating to
83 definitions of the terms "guardian ad litem" and
84 "guardian advocate"; amending s. 39.821, F.S.;
85 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
86 amending s. 39.822, F.S.; providing that a guardian ad
87 litem is a fiduciary and must provide independent
88 representation to a child; revising responsibilities
89 of a guardian ad litem; requiring that guardians ad
90 litem have certain access to the children the
91 guardians ad litem represent; providing actions that a
92 guardian ad litem does or does not have to fulfill;
93 amending s. 39.827, F.S.; authorizing a child's
94 guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem to inspect
95 certain records; amending s. 39.8296, F.S.; revising
96 the duties and appointment of the executive director
97 of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office; requiring
98 the training program for guardians ad litem to be
99 updated regularly; requiring the office to provide
100 oversight and technical assistance to attorneys ad

101 litem; specifying certain requirements of the office;
 102 amending s. 39.8297, F.S.; conforming provisions to
 103 changes made by the act; amending s. 39.8298, F.S.;
 104 authorizing the executive director of the Statewide
 105 Guardian ad Litem Office to create or designate local
 106 direct-support organizations; providing
 107 responsibilities for the executive director of the
 108 office; requiring that certain moneys be held in a
 109 separate depository account; conforming provisions to
 110 changes made by the act; creating s. 1009.898, F.S.;
 111 authorizing the Pathway to Prosperity program to
 112 provide certain grants to youth and young adults who
 113 are aging out of foster care; requiring grants to
 114 extend for a certain period of time after a recipient
 115 is reunited with his or her parents; amending ss.
 116 39.302, 39.521, 119.071, 322.09, 394.495, 627.746,
 117 768.28, 934.255, and 960.065, F.S.; conforming cross-
 118 references; providing a directive to the Division of
 119 Law Revision; providing an effective date;

120

121 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

122

123 Section 1. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) and paragraph
 124 (a) of subsection (10) of section 39.001, Florida Statutes, are
 125 amended to read:

126 39.001 Purposes and intent; personnel standards and
 127 screening.—

128 (1) PURPOSES OF CHAPTER.—The purposes of this chapter are:

129 (j) To ensure that, when reunification or adoption is not
 130 possible, the child will be prepared for alternative permanency
 131 goals or placements, to include, but not be limited to, long-
 132 term foster care, independent living, custody to a relative on a
 133 permanent basis with or without legal guardianship, or custody
 134 to a foster parent or legal custodian on a permanent basis with
 135 or without legal guardianship. Permanency for a child who is
 136 transitioning from foster care to independent living includes
 137 naturally occurring, lifelong, kin-like connections between the
 138 child and a supportive adult.

139 (10) PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.—

140 (a) The office shall develop a state plan for the
 141 promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and
 142 prevention of abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children. The
 143 Department of Children and Families, the Department of
 144 Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of
 145 Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of
 146 Law Enforcement, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office, and the
 147 Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall participate and fully
 148 cooperate in the development of the state plan at both the state
 149 and local levels. Furthermore, appropriate local agencies and
 150 organizations shall be provided an opportunity to participate in

151 the development of the state plan at the local level.
152 Appropriate local groups and organizations shall include, but
153 not be limited to, community mental health centers; circuit
154 guardian ad litem offices ~~programs for children under the~~
155 ~~circuit court~~; the school boards of the local school districts;
156 the Florida local advocacy councils; community-based care lead
157 agencies; private or public organizations or programs with
158 recognized expertise in working with child abuse prevention
159 programs for children and families; private or public
160 organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working
161 with children who are sexually abused, physically abused,
162 emotionally abused, abandoned, or neglected and with expertise
163 in working with the families of such children; private or public
164 programs or organizations with expertise in maternal and infant
165 health care; multidisciplinary Child Protection Teams; child day
166 care centers; law enforcement agencies; and the circuit courts,
167 ~~when guardian ad litem programs are not available in the local~~
168 ~~area~~. The state plan to be provided to the Legislature and the
169 Governor shall include, as a minimum, the information required
170 of the various groups in paragraph (b).

171 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 39.00145, Florida
172 Statutes, is amended to read:

173 39.00145 Records concerning children.—

174 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
175 all records in a child's case record must be made available for

176 inspection, upon request, to the child who is the subject of the
177 case record and to the child's caregiver, guardian ad litem, or
178 attorney ad litem, if one is appointed.

179 (a) A complete and accurate copy of any record in a
180 child's case record must be provided, upon request and at no
181 cost, to the child who is the subject of the case record and to
182 the child's caregiver, guardian ad litem, or attorney ad litem,
183 if one is appointed.

184 (b) The department shall release the information in a
185 manner and setting that are appropriate to the age and maturity
186 of the child and the nature of the information being released,
187 which may include the release of information in a therapeutic
188 setting, if appropriate. This paragraph does not deny the child
189 access to his or her records.

190 (c) If a child or the child's caregiver, guardian ad
191 litem, or attorney ad litem, if one is appointed, requests
192 access to the child's case record, any person or entity that
193 fails to provide any record in the case record under assertion
194 of a claim of exemption from the public records requirements of
195 chapter 119, or fails to provide access within a reasonable
196 time, is subject to sanctions and penalties under s. 119.10.

197 (d) For the purposes of this subsection, the term
198 "caregiver" is limited to parents, legal custodians, permanent
199 guardians, or foster parents; employees of a residential home,
200 institution, facility, or agency at which the child resides; and

201 other individuals legally responsible for a child's welfare in a
 202 residential setting.

203 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 204 39.00146, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

205 39.00146 Case record face sheet.—

206 (2) The case record of every child under the supervision
 207 or in the custody of the department or the department's
 208 authorized agents, including community-based care lead agencies
 209 and their subcontracted providers, must include a face sheet
 210 containing relevant information about the child and his or her
 211 case, including at least all of the following:

212 (a) General case information, including, but not limited
 213 to, all of the following:

214 1. The child's name and date of birth~~.~~.

215 2. The current county of residence and the county of
 216 residence at the time of the referral~~.~~.

217 3. The reason for the referral and any family safety
 218 concerns~~.~~.

219 4. The personal identifying information of the parents or
 220 legal custodians who had custody of the child at the time of the
 221 referral, including name, date of birth, and county of
 222 residence~~.~~.

223 5. The date of removal from the home~~.~~. ~~and~~

224 6. The name and contact information of the attorney or
 225 attorneys assigned to the case in all capacities, including the

226 attorney or attorneys that represent the department and the
 227 parents, and the guardian ad litem, ~~if one has been appointed.~~

228 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 229 39.0016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

230 39.0016 Education of abused, neglected, and abandoned
 231 children; agency agreements; children having or suspected of
 232 having a disability.—

233 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

234 (b) The department shall enter into agreements with
 235 district school boards or other local educational entities
 236 regarding education and related services for children known to
 237 the department who are of school age and children known to the
 238 department who are younger than school age but who would
 239 otherwise qualify for services from the district school board.
 240 Such agreements must ~~shall~~ include, but are not limited to:

241 1. A requirement that the department shall:

242 a. Ensure that children known to the department are
 243 enrolled in school or in the best educational setting that meets
 244 the needs of the child. The agreement must ~~shall~~ provide for
 245 continuing the enrollment of a child known to the department at
 246 the school of origin when possible if it is in the best interest
 247 of the child, with the goal of minimal disruption of education.

248 b. Notify the school and school district in which a child
 249 known to the department is enrolled of the name and phone number
 250 of the child known to the department caregiver and caseworker

251 | for child safety purposes.

252 | c. Establish a protocol for the department to share
 253 | information about a child known to the department with the
 254 | school district, consistent with the Family Educational Rights
 255 | and Privacy Act, since the sharing of information will assist
 256 | each agency in obtaining education and related services for the
 257 | benefit of the child. The protocol must require the district
 258 | school boards or other local educational entities to access the
 259 | department's Florida Safe Families Network to obtain information
 260 | about children known to the department, consistent with the
 261 | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. s.
 262 | 1232g.

263 | d. Notify the school district of the department's case
 264 | planning for a child known to the department, both at the time
 265 | of plan development and plan review. Within the plan development
 266 | or review process, the school district may provide information
 267 | regarding the child known to the department if the school
 268 | district deems it desirable and appropriate.

269 | e. Show no prejudice against a caregiver who desires to
 270 | educate at home a child placed in his or her home through the
 271 | child welfare system.

272 | 2. A requirement that the district school board shall:

273 | a. Provide the department with a general listing of the
 274 | services and information available from the district school
 275 | board to facilitate educational access for a child known to the

276 | department.

277 | b. Identify all educational and other services provided by
278 | the school and school district which the school district
279 | believes are reasonably necessary to meet the educational needs
280 | of a child known to the department.

281 | c. Determine whether transportation is available for a
282 | child known to the department when such transportation will
283 | avoid a change in school assignment due to a change in
284 | residential placement. Recognizing that continued enrollment in
285 | the same school throughout the time the child known to the
286 | department is in out-of-home care is preferable unless
287 | enrollment in the same school would be unsafe or otherwise
288 | impractical, the department, the district school board, and the
289 | Department of Education shall assess the availability of
290 | federal, charitable, or grant funding for such transportation.

291 | d. Provide individualized student intervention or an
292 | individual educational plan when a determination has been made
293 | through legally appropriate criteria that intervention services
294 | are required. The intervention or individual educational plan
295 | must include strategies to enable the child known to the
296 | department to maximize the attainment of educational goals.

297 | 3. A requirement that the department and the district
298 | school board shall cooperate in accessing the services and
299 | supports needed for a child known to the department who has or
300 | is suspected of having a disability to receive an appropriate

301 education consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities
302 Education Act and state implementing laws, rules, and
303 assurances. Coordination of services for a child known to the
304 department who has or is suspected of having a disability may
305 include:

- 306 a. Referral for screening.
- 307 b. Sharing of evaluations between the school district and
308 the department where appropriate.
- 309 c. Provision of education and related services appropriate
310 for the needs and abilities of the child known to the
311 department.
- 312 d. Coordination of services and plans between the school
313 and the residential setting to avoid duplication or conflicting
314 service plans.
- 315 e. Appointment of a surrogate parent, consistent with the
316 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and pursuant to
317 subsection (3), for educational purposes for a child known to
318 the department who qualifies.
- 319 f. For each child known to the department 14 years of age
320 and older, transition planning by the department and all
321 providers, including the department's independent living program
322 staff and the guardian ad litem of the child, to meet the
323 requirements of the local school district for educational
324 purposes.

325 Section 5. Subsections (8) through (30) and (31) through

326 (87) of section 39.01, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as
327 subsections (9) through (31) and (34) through (90),
328 respectively, present subsections (9), (36), and (58) are
329 amended, and new subsections (8), (32), and (33) are added to
330 that section, to read:

331 39.01 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the
332 context otherwise requires:

333 (8) "Attorney ad litem" means an attorney appointed by the
334 court to represent a child in a dependency case who has an
335 attorney-client relationship with the child under the rules
336 regulating The Florida Bar.

337 ~~(10)-(9)~~ "Caregiver" means the parent, legal custodian,
338 permanent guardian, adult household member, or other person
339 responsible for a child's welfare as defined in subsection
340 ~~(57)-(54)~~.

341 (32) "Guardian ad litem" means a person or entity that is
342 a fiduciary appointed by the court to represent a child in any
343 civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding to which the child
344 is a party, including, but not limited to, under this chapter,
345 which uses a best interest standard for decisionmaking and
346 advocacy. For purposes of this chapter, the term includes, but
347 is not limited to, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office, which
348 includes all circuit guardian ad litem offices and the duly
349 certified volunteers, staff, and attorneys assigned by the
350 Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office to represent children; a

351 court-appointed attorney; or a responsible adult who is
 352 appointed by the court. A guardian ad litem is a party to the
 353 judicial proceeding as a representative of the child and serves
 354 until the jurisdiction of the court over the child terminates or
 355 until excused by the court.

356 (33) "Guardian advocate" means a person appointed by the
 357 court to act on behalf of a drug-dependent newborn under part XI
 358 of this chapter.

359 (39)~~(36)~~ "Institutional child abuse or neglect" means
 360 situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect in which
 361 the person allegedly perpetrating the child abuse or neglect is
 362 an employee of a public or private school, public or private day
 363 care center, residential home, institution, facility, or agency
 364 or any other person at such institution responsible for the
 365 child's welfare as defined in subsection (57)~~(54)~~.

366 (61)~~(58)~~ "Party" means the parent or parents of the child,
 367 the petitioner, the department, the guardian ad litem ~~or the~~
 368 ~~representative of the guardian ad litem program when the program~~
 369 ~~has been appointed~~, and the child. The presence of the child may
 370 be excused by order of the court when presence would not be in
 371 the child's best interest. Notice to the child may be excused by
 372 order of the court when the age, capacity, or other condition of
 373 the child is such that the notice would be meaningless or
 374 detrimental to the child.

375 Section 6. Subsection (11) of section 39.013, Florida

376 Statutes, is amended and subsection (13) is added to that
 377 section, to read:

378 39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel;
 379 guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem.—

380 (11) The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem at the
 381 earliest possible time to represent a child throughout the
 382 proceedings, including any appeals ~~encourage the Statewide~~
 383 ~~Guardian Ad Litem Office to provide greater representation to~~
 384 ~~those children who are within 1 year of transferring out of~~
 385 ~~foster care.~~

386 (13) The court may appoint an attorney ad litem for a
 387 child if the court believes the child is in need of such
 388 representation and determines that the child has a rational and
 389 factual understanding of the proceedings and sufficient present
 390 ability to consult with an attorney with a reasonable degree of
 391 rational understanding.

392 Section 7. Section 39.01305, Florida Statutes, is amended
 393 to read:

394 39.01305 Appointment of an attorney ad litem for a
 395 dependent child ~~with certain special needs.~~—

396 (1)~~(a)~~ The Legislature finds that:

397 ~~1.~~ all children in proceedings under this chapter have
 398 important interests at stake, such as health, safety, and well-
 399 being and the need to obtain permanency. While such children are
 400 represented by the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office using a

401 best interest standard of decisionmaking and advocacy, some
402 children may also need representation by an attorney ad litem in
403 proceedings under this chapter.

404 ~~2. A dependent child who has certain special needs has a~~
405 ~~particular need for an attorney to represent the dependent child~~
406 ~~in proceedings under this chapter, as well as in fair hearings~~
407 ~~and appellate proceedings, so that the attorney may address the~~
408 ~~child's medical and related needs and the services and supports~~
409 ~~necessary for the child to live successfully in the community.~~

410 ~~(b) The Legislature recognizes the existence of~~
411 ~~organizations that provide attorney representation to children~~
412 ~~in certain jurisdictions throughout the state. Further, the~~
413 ~~statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program provides best interest~~
414 ~~representation for dependent children in every jurisdiction in~~
415 ~~accordance with state and federal law. The Legislature,~~
416 ~~therefore, does not intend that funding provided for~~
417 ~~representation under this section supplant proven and existing~~
418 ~~organizations representing children. Instead, the Legislature~~
419 ~~intends that funding provided for representation under this~~
420 ~~section be an additional resource for the representation of more~~
421 ~~children in these jurisdictions, to the extent necessary to meet~~
422 ~~the requirements of this chapter, with the cooperation of~~
423 ~~existing local organizations or through the expansion of those~~
424 ~~organizations. The Legislature encourages the expansion of pro~~
425 ~~bono representation for children. This section is not intended~~

426 ~~to limit the ability of a pro bono attorney to appear on behalf~~
427 ~~of a child.~~

428 (2) The court may appoint an attorney ad litem for a child
429 if the court believes the child is in need of such
430 representation and determines that the child has a rational and
431 factual understanding of the proceedings and sufficient present
432 ability to consult with an attorney with a reasonable degree of
433 rational understanding.

434 ~~(2) As used in this section, the term "dependent child"~~
435 ~~means a child who is subject to any proceeding under this~~
436 ~~chapter. The term does not require that a child be adjudicated~~
437 ~~dependent for purposes of this section.~~

438 ~~(3) An attorney shall be appointed for a dependent child~~
439 ~~who:~~

440 ~~(a) Resides in a skilled nursing facility or is being~~
441 ~~considered for placement in a skilled nursing home;~~

442 ~~(b) Is prescribed a psychotropic medication but declines~~
443 ~~assent to the psychotropic medication;~~

444 ~~(c) Has a diagnosis of a developmental disability as~~
445 ~~defined in s. 393.063;~~

446 ~~(d) Is being placed in a residential treatment center or~~
447 ~~being considered for placement in a residential treatment~~
448 ~~center; or~~

449 ~~(e) Is a victim of human trafficking as defined in s.~~
450 ~~787.06(2) (d).~~

451 ~~(3) (a) (4) (a)~~ Before a court may appoint an attorney ad
452 litem, who may be compensated pursuant to this section, the
453 court must request a recommendation from the Statewide Guardian
454 ad Litem Office for an attorney who is willing to represent a
455 child without additional compensation. If such an attorney is
456 available within 15 days after the court's request, the court
457 must appoint that attorney. However, the court may appoint a
458 compensated attorney within the 15-day period if the Statewide
459 Guardian ad Litem Office informs the court that the office is
460 unable ~~it will not be able~~ to recommend an attorney within that
461 time period.

462 (b) A court order appointing ~~After~~ an attorney ad litem
463 under this section must be in writing. ~~is appointed, the~~
464 ~~appointment continues in effect until the attorney is allowed to~~
465 ~~withdraw or is discharged by~~ The court must discharge ~~or until~~
466 ~~the case is dismissed.~~ an attorney ad litem who is appointed
467 under this section if the need for such representation is
468 resolved ~~to represent the child shall provide the complete range~~
469 ~~of legal services, from the removal from home or from the~~
470 ~~initial appointment through all available appellate proceedings.~~
471 With the permission of the court, the attorney ad litem ~~for the~~
472 ~~dependent child~~ may arrange for supplemental or separate counsel
473 to represent the child in appellate proceedings. ~~A court order~~
474 ~~appointing an attorney under this section must be in writing.~~

475 ~~(4) (5)~~ Unless the attorney ad litem has agreed to provide

476 pro bono services, an appointed attorney ad litem or
477 organization must be adequately compensated. All appointed
478 attorneys ad litem and organizations, including pro bono
479 attorneys, must be provided with access to funding for expert
480 witnesses, depositions, and other due process costs of
481 litigation. Payment of attorney fees and case-related due
482 process costs are subject to appropriations and review by the
483 Justice Administrative Commission for reasonableness. The
484 Justice Administrative Commission shall contract with attorneys
485 ad litem appointed by the court. Attorney fees may not exceed
486 \$1,000 per child per year.

487 ~~(6) The department shall develop procedures to identify a~~
488 ~~dependent child who has a special need specified under~~
489 ~~subsection (3) and to request that a court appoint an attorney~~
490 ~~for the child.~~

491 ~~(7) The department may adopt rules to administer this~~
492 ~~section.~~

493 ~~(8) This section does not limit the authority of the court~~
494 ~~to appoint an attorney for a dependent child in a proceeding~~
495 ~~under this chapter.~~

496 (5)-(9) Implementation of this section is subject to
497 appropriations expressly made for that purpose.

498 Section 8. The amendments made by this act to s. 39.01305,
499 Florida Statutes, apply only to attorney ad litem appointments
500 made on or after July 1, 2023.

501 Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 39.0132, Florida
 502 Statutes, is amended to read:
 503 39.0132 Oaths, records, and confidential information.—
 504 (3) The clerk shall keep all court records required by
 505 this chapter separate from other records of the circuit court.
 506 All court records required by this chapter may ~~shall~~ not be open
 507 to inspection by the public. All records may ~~shall~~ be inspected
 508 only upon order of the court by persons deemed by the court to
 509 have a proper interest therein, except that, subject to ~~the~~
 510 ~~provisions of~~ s. 63.162, a child, and the parents of the child
 511 and their attorneys, the guardian ad litem, criminal conflict
 512 and civil regional counsels, law enforcement agencies, ~~and~~ the
 513 department and its designees, and the attorney ad litem, if one
 514 is appointed, ~~shall~~ always have the right to inspect and copy
 515 any official record pertaining to the child. The Justice
 516 Administrative Commission may inspect court dockets required by
 517 this chapter as necessary to audit compensation of court-
 518 appointed attorneys ad litem. If the docket is insufficient for
 519 purposes of the audit, the commission may petition the court for
 520 additional documentation as necessary and appropriate. The court
 521 may permit authorized representatives of recognized
 522 organizations compiling statistics for proper purposes to
 523 inspect and make abstracts from official records, under whatever
 524 conditions upon their use and disposition the court may deem
 525 proper, and may punish by contempt proceedings any violation of

526 | those conditions.

527 | Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
528 | 39.0136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

529 | 39.0136 Time limitations; continuances.—

530 | (3) The time limitations in this chapter do not include:

531 | (a) Periods of delay resulting from a continuance granted
532 | at the request of the child's counsel, ~~or the child's guardian~~
533 | ~~ad litem, or attorney ad litem, if one is appointed, if the~~
534 | ~~child is of sufficient capacity to express reasonable consent,~~
535 | ~~at the request or with the consent of the child.~~ The court must
536 | consider the best interests of the child when determining
537 | periods of delay under this section.

538 | Section 11. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) of
539 | section 39.0139, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

540 | 39.0139 Visitation or other contact; restrictions.—

541 | (4) HEARINGS.—A person who meets any of the criteria set
542 | forth in paragraph (3) (a) who seeks to begin or resume contact
543 | with the child victim shall have the right to an evidentiary
544 | hearing to determine whether contact is appropriate.

545 | (a) Before ~~Prior to~~ the hearing, the court shall appoint
546 | ~~an attorney ad litem or~~ a guardian ad litem for the child if one
547 | has not already been appointed. The guardian ad litem and Any
548 | attorney ad litem, if one is ~~or guardian ad litem~~ appointed,
549 | must ~~shall~~ have special training in the dynamics of child sexual
550 | abuse.

551 (b) At the hearing, the court may receive and rely upon
 552 any relevant and material evidence submitted to the extent of
 553 its probative value, including written and oral reports or
 554 recommendations from the Child Protection Team, the child's
 555 therapist, the child's guardian ad litem, or the child's
 556 attorney ad litem, if one is appointed, even if these reports,
 557 recommendations, and evidence may not be admissible under the
 558 rules of evidence.

559 Section 12. Paragraphs (d) and (t) of subsection (2) of
 560 section 39.202, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

561 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
 562 child abuse or neglect; exception.—

563 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
 564 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
 565 with respect to, the reporter which may only ~~shall~~ be released
 566 ~~only~~ as provided in subsection (5), may only ~~shall~~ be granted
 567 ~~only~~ to the following persons, officials, and agencies:

568 (d) The parent or legal custodian of any child who is
 569 alleged to have been abused, abandoned, or neglected; the child;
 570 the guardian ad litem; the attorney ad litem, if one is
 571 appointed; or, ~~and the child, and their attorneys, including any~~
 572 attorney representing a child in civil or criminal proceedings.
 573 This access must ~~shall~~ be made available no later than 60 days
 574 after the department receives the initial report of abuse,
 575 neglect, or abandonment. However, any information otherwise made

576 confidential or exempt by law may ~~shall~~ not be released pursuant
 577 to this paragraph.

578 (t) Persons with whom the department is seeking to place
 579 the child or to whom placement has been granted, including
 580 foster parents for whom an approved home study has been
 581 conducted, the designee of a licensed child-caring agency as
 582 defined in s. 39.01 ~~s. 39.01(41)~~, an approved relative or
 583 nonrelative with whom a child is placed pursuant to s. 39.402,
 584 preadoptive parents for whom a favorable preliminary adoptive
 585 home study has been conducted, adoptive parents, or an adoption
 586 entity acting on behalf of preadoptive or adoptive parents.

587 Section 13. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (11) and
 588 paragraph (a) of subsection (14) of section 39.402, Florida
 589 Statutes, are amended to read:

590 39.402 Placement in a shelter.-

591 (11)

592 (b) The court shall request that the parents consent to
 593 provide access to the child's medical records and provide
 594 information to the court, the department or its contract
 595 agencies, and the ~~any~~ guardian ad litem and ~~or~~ attorney ad
 596 litem, if one is appointed, for the child. If a parent is
 597 unavailable or unable to consent or withholds consent and the
 598 court determines access to the records and information is
 599 necessary to provide services to the child, the court shall
 600 issue an order granting access. The court may also order the

601 parents to provide all known medical information to the
 602 department and to any others granted access under this
 603 subsection.

604 (c) The court shall request that the parents consent to
 605 provide access to the child's child care records, early
 606 education program records, or other educational records and
 607 provide information to the court, the department or its contract
 608 agencies, and the any guardian ad litem and ~~or~~ attorney ad
 609 litem, if one is appointed, for the child. If a parent is
 610 unavailable or unable to consent or withholds consent and the
 611 court determines access to the records and information is
 612 necessary to provide services to the child, the court shall
 613 issue an order granting access.

614 (14) The time limitations in this section do not include:

615 (a) Periods of delay resulting from a continuance granted
 616 at the request or with the consent of the child's ~~counsel or the~~
 617 ~~child's~~ guardian ad litem or attorney ad litem, if one is ~~has~~
 618 ~~been~~ appointed by the court, ~~or, if the child is of sufficient~~
 619 ~~capacity to express reasonable consent, at the request or with~~
 620 ~~the consent of the child's attorney or the child's guardian ad~~
 621 ~~litem, if one has been appointed by the court, and the child.~~

622 Section 14. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) of
 623 section 39.4022, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

624 39.4022 Multidisciplinary teams; staffings; assessments;
 625 report.-

626 (4) PARTICIPANTS.—

627 (a) Collaboration among diverse individuals who are part
628 of the child's network is necessary to make the most informed
629 decisions possible for the child. A diverse team is preferable
630 to ensure that the necessary combination of technical skills,
631 cultural knowledge, community resources, and personal
632 relationships is developed and maintained for the child and
633 family. The participants necessary to achieve an appropriately
634 diverse team for a child may vary by child and may include
635 extended family, friends, neighbors, coaches, clergy, coworkers,
636 or others the family identifies as potential sources of support.

637 1. Each multidisciplinary team staffing must invite the
638 following members:

639 a. The child, unless he or she is not of an age or
640 capacity to participate in the team, and the child's guardian ad
641 litem;

642 b. The child's family members and other individuals
643 identified by the family as being important to the child,
644 provided that a parent who has a no contact order or injunction,
645 is alleged to have sexually abused the child, or is subject to a
646 termination of parental rights may not participate;

647 c. The current caregiver, provided the caregiver is not a
648 parent who meets the criteria of one of the exceptions under
649 sub-subparagraph b.;

650 d. A representative from the department other than the

651 Children's Legal Services attorney, when the department is
652 directly involved in the goal identified by the staffing;

653 e. A representative from the community-based care lead
654 agency, when the lead agency is directly involved in the goal
655 identified by the staffing;

656 f. The case manager for the child, or his or her case
657 manager supervisor; and

658 g. A representative from the Department of Juvenile
659 Justice, if the child is dually involved with both the
660 department and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

661 2. The multidisciplinary team must make reasonable efforts
662 to have all mandatory invitees attend. However, the
663 multidisciplinary team staffing may not be delayed if the
664 invitees in subparagraph 1. fail to attend after being provided
665 reasonable opportunities.

666 (b) Based on the particular goal the multidisciplinary
667 team staffing identifies as the purpose of convening the
668 staffing as provided under subsection (5), the department or
669 lead agency may also invite to the meeting other professionals,
670 including, but not limited to:

671 1. A representative from Children's Medical Services;

672 ~~2. A guardian ad litem, if one is appointed;~~

673 2.3. A school personnel representative who has direct
674 contact with the child;

675 3.4. A therapist or other behavioral health professional,

676 | if applicable;

677 | ~~4.5.~~ A mental health professional with expertise in
 678 | sibling bonding, if the department or lead agency deems such
 679 | expert is necessary; or

680 | ~~5.6.~~ Other community providers of services to the child or
 681 | stakeholders, when applicable.

682 | Section 15. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) and paragraph
 683 | (c) of subsection (4) of section 39.4023, Florida Statutes, are
 684 | amended to read:

685 | 39.4023 Placement and education transitions; transition
 686 | plans.—

687 | (3) PLACEMENT TRANSITIONS.—

688 | (d) Transition planning.—

689 | 1. If the supportive services provided pursuant to
 690 | paragraph (c) have not been successful to make the maintenance
 691 | of the placement suitable or if there are other circumstances
 692 | that require the child to be moved, the department or the
 693 | community-based care lead agency must convene a
 694 | multidisciplinary team staffing as required under s. 39.4022
 695 | before the child's placement is changed, or within 72 hours of
 696 | moving the child in an emergency situation, for the purpose of
 697 | developing an appropriate transition plan.

698 | 2. A placement change may occur immediately in an
 699 | emergency situation without convening a multidisciplinary team
 700 | staffing. However, a multidisciplinary team staffing must be

701 held within 72 hours after the emergency situation arises.

702 3. The department or the community-based care lead agency
 703 must provide written notice of the planned move at least 14 days
 704 before the move or within 72 hours after an emergency situation,
 705 to the greatest extent possible and consistent with the child's
 706 needs and preferences. The notice must include the reason a
 707 placement change is necessary. A copy of the notice must be
 708 filed with the court and be provided to all of the following:

709 a. The child, unless he or she, due to age or capacity, is
 710 unable to comprehend the written notice, which will necessitate
 711 the department or lead agency to provide notice in an age-
 712 appropriate and capacity-appropriate alternative manner.~~;~~

713 b. The child's parents, unless prohibited by court order.~~;~~

714 c. The child's out-of-home caregiver.~~;~~

715 d. The guardian ad litem.~~;~~ ~~if one is appointed;~~

716 e. The attorney ad litem for the child, if one is
 717 appointed.~~;~~ ~~and~~

718 f. The attorney for the department.

719 4. The transition plan must be developed through
 720 cooperation among the persons included in subparagraph 3., and
 721 such persons must share any relevant information necessary for
 722 its development. Subject to the child's needs and preferences,
 723 the transition plan must meet the requirements of s.
 724 409.1415(2)(b)8. and exclude any placement changes that occur
 725 between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.

726 5. The department or the community-based care lead agency
727 shall file the transition plan with the court within 48 hours
728 after the creation of such plan and provide a copy of the plan
729 to the persons included in subparagraph 3.

730 (4) EDUCATION TRANSITIONS.—

731 (c) Minimizing school changes.—

732 1. Every effort must be made to keep a child in the school
733 of origin if it is in the child's best interest. Any placement
734 decision must include thoughtful consideration of which school a
735 child will attend if a school change is necessary.

736 2. Members of a multidisciplinary team staffing convened
737 for a purpose other than a school change must determine the
738 child's best interest regarding remaining in the school or
739 program of origin if the child's educational options are
740 affected by any other decision being made by the
741 multidisciplinary team.

742 3. The determination of whether it is in the child's best
743 interest to remain in the school of origin, and if not, of which
744 school the child will attend in the future, must be made in
745 consultation with the following individuals, including, but not
746 limited to, the child; the parents; the caregiver; the child
747 welfare professional; the guardian ad litem, ~~if appointed~~; the
748 educational surrogate, if appointed; child care and educational
749 staff, including teachers and guidance counselors; and the
750 school district representative or foster care liaison. A

751 multidisciplinary team member may contact any of these
752 individuals in advance of a multidisciplinary team staffing to
753 obtain his or her recommendation. An individual may remotely
754 attend the multidisciplinary team staffing if one of the
755 identified goals is related to determining an educational
756 placement. The multidisciplinary team may rely on a report from
757 the child's current school or program district and, if
758 applicable, any other school district being considered for the
759 educational placement if the required school personnel are not
760 available to attend the multidisciplinary team staffing in
761 person or remotely.

762 4. The multidisciplinary team and the individuals listed
763 in subparagraph 3. must consider, at a minimum, all of the
764 following factors when determining whether remaining in the
765 school or program of origin is in the child's best interest or,
766 if not, when selecting a new school or program:

767 a. The child's desire to remain in the school or program
768 of origin.

769 b. The preference of the child's parents or legal
770 guardians.

771 c. Whether the child has siblings, close friends, or
772 mentors at the school or program of origin.

773 d. The child's cultural and community connections in the
774 school or program of origin.

775 e. Whether the child is suspected of having a disability

776 | under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or
777 | s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or has begun receiving
778 | interventions under this state's multitiered system of supports.

779 | f. Whether the child has an evaluation pending for special
780 | education and related services under IDEA or s. 504 of the
781 | Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

782 | g. Whether the child is a student with a disability under
783 | IDEA who is receiving special education and related services or
784 | a student with a disability under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation
785 | Act of 1973 who is receiving accommodations and services and, if
786 | so, whether those required services are available in a school or
787 | program other than the school or program of origin.

788 | h. Whether the child is an English Language Learner
789 | student and is receiving language services and, if so, whether
790 | those required services are available in a school or program
791 | other than the school or program of origin.

792 | i. The impact a change to the school or program of origin
793 | would have on academic credits and progress toward promotion.

794 | j. The availability of extracurricular activities
795 | important to the child.

796 | k. The child's known individualized educational plan or
797 | other medical and behavioral health needs and whether such plan
798 | or needs are able to be met at a school or program other than
799 | the school or program of origin.

800 | l. The child's permanency goal and timeframe for achieving

801 permanency.

802 m. The child's history of school transfers and how such
803 transfers have impacted the child academically, emotionally, and
804 behaviorally.

805 n. The length of the commute to the school or program from
806 the child's home or placement and how such commute would impact
807 the child.

808 o. The length of time the child has attended the school or
809 program of origin.

810 5. The cost of transportation cannot be a factor in making
811 a best interest determination.

812 Section 16. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section
813 39.407, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

814 39.407 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological examination
815 and treatment of child; physical, mental, or substance abuse
816 examination of person with or requesting child custody.—

817 (3)

818 (f)1. The department shall fully inform the court of the
819 child's medical and behavioral status as part of the social
820 services report prepared for each judicial review hearing held
821 for a child for whom psychotropic medication has been prescribed
822 or provided under this subsection. As a part of the information
823 provided to the court, the department shall furnish copies of
824 all pertinent medical records concerning the child which have
825 been generated since the previous hearing. On its own motion or

826 on good cause shown by any party, including the ~~any~~ guardian ad
 827 litem, ~~attorney,~~ or attorney ad litem, if one is ~~who has been~~
 828 appointed ~~to represent the child or the child's interests,~~ the
 829 court may review the status more frequently than required in
 830 this subsection.

831 2. The court may, in the best interests of the child,
 832 order the department to obtain a medical opinion addressing
 833 whether the continued use of the medication under the
 834 circumstances is safe and medically appropriate.

835 Section 17. Paragraphs (m), (t), and (u) of subsection (1)
 836 of section 39.4085, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

837 39.4085 Goals for dependent children; responsibilities;
 838 education.—

839 (1) The Legislature finds that the design and delivery of
 840 child welfare services should be directed by the principle that
 841 the health and safety of children, including the freedom from
 842 abuse, abandonment, or neglect, is of paramount concern and,
 843 therefore, establishes the following goals for children in
 844 shelter or foster care:

845 (m) To receive meaningful case management and planning
 846 that will quickly return the child to his or her family or move
 847 the child on to other forms of permanency. For a child who is
 848 transitioning from foster care to independent living, permanency
 849 includes establishing naturally occurring, lifelong, kin-like
 850 connections between the child and a supportive adult.

851 (t) To have a guardian ad litem appointed ~~to represent,~~
 852 ~~within reason, their best interests~~ and, if appropriate, an
 853 attorney ad litem ~~appointed to represent their legal interests;~~
 854 the guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem, if one is
 855 appointed, ~~shall~~ have immediate and unlimited access to the
 856 children they represent.

857 (u) To have all their records available for review by
 858 their guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem, if one is
 859 appointed, if they deem such review necessary.

860
 861 This subsection establishes goals and not rights. This
 862 subsection does not require the delivery of any particular
 863 service or level of service in excess of existing
 864 appropriations. A person does not have a cause of action against
 865 the state or any of its subdivisions, agencies, contractors,
 866 subcontractors, or agents, based upon the adoption of or failure
 867 to provide adequate funding for the achievement of these goals
 868 by the Legislature. This subsection does not require the
 869 expenditure of funds to meet the goals established in this
 870 subsection except those funds specifically appropriated for such
 871 purpose.

872 Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
 873 39.522, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

874 39.522 Postdisposition change of custody.—

875 (3)

876 (c)1. The department or community-based care lead agency
877 must notify a current caregiver who has been in the physical
878 custody placement for at least 9 consecutive months and who
879 meets all the established criteria in paragraph (b) of an intent
880 to change the physical custody of the child, and a
881 multidisciplinary team staffing must be held in accordance with
882 ss. 39.4022 and 39.4023 at least 21 days before the intended
883 date for the child's change in physical custody, unless there is
884 an emergency situation as defined in s. 39.4022(2)(b). If there
885 is not a unanimous consensus decision reached by the
886 multidisciplinary team, the department's official position must
887 be provided to the parties within the designated time period as
888 provided for in s. 39.4022.

889 2. A caregiver who objects to the department's official
890 position on the change in physical custody must notify the court
891 and the department or community-based care lead agency of his or
892 her objection and the intent to request an evidentiary hearing
893 in writing in accordance with this section within 5 days after
894 receiving notice of the department's official position provided
895 under subparagraph 1. The transition of the child to the new
896 caregiver may not begin before the expiration of the 5-day
897 period within which the current caregiver may object.

898 3. Upon the department or community-based care lead agency
899 receiving written notice of the caregiver's objection, the
900 change to the child's physical custody must be placed in

901 abeyance and the child may not be transitioned to a new physical
 902 placement without a court order, unless there is an emergency
 903 situation as defined in s. 39.4022(2) (b) .

904 4. Within 7 days after receiving written notice from the
 905 caregiver, the court must conduct an initial case status
 906 hearing, at which time the court must do all of the following:

907 a. Grant party status to the current caregiver who is
 908 seeking permanent custody and has maintained physical custody of
 909 that child for at least 9 continuous months for the limited
 910 purpose of filing a motion for a hearing on the objection and
 911 presenting evidence pursuant to this subsection. ;

912 ~~b. Appoint an attorney for the child who is the subject of~~
 913 ~~the permanent custody proceeding, in addition to the guardian ad~~
 914 ~~litem, if one is appointed;~~

915 ~~b.e.~~ Advise the caregiver of his or her right to retain
 916 counsel for purposes of the evidentiary hearing. ; ~~and~~

917 ~~c.d.~~ Appoint a court-selected neutral and independent
 918 licensed professional with expertise in the science and research
 919 of child-parent bonding.

920 Section 19. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and paragraph
 921 (c) of subsection (3) of section 39.6012, Florida Statutes, are
 922 amended to read:

923 39.6012 Case plan tasks; services.—

924 (1) The services to be provided to the parent and the
 925 tasks that must be completed are subject to the following:

926 (c) If there is evidence of harm as defined in s.
 927 39.01(37)(g) ~~s. 39.01(34)(g)~~, the case plan must include as a
 928 required task for the parent whose actions caused the harm that
 929 the parent submit to a substance abuse disorder assessment or
 930 evaluation and participate and comply with treatment and
 931 services identified in the assessment or evaluation as being
 932 necessary.

933 (3) In addition to any other requirement, if the child is
 934 in an out-of-home placement, the case plan must include:

935 (c) When appropriate, for a child who is 13 years of age
 936 or older, a written description of the programs and services
 937 that will help the child prepare for the transition from foster
 938 care to independent living. The written description must include
 939 age-appropriate activities for the child's development of
 940 relationships, coping skills, and emotional well-being.

941 Section 20. Section 39.6036, Florida Statutes, is created
 942 to read:

943 39.6036 Supportive adults for children transitioning out
 944 of foster care.—

945 (1) The Legislature finds that a committed, caring adult
 946 provides a lifeline for a child transitioning out of foster care
 947 to live independently. Accordingly, it is the intent of the
 948 Legislature that the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office help
 949 children connect with supportive adults with the hope of
 950 creating an ongoing relationship that lasts into adulthood.

951 (2) The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office shall work with
952 a child who is transitioning out of foster care to identify at
953 least one supportive adult with whom the child can enter into a
954 formal agreement for an ongoing relationship and document such
955 agreement in the child's court file. If the child cannot
956 identify a supportive adult, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem
957 Office shall work in coordination with the Office of Continuing
958 Care to identify at least one supportive adult with whom the
959 child can enter into a formal agreement for an ongoing
960 relationship and document such agreement in the child's court
961 file.

962 Section 21. Paragraph (c) of subsection (10) of section
963 39.621, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

964 39.621 Permanency determination by the court.—

965 (10) The permanency placement is intended to continue
966 until the child reaches the age of majority and may not be
967 disturbed absent a finding by the court that the circumstances
968 of the permanency placement are no longer in the best interest
969 of the child.

970 (c) The court shall base its decision concerning any
971 motion by a parent for reunification or increased contact with a
972 child on the effect of the decision on the safety, well-being,
973 and physical and emotional health of the child. Factors that
974 must be considered and addressed in the findings of fact of the
975 order on the motion must include:

976 1. The compliance or noncompliance of the parent with the
977 case plan;

978 2. The circumstances which caused the child's dependency
979 and whether those circumstances have been resolved;

980 3. The stability and longevity of the child's placement;

981 4. The preferences of the child, if the child is of
982 sufficient age and understanding to express a preference;

983 5. The recommendation of the current custodian; and

984 6. Any ~~The~~ recommendation of the guardian ad litem, ~~if one~~
985 ~~has been appointed.~~

986 Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 39.6241, Florida
987 Statutes, is amended to read:

988 39.6241 Another planned permanent living arrangement.—

989 (2) The department and the guardian ad litem must provide
990 the court with a recommended list and description of services
991 needed by the child, such as independent living services and
992 medical, dental, educational, or psychological referrals, and a
993 recommended list and description of services needed by his or
994 her caregiver. The guardian ad litem must also advise the court
995 whether the child has been connected with a supportive adult
996 and, if the child has been connected with a supportive adult,
997 whether the child has entered into a formal agreement with the
998 adult. If the child has entered into a formal agreement pursuant
999 to s. 39.6036, the guardian ad litem must ensure that the
1000 agreement is documented in the child's court file.

1001 Section 23. Paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (1),
 1002 paragraph (c) of subsection (2), subsection (3), and paragraph
 1003 (e) of subsection (4) of section 39.701, Florida Statutes, are
 1004 amended to read:

1005 39.701 Judicial review.—

1006 (1) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

1007 (b)1. The court shall retain jurisdiction over a child
 1008 returned to his or her parents for a minimum period of 6 months
 1009 after ~~following~~ the reunification, but, at that time, based on a
 1010 report of the social service agency and the guardian ad litem,
 1011 ~~if one has been appointed,~~ and any other relevant factors, the
 1012 court shall make a determination as to whether supervision by
 1013 the department and the court's jurisdiction shall continue or be
 1014 terminated.

1015 2. Notwithstanding subparagraph 1., the court must retain
 1016 jurisdiction over a child if the child is placed in the home
 1017 with a parent or caregiver with an in-home safety plan and such
 1018 safety plan remains necessary for the child to reside safely in
 1019 the home.

1020 (f) Notice of a judicial review hearing or a citizen
 1021 review panel hearing, and a copy of the motion for judicial
 1022 review, if any, must be served by the clerk of the court upon
 1023 all of the following persons, if available to be served,
 1024 regardless of whether the person was present at the previous
 1025 hearing at which the date, time, and location of the hearing was

1026 announced:

1027 1. The social service agency charged with the supervision

1028 of care, custody, or guardianship of the child, if that agency

1029 is not the movant.

1030 2. The foster parent or legal custodian in whose home the

1031 child resides.

1032 3. The parents.

1033 4. The guardian ad litem for the child, ~~or the~~

1034 ~~representative of the guardian ad litem program if the program~~

1035 ~~has been appointed.~~

1036 5. The attorney ad litem for the child, if one is

1037 appointed.

1038 6. The child, if the child is 13 years of age or older.

1039 7. Any preadoptive parent.

1040 8. Such other persons as the court may direct.

1041 (2) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF

1042 AGE.—

1043 (c) Review determinations.—The court and any citizen

1044 review panel shall take into consideration the information

1045 contained in the social services study and investigation and all

1046 medical, psychological, and educational records that support the

1047 terms of the case plan; testimony by the social services agency,

1048 the parent, the foster parent or caregiver, the guardian ad

1049 litem or surrogate parent for educational decisionmaking if one

1050 has been appointed for the child, and any other person deemed

1051 appropriate; and any relevant and material evidence submitted to
1052 the court, including written and oral reports to the extent of
1053 their probative value. These reports and evidence may be
1054 received by the court in its effort to determine the action to
1055 be taken with regard to the child and may be relied upon to the
1056 extent of their probative value, even though not competent in an
1057 adjudicatory hearing. In its deliberations, the court and any
1058 citizen review panel shall seek to determine:

1059 1. If the parent was advised of the right to receive
1060 assistance from any person or social service agency in the
1061 preparation of the case plan.

1062 2. If the parent has been advised of the right to have
1063 counsel present at the judicial review or citizen review
1064 hearings. If not so advised, the court or citizen review panel
1065 shall advise the parent of such right.

1066 3. If a guardian ad litem needs to be appointed for the
1067 child in a case in which a guardian ad litem has not previously
1068 been appointed ~~or if there is a need to continue a guardian ad~~
1069 ~~litem in a case in which a guardian ad litem has been appointed.~~

1070 4. Who holds the rights to make educational decisions for
1071 the child. If appropriate, the court may refer the child to the
1072 district school superintendent for appointment of a surrogate
1073 parent or may itself appoint a surrogate parent under the
1074 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and s. 39.0016.

1075 5. The compliance or lack of compliance of all parties

1076 with applicable items of the case plan, including the parents'
 1077 compliance with child support orders.

1078 6. The compliance or lack of compliance with a visitation
 1079 contract between the parent and the social service agency for
 1080 contact with the child, including the frequency, duration, and
 1081 results of the parent-child visitation and the reason for any
 1082 noncompliance.

1083 7. The frequency, kind, and duration of contacts among
 1084 siblings who have been separated during placement, as well as
 1085 any efforts undertaken to reunite separated siblings if doing so
 1086 is in the best interests of the child.

1087 8. The compliance or lack of compliance of the parent in
 1088 meeting specified financial obligations pertaining to the care
 1089 of the child, including the reason for failure to comply, if
 1090 applicable.

1091 9. Whether the child is receiving safe and proper care
 1092 according to s. 39.6012, including, but not limited to, the
 1093 appropriateness of the child's current placement, including
 1094 whether the child is in a setting that is as family-like and as
 1095 close to the parent's home as possible, consistent with the
 1096 child's best interests and special needs, and including
 1097 maintaining stability in the child's educational placement, as
 1098 documented by assurances from the community-based care lead
 1099 agency that:

1100 a. The placement of the child takes into account the

1101 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the
 1102 proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the
 1103 time of placement.

1104 b. The community-based care lead agency has coordinated
 1105 with appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the
 1106 child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at
 1107 the time of placement.

1108 10. A projected date likely for the child's return home or
 1109 other permanent placement.

1110 11. When appropriate, the basis for the unwillingness or
 1111 inability of the parent to become a party to a case plan. The
 1112 court and the citizen review panel shall determine if the
 1113 efforts of the social service agency to secure party
 1114 participation in a case plan were sufficient.

1115 12. For a child who has reached 13 years of age but is not
 1116 yet 18 years of age, the adequacy of the child's preparation for
 1117 adulthood and independent living. For a child who is 15 years of
 1118 age or older, the court shall determine if appropriate steps are
 1119 being taken for the child to obtain a driver license or
 1120 learner's driver license.

1121 13. If amendments to the case plan are required.
 1122 Amendments to the case plan must be made under s. 39.6013.

1123 14. If the parents and caregivers have developed a
 1124 productive relationship that includes meaningful communication
 1125 and mutual support.

1126 (3) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN 16 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE.—
1127 At each review hearing held under this subsection, the court
1128 shall give the child and the guardian ad litem the opportunity
1129 to address the court and provide any information relevant to the
1130 child's best interest, particularly in relation to independent
1131 living transition services. The foster parent or, legal
1132 custodian, ~~or guardian ad litem~~ may also provide any information
1133 relevant to the child's best interest to the court. In addition
1134 to the review and report required under paragraphs (1)(a) and
1135 (2)(a), respectively, and the review and report required under
1136 s. 39.822(2)(a)2., the court shall:

1137 (a) Inquire about the life skills the child has acquired
1138 and whether those services are age appropriate, at the first
1139 judicial review hearing held subsequent to the child's 16th
1140 birthday. At the judicial review hearing, the department shall
1141 provide the court with a report that includes specific
1142 information related to the life skills that the child has
1143 acquired since the child's 13th birthday or since the date the
1144 child came into foster care, whichever came later. For any child
1145 who may meet the requirements for appointment of a guardian
1146 advocate under s. 393.12 or a guardian under chapter 744, the
1147 updated case plan must be developed in a face-to-face conference
1148 with the child, if appropriate; the child's attorney ad litem,
1149 if one is appointed; the child's ~~any court-appointed~~ guardian ad
1150 litem; the temporary custodian of the child; and the parent of

1151 the child, if the parent's rights have not been terminated.

1152 (b) The court shall hold a judicial review hearing within
 1153 90 days after a child's 17th birthday. The court shall issue an
 1154 order, separate from the order on judicial review, that the
 1155 disability of nonage of the child has been removed under ss.
 1156 743.044-743.047 for any disability that the court finds is in
 1157 the child's best interest to remove. The department shall
 1158 include in the social study report for the first judicial review
 1159 that occurs after the child's 17th birthday written verification
 1160 that the child has:

1161 1. A current Medicaid card and all necessary information
 1162 concerning the Medicaid program sufficient to prepare the child
 1163 to apply for coverage upon reaching the age of 18, if such
 1164 application is appropriate.

1165 2. A certified copy of the child's birth certificate and,
 1166 if the child does not have a valid driver license, a Florida
 1167 identification card issued under s. 322.051.

1168 3. A social security card and information relating to
 1169 social security insurance benefits if the child is eligible for
 1170 those benefits. If the child has received such benefits and they
 1171 are being held in trust for the child, a full accounting of
 1172 these funds must be provided and the child must be informed as
 1173 to how to access those funds.

1174 4. All relevant information related to the Road-to-
 1175 Independence Program under s. 409.1451, including, but not

1176 | limited to, eligibility requirements, information on
 1177 | participation, and assistance in gaining admission to the
 1178 | program. If the child is eligible for the Road-to-Independence
 1179 | Program, he or she must be advised that he or she may continue
 1180 | to reside with the licensed family home or group care provider
 1181 | with whom the child was residing at the time the child attained
 1182 | his or her 18th birthday, in another licensed family home, or
 1183 | with a group care provider arranged by the department.

1184 | 5. An open bank account or the identification necessary to
 1185 | open a bank account and to acquire essential banking and
 1186 | budgeting skills.

1187 | 6. Information on public assistance and how to apply for
 1188 | public assistance.

1189 | 7. A clear understanding of where he or she will be living
 1190 | on his or her 18th birthday, how living expenses will be paid,
 1191 | and the educational program or school in which he or she will be
 1192 | enrolled.

1193 | 8. Information related to the ability of the child to
 1194 | remain in care until he or she reaches 21 years of age under s.
 1195 | 39.013.

1196 | 9. A letter providing the dates that the child is under
 1197 | the jurisdiction of the court.

1198 | 10. A letter stating that the child is in compliance with
 1199 | financial aid documentation requirements.

1200 | 11. The child's educational records.

1201 12. The child's entire health and mental health records.

1202 13. The process for accessing the child's case file.

1203 14. A statement encouraging the child to attend all
 1204 judicial review hearings.

1205 15. Information on how to obtain a driver license or
 1206 learner's driver license.

1207 (c) At the first judicial review hearing held subsequent
 1208 to the child's 17th birthday, if the court determines pursuant
 1209 to chapter 744 that there is a good faith basis to believe that
 1210 the child qualifies for appointment of a guardian advocate,
 1211 limited guardian, or plenary guardian for the child and that no
 1212 less restrictive decisionmaking assistance will meet the child's
 1213 needs:

1214 1. The department shall complete a multidisciplinary
 1215 report which must include, but is not limited to, a psychosocial
 1216 evaluation and educational report if such a report has not been
 1217 completed within the previous 2 years.

1218 2. The department shall identify one or more individuals
 1219 who are willing to serve as the guardian advocate under s.
 1220 393.12 or as the plenary or limited guardian under chapter 744.
 1221 Any other interested parties or participants may make efforts to
 1222 identify such a guardian advocate, limited guardian, or plenary
 1223 guardian. The child's biological or adoptive family members,
 1224 including the child's parents if the parents' rights have not
 1225 been terminated, may not be considered for service as the

1226 plenary or limited guardian unless the court enters a written
1227 order finding that such an appointment is in the child's best
1228 interests.

1229 3. Proceedings may be initiated within 180 days after the
1230 child's 17th birthday for the appointment of a guardian
1231 advocate, plenary guardian, or limited guardian for the child in
1232 a separate proceeding in the court division with jurisdiction
1233 over guardianship matters and pursuant to chapter 744. The
1234 Legislature encourages the use of pro bono representation to
1235 initiate proceedings under this section.

1236 4. In the event another interested party or participant
1237 initiates proceedings for the appointment of a guardian
1238 advocate, plenary guardian, or limited guardian for the child,
1239 the department shall provide all necessary documentation and
1240 information to the petitioner to complete a petition under s.
1241 393.12 or chapter 744 within 45 days after the first judicial
1242 review hearing after the child's 17th birthday.

1243 5. Any proceedings seeking appointment of a guardian
1244 advocate or a determination of incapacity and the appointment of
1245 a guardian must be conducted in a separate proceeding in the
1246 court division with jurisdiction over guardianship matters and
1247 pursuant to chapter 744.

1248 (d) If the court finds at the judicial review hearing
1249 after the child's 17th birthday that the department has not met
1250 its obligations to the child as stated in this part, in the

1251 written case plan, or in the provision of independent living
1252 services, the court may issue an order directing the department
1253 to show cause as to why it has not done so. If the department
1254 cannot justify its noncompliance, the court may give the
1255 department 30 days within which to comply. If the department
1256 fails to comply within 30 days, the court may hold the
1257 department in contempt.

1258 (e) If necessary, the court may review the status of the
1259 child more frequently during the year before the child's 18th
1260 birthday. At the last review hearing before the child reaches 18
1261 years of age, and in addition to the requirements of subsection
1262 (2), the court shall:

1263 1. Address whether the child plans to remain in foster
1264 care, and, if so, ensure that the child's transition plan
1265 includes a plan for meeting one or more of the criteria
1266 specified in s. 39.6251 and determine if the child has entered
1267 into a formal agreement for an ongoing relationship with a
1268 supportive adult.

1269 2. Ensure that the transition plan includes a supervised
1270 living arrangement under s. 39.6251.

1271 3. Ensure the child has been informed of:

1272 a. The right to continued support and services from the
1273 department and the community-based care lead agency.

1274 b. The right to request termination of dependency
1275 jurisdiction and be discharged from foster care.

1276 c. The opportunity to reenter foster care under s.
 1277 39.6251.

1278 4. Ensure that the child, if he or she requests
 1279 termination of dependency jurisdiction and discharge from foster
 1280 care, has been informed of:

1281 a. Services or benefits for which the child may be
 1282 eligible based on his or her former placement in foster care,
 1283 including, but not limited to, the assistance of the Office of
 1284 Continuing Care under s. 414.56.

1285 b. Services or benefits that may be lost through
 1286 termination of dependency jurisdiction.

1287 c. Other federal, state, local, or community-based
 1288 services or supports available to him or her.

1289 (4) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE.—
 1290 During each period of time that a young adult remains in foster
 1291 care, the court shall review the status of the young adult at
 1292 least every 6 months and must hold a permanency review hearing
 1293 at least annually.

1294 (e)1. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection,
 1295 if a young adult has chosen to remain in extended foster care
 1296 after he or she has reached 18 years of age, the department may
 1297 not close a case and the court may not terminate jurisdiction
 1298 until the court finds, following a hearing, that the following
 1299 criteria have been met:

1300 ~~a.1.~~ Attendance of the young adult at the hearing; or

1301 ~~b.2.~~ Findings by the court that:

1302 ~~(I)a.~~ The young adult has been informed by the department

1303 of his or her right to attend the hearing and has provided

1304 written consent to waive this right; and

1305 ~~(II)b.~~ The young adult has been informed of the potential

1306 negative effects of early termination of care, the option to

1307 reenter care before reaching 21 years of age, the procedure for,

1308 and limitations on, reentering care, and the availability of

1309 alternative services, and has signed a document attesting that

1310 he or she has been so informed and understands these provisions;

1311 or

1312 ~~(III)e.~~ The young adult has voluntarily left the program,

1313 has not signed the document in sub-subparagraph b., and is

1314 unwilling to participate in any further court proceeding.

1315 ~~2.3.~~ In all permanency hearings or hearings regarding the

1316 transition of the young adult from care to independent living,

1317 the court shall consult with the young adult regarding the

1318 proposed permanency plan, case plan, and individual education

1319 plan for the young adult and ensure that he or she has

1320 understood the conversation. The court shall also inquire of the

1321 young adult regarding his or her relationship with the

1322 supportive adult with whom the young adult has entered into a

1323 formal agreement for an ongoing relationship, if such agreement

1324 exists.

1325 Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section

1326 39.801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1327 39.801 Procedures and jurisdiction; notice; service of
 1328 process.—

1329 (3) Before the court may terminate parental rights, in
 1330 addition to the other requirements set forth in this part, the
 1331 following requirements must be met:

1332 (a) Notice of the date, time, and place of the advisory
 1333 hearing for the petition to terminate parental rights and a copy
 1334 of the petition must be personally served upon the following
 1335 persons, specifically notifying them that a petition has been
 1336 filed:

- 1337 1. The parents of the child.
- 1338 2. The legal custodians of the child.
- 1339 3. If the parents who would be entitled to notice are dead
 1340 or unknown, a living relative of the child, unless upon diligent
 1341 search and inquiry no such relative can be found.
- 1342 4. Any person who has physical custody of the child.
- 1343 5. Any grandparent entitled to priority for adoption under
 1344 s. 63.0425.
- 1345 6. Any prospective parent who has been identified under s.
 1346 39.503 or s. 39.803, unless a court order has been entered
 1347 pursuant to s. 39.503(4) or (9) or s. 39.803(4) or (9) which
 1348 indicates no further notice is required. Except as otherwise
 1349 provided in this section, if there is not a legal father, notice
 1350 of the petition for termination of parental rights must be

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1351 provided to any known prospective father who is identified under
1352 oath before the court or who is identified by a diligent search
1353 of the Florida Putative Father Registry. Service of the notice
1354 of the petition for termination of parental rights is not
1355 required if the prospective father executes an affidavit of
1356 nonpaternity or a consent to termination of his parental rights
1357 which is accepted by the court after notice and opportunity to
1358 be heard by all parties to address the best interests of the
1359 child in accepting such affidavit.

1360 7. The guardian ad litem for the child ~~or the~~
1361 ~~representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the program~~
1362 ~~has been appointed.~~

1363
1364 The document containing the notice to respond or appear must
1365 contain, in type at least as large as the type in the balance of
1366 the document, the following or substantially similar language:
1367 "FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING
1368 CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF
1369 THIS CHILD (OR CHILDREN). IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND
1370 TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE
1371 CHILD OR CHILDREN NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS
1372 NOTICE."

1373 Section 25. Subsection (2) of section 39.807, Florida
1374 Statutes, is amended to read:

1375 39.807 Right to counsel; guardian ad litem.—

1376 (2) (a) The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to
 1377 represent the ~~best interest of the~~ child in any termination of
 1378 parental rights proceedings and shall ascertain at each stage of
 1379 the proceedings whether a guardian ad litem has been appointed.

1380 (b) The guardian ad litem has the ~~following~~
 1381 responsibilities and authorities listed in s. 39.822.÷

1382 ~~1. To investigate the allegations of the petition and any~~
 1383 ~~subsequent matters arising in the case and,~~

1384 (c) Unless excused by the court, the guardian ad litem
 1385 must ~~to~~ file a written report. This report must include a
 1386 statement of the wishes of the child and the recommendations of
 1387 the guardian ad litem and must be provided to all parties and
 1388 the court at least 72 hours before the disposition hearing.

1389 ~~2. To be present at all court hearings unless excused by~~
 1390 ~~the court.~~

1391 ~~3. To represent the best interests of the child until the~~
 1392 ~~jurisdiction of the court over the child terminates or until~~
 1393 ~~excused by the court.~~

1394 ~~(c) A guardian ad litem is not required to post bond but~~
 1395 ~~shall file an acceptance of the office.~~

1396 ~~(d) A guardian ad litem is entitled to receive service of~~
 1397 ~~pleadings and papers as provided by the Florida Rules of~~
 1398 ~~Juvenile Procedure.~~

1399 (d)(e) This subsection does not apply to any voluntary
 1400 relinquishment of parental rights proceeding.

1401 Section 26. Subsection (2) of section 39.808, Florida
 1402 Statutes, is amended to read:

1403 39.808 Advisory hearing; pretrial status conference.—

1404 (2) At the hearing the court shall inform the parties of
 1405 their rights under s. 39.807, ~~shall~~ appoint counsel for the
 1406 parties in accordance with legal requirements, and ~~shall~~ appoint
 1407 a guardian ad litem to represent the ~~interests of the~~ child if
 1408 one has not already been appointed.

1409 Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 39.815, Florida
 1410 Statutes, is amended to read:

1411 39.815 Appeal.—

1412 (2) An attorney for the department shall represent the
 1413 state upon appeal. When a notice of appeal is filed in the
 1414 circuit court, the clerk shall notify the attorney for the
 1415 department, ~~together with~~ the attorney for the parent, the
 1416 guardian ad litem, and the any attorney ad litem for the child,
 1417 if one is appointed.

1418 Section 28. Section 39.820, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

1419 Section 29. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 39.821,
 1420 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1421 39.821 Qualifications of guardians ad litem.—

1422 (1) Because of the special trust or responsibility placed
 1423 in a guardian ad litem, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
 1424 ~~Program~~ may use any private funds collected by the office
 1425 ~~program~~, or any state funds so designated, to conduct a security

1426 background investigation before certifying a volunteer to serve.
1427 A security background investigation must include, but need not
1428 be limited to, employment history checks, checks of references,
1429 local criminal history records checks through local law
1430 enforcement agencies, and statewide criminal history records
1431 checks through the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon request,
1432 an employer shall furnish a copy of the personnel record for the
1433 employee or former employee who is the subject of a security
1434 background investigation conducted under this section. The
1435 information contained in the personnel record may include, but
1436 need not be limited to, disciplinary matters and the reason why
1437 the employee was terminated from employment. An employer who
1438 releases a personnel record for purposes of a security
1439 background investigation is presumed to have acted in good faith
1440 and is not liable for information contained in the record
1441 without a showing that the employer maliciously falsified the
1442 record. A security background investigation conducted under this
1443 section must ensure that a person is not certified as a guardian
1444 ad litem if the person has an arrest awaiting final disposition
1445 for, been convicted of, regardless of adjudication, entered a
1446 plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or been adjudicated
1447 delinquent and the record has not been sealed or expunged for,
1448 any offense prohibited under the provisions listed in s. 435.04.
1449 All applicants must undergo a level 2 background screening
1450 pursuant to chapter 435 before being certified to serve as a

1451 guardian ad litem. In analyzing and evaluating the information
 1452 obtained in the security background investigation, the office
 1453 ~~program~~ must give particular emphasis to past activities
 1454 involving children, including, but not limited to, child-related
 1455 criminal offenses or child abuse. The office ~~program~~ has sole
 1456 discretion in determining whether to certify a person based on
 1457 his or her security background investigation. The information
 1458 collected pursuant to the security background investigation is
 1459 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).

1460 (3) It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
 1461 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any person to
 1462 willfully, knowingly, or intentionally fail, by false statement,
 1463 misrepresentation, impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to
 1464 disclose in any application for a volunteer position or for paid
 1465 employment with the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office ~~Program~~,
 1466 any material fact used in making a determination as to the
 1467 applicant's qualifications for such position.

1468 Section 30. Section 39.822, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1469 to read:

1470 39.822 Appointment of guardian ad litem for abused,
 1471 abandoned, or neglected child.—

1472 (1) A guardian ad litem shall be appointed by the court at
 1473 the earliest possible time to represent the child in any child
 1474 abuse, abandonment, or neglect judicial proceeding, whether
 1475 civil or criminal. A guardian ad litem is a fiduciary and must

1476 provide independent representation of the child using a best
1477 interest standard of decisionmaking and advocacy.

1478 (2) (a) A guardian ad litem must:

1479 1. Be present at all court hearings unless excused by the
1480 court.

1481 2. Investigate issues related to the best interest of the
1482 child who is the subject of the appointment, review all
1483 disposition recommendations and changes in placement, and,
1484 unless excused by the court, file written reports and
1485 recommendations in accordance with general law.

1486 3. Represent the child until the court's jurisdiction over
1487 the child terminates or until excused by the court.

1488 4. Advocate for the child's participation in the
1489 proceedings and to report the child's preferences to the court,
1490 to the extent the child has the ability and desire to express
1491 his or her preferences.

1492 5. Perform such other duties that are consistent with the
1493 scope of the appointment.

1494 (b) A guardian ad litem shall have immediate and unlimited
1495 access to the children he or she represents.

1496 (c) A guardian ad litem is not required to post bond but
1497 must file an acceptance of the appointment.

1498 (d) A guardian ad litem is entitled to receive service of
1499 pleadings and papers as provided by the Florida Rules of
1500 Juvenile Procedure.

1501 (3) Any person participating in a civil or criminal
 1502 judicial proceeding resulting from such appointment shall be
 1503 presumed prima facie to be acting in good faith and in so doing
 1504 shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that
 1505 otherwise might be incurred or imposed.

1506 (4)~~(2)~~ In those cases in which the parents are financially
 1507 able, the parent or parents of the child shall reimburse the
 1508 court, in part or in whole, for the cost of provision of
 1509 guardian ad litem representation ~~services~~. Reimbursement to the
 1510 individual providing guardian ad litem services shall not be
 1511 contingent upon successful collection by the court from the
 1512 parent or parents.

1513 (5)~~(3)~~ Upon presentation by a guardian ad litem of a court
 1514 order appointing the guardian ad litem:

1515 (a) An agency, as defined in chapter 119, shall allow the
 1516 guardian ad litem to inspect and copy records related to the
 1517 best interests of the child who is the subject of the
 1518 appointment, including, but not limited to, records made
 1519 confidential or exempt from s. 119.07(1) or s. 24(a), Art. I of
 1520 the State Constitution. The guardian ad litem shall maintain the
 1521 confidential or exempt status of any records shared by an agency
 1522 under this paragraph.

1523 (b) A person or organization, other than an agency under
 1524 paragraph (a), shall allow the guardian ad litem to inspect and
 1525 copy any records related to the best interests of the child who

1526 is the subject of the appointment, including, but not limited
 1527 to, confidential records.

1528
 1529 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "records related
 1530 to the best interests of the child" includes, but is not limited
 1531 to, medical, mental health, substance abuse, child care,
 1532 education, law enforcement, court, social services, and
 1533 financial records.

1534 ~~(4) The guardian ad litem or the program representative~~
 1535 ~~shall review all disposition recommendations and changes in~~
 1536 ~~placements, and must be present at all critical stages of the~~
 1537 ~~dependency proceeding or submit a written report of~~
 1538 ~~recommendations to the court. Written reports must be filed with~~
 1539 ~~the court and served on all parties whose whereabouts are known~~
 1540 ~~at least 72 hours prior to the hearing.~~

1541 Section 31. Subsection (4) of section 39.827, Florida
 1542 Statutes, is amended to read:

1543 39.827 Hearing for appointment of a guardian advocate.—

1544 (4) The hearing under this section must ~~shall~~ remain
 1545 confidential and closed to the public. The clerk shall keep all
 1546 court records required by this part separate from other records
 1547 of the circuit court. All court records required by this part
 1548 are ~~shall be~~ confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of s.~~
 1549 119.07(1). All records may only ~~shall~~ be inspected ~~only~~ upon
 1550 order of the court by persons deemed by the court to have a

1551 proper interest therein, except that a child and the parents or
 1552 custodians of the child and their attorneys, the guardian ad
 1553 litem, ~~and~~ the department and its designees, and the attorney ad
 1554 litem, if one is appointed, ~~shall~~ always have the right to
 1555 inspect and copy any official record pertaining to the child.
 1556 The court may permit authorized representatives of recognized
 1557 organizations compiling statistics for proper purposes to
 1558 inspect and make abstracts from official records, under whatever
 1559 conditions upon their use and disposition the court may deem
 1560 proper, and may punish by contempt proceedings any violation of
 1561 those conditions. All information obtained pursuant to this part
 1562 in the discharge of official duty by any judge, employee of the
 1563 court, or authorized agent of the department is ~~shall be~~
 1564 confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and
 1565 may ~~shall~~ not be disclosed to anyone other than the authorized
 1566 personnel of the court or the department and its designees,
 1567 except upon order of the court.

1568 Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 39.8296, Florida
 1569 Statutes, is amended to read:

1570 39.8296 Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office; legislative
 1571 findings and intent; creation; appointment of executive
 1572 director; duties of office.—

1573 (2) STATEWIDE GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE.—There is created a
 1574 Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office within the Justice
 1575 Administrative Commission. The Justice Administrative Commission

1576 shall provide administrative support and service to the office
1577 to the extent requested by the executive director within the
1578 available resources of the commission. The Statewide Guardian ad
1579 Litem Office is not subject to control, supervision, or
1580 direction by the Justice Administrative Commission in the
1581 performance of its duties, but the employees of the office are
1582 governed by the classification plan and salary and benefits plan
1583 approved by the Justice Administrative Commission.

1584 (a) The head of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office is
1585 the executive director, who shall be appointed by the Governor
1586 from a list of a minimum of three eligible applicants submitted
1587 by a Guardian ad Litem Qualifications Committee. The Guardian ad
1588 Litem Qualifications Committee shall be composed of five
1589 persons, two persons appointed by the Governor, two persons
1590 appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and one
1591 person appointed by the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
1592 ~~Association~~. The committee shall provide for statewide
1593 advertisement and the receiving of applications for the position
1594 of executive director. The Governor shall appoint an executive
1595 director from among the recommendations, or the Governor may
1596 reject the nominations and request the submission of new
1597 nominees. The executive director must have knowledge in
1598 dependency law and knowledge of social service delivery systems
1599 available to meet the needs of children who are abused,
1600 neglected, or abandoned. The executive director shall serve on a

1601 full-time basis and shall personally, or through representatives
 1602 of the office, carry out the purposes and functions of the
 1603 Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office in accordance with state and
 1604 federal law and the state's long-established policy of
 1605 prioritizing children's best interests. The executive director
 1606 shall report to the Governor. The executive director shall serve
 1607 a 3-year term, subject to removal for cause by the Governor. Any
 1608 person appointed to serve as the executive director may be
 1609 permitted to serve more than one term without the necessity of
 1610 convening the Guardian ad Litem Qualifications Committee.

1611 (b) The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office shall, within
 1612 available resources, have oversight responsibilities for and
 1613 provide technical assistance to all guardian ad litem and
 1614 attorney ad litem programs located within the judicial circuits.

1615 1. The office shall identify the resources required to
 1616 implement methods of collecting, reporting, and tracking
 1617 reliable and consistent case data.

1618 2. The office shall review the current guardian ad litem
 1619 offices ~~programs~~ in Florida and other states.

1620 3. The office, in consultation with local guardian ad
 1621 litem offices, shall develop statewide performance measures and
 1622 standards.

1623 4. The office shall develop and maintain a guardian ad
 1624 litem training program, which must be updated regularly, ~~which~~
 1625 ~~shall include, but is not limited to, training on the~~

1626 ~~recognition of and responses to head trauma and brain injury in~~
1627 ~~a child under 6 years of age. The office shall establish a~~
1628 ~~curriculum committee to develop the training program specified~~
1629 ~~in this subparagraph. The curriculum committee shall include,~~
1630 ~~but not be limited to, dependency judges, directors of circuit~~
1631 ~~guardian ad litem programs, active certified guardians ad litem,~~
1632 ~~a mental health professional who specializes in the treatment of~~
1633 ~~children, a member of a child advocacy group, a representative~~
1634 ~~of a domestic violence advocacy group, an individual with a~~
1635 ~~degree in social work, and a social worker experienced in~~
1636 ~~working with victims and perpetrators of child abuse.~~

1637 5. The office shall review the various methods of funding
1638 guardian ad litem offices ~~programs~~, maximize the use of those
1639 funding sources to the extent possible, and review the kinds of
1640 services being provided by circuit guardian ad litem offices
1641 ~~programs~~.

1642 6. The office shall determine the feasibility or
1643 desirability of new concepts of organization, administration,
1644 financing, or service delivery designed to preserve the civil
1645 and constitutional rights and fulfill other needs of dependent
1646 children.

1647 7. The office shall ensure that each child has an attorney
1648 assigned to his or her case and, within available resources, is
1649 represented using multidisciplinary teams that may include
1650 volunteers, pro bono attorneys, social workers, and mentors.

1651 8. The office shall provide oversight and technical
1652 assistance to attorneys ad litem, including, but not limited to,
1653 all of the following:

1654 a. Develop an attorney ad litem training program in
1655 collaboration with dependency court stakeholders, including, but
1656 not limited to, dependency judges, representatives from legal
1657 aid providing attorney ad litem representation, and an attorney
1658 ad litem appointed from a registry maintained by the chief
1659 judge. The training program must be updated regularly with or
1660 without convening the stakeholders group.

1661 b. Offer consultation and technical assistance to chief
1662 judges in maintaining attorney registries for the selection of
1663 attorneys ad litem.

1664 c. Assist with recruitment, training, and mentoring of
1665 attorneys ad litem as needed.

1666 9.7. In an effort to promote normalcy and establish trust
1667 between a ~~court-appointed volunteer~~ guardian ad litem and a
1668 child alleged to be abused, abandoned, or neglected under this
1669 chapter, a guardian ad litem may transport a child. However, a
1670 guardian ad litem ~~volunteer~~ may not be required by a guardian ad
1671 litem circuit office or ordered by ~~or directed by the program or~~
1672 a court to transport a child.

1673 10.8. The office shall submit to the Governor, the
1674 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
1675 Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court an

1676 interim report describing the progress of the office in meeting
 1677 the goals as described in this section. The office shall submit
 1678 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
 1679 House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme
 1680 Court a proposed plan including alternatives for meeting the
 1681 state's guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem needs. This plan
 1682 may include recommendations for less than the entire state, may
 1683 include a phase-in system, and shall include estimates of the
 1684 cost of each of the alternatives. Each year the office shall
 1685 provide a status report and provide further recommendations to
 1686 address the need for guardian ad litem services and related
 1687 issues.

1688 Section 33. Section 39.8297, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1689 to read:

1690 39.8297 County funding for guardian ad litem employees.—

1691 (1) A county and the executive director of the Statewide
 1692 Guardian ad Litem Office may enter into an agreement by which
 1693 the county agrees to provide funds to the local guardian ad
 1694 litem office in order to employ persons who will assist in the
 1695 operation of the guardian ad litem office ~~program~~ in the county.

1696 (2) The agreement, at a minimum, must provide that:

1697 (a) Funding for the persons who are employed will be
 1698 provided on at least a fiscal-year basis.

1699 (b) The persons who are employed will be hired,
 1700 supervised, managed, and terminated by the executive director of

1701 the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office. The statewide office is
 1702 responsible for compliance with all requirements of federal and
 1703 state employment laws, and shall fully indemnify the county from
 1704 any liability under such laws, as authorized by s. 768.28(19),
 1705 to the extent such liability is the result of the acts or
 1706 omissions of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office or its
 1707 agents or employees.

1708 (c) The county is the employer for purposes of s. 440.10
 1709 and chapter 443.

1710 (d) Employees funded by the county under this section and
 1711 other county employees may be aggregated for purposes of a
 1712 flexible benefits plan pursuant to s. 125 of the Internal
 1713 Revenue Code of 1986.

1714 (e) Persons employed under this section may be terminated
 1715 after a substantial breach of the agreement or because funding
 1716 to the guardian ad litem office ~~program~~ has expired.

1717 (3) Persons employed under this section may not be counted
 1718 in a formula or similar process used by the Statewide Guardian
 1719 ad Litem Office to measure personnel needs of a judicial
 1720 circuit's guardian ad litem office ~~program~~.

1721 (4) Agreements created pursuant to this section do not
 1722 obligate the state to allocate funds to a county to employ
 1723 persons in the guardian ad litem office ~~program~~.

1724 Section 34. Section 39.8298, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1725 to read:

1726 39.8298 Guardian ad Litem state direct-support
 1727 organization and local direct-support organizations.-

1728 (1) AUTHORITY.-The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
 1729 created under s. 39.8296 is authorized to create a state direct-
 1730 support organization and to create or designate local direct-
 1731 support organizations. The executive director of the Statewide
 1732 Guardian ad Litem Office is responsible for designating local
 1733 direct-support organizations under this subsection.

1734 (a) The state direct-support organization and the local
 1735 direct-support organizations must be a Florida corporations
 1736 ~~corporation~~ not for profit, incorporated under ~~the provisions of~~
 1737 chapter 617. The state direct-support organization and the local
 1738 direct-support organizations ~~shall be~~ exempt from paying
 1739 fees under s. 617.0122.

1740 (b) The state direct-support organization and each local
 1741 direct-support organization must ~~shall~~ be organized and operated
 1742 to conduct programs and activities; raise funds; request and
 1743 receive grants, gifts, and bequests of moneys; acquire, receive,
 1744 hold, invest, and administer, in its own name, securities,
 1745 funds, objects of value, or other property, real or personal;
 1746 and make expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit
 1747 of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office, including the local
 1748 guardian ad litem offices.

1749 (c) If the executive director of the Statewide Guardian ad
 1750 Litem Office determines that the state direct-support

1751 organization or a local direct-support organization is operating
1752 in a manner that is inconsistent with the goals and purposes of
1753 the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office or not acting in the best
1754 interest of the state, the executive director may terminate the
1755 organization's contract and thereafter the organization may not
1756 use the name of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.

1757 (2) CONTRACTS ~~CONTRACT~~.—The state direct-support
1758 organization and the local direct-support organizations shall
1759 operate under a written contract with the Statewide Guardian Ad
1760 Litem Office. The written contract must, at a minimum, provide
1761 for:

1762 (a) Approval of the articles of incorporation and bylaws
1763 of the direct-support organization by the executive director of
1764 the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.

1765 (b) Submission of an annual budget for the approval by the
1766 executive director of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.

1767 (c) The reversion without penalty to the Statewide
1768 Guardian ad Litem Office, or to the state if the Statewide
1769 Guardian ad Litem Office ceases to exist, of all moneys and
1770 property held in trust by the state direct-support organization
1771 for the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office if the direct-support
1772 organization ceases to exist or if the contract is terminated.

1773 (d) The fiscal year of the state direct-support
1774 organization and the local direct-support organizations, which
1775 must begin July 1 of each year and end June 30 of the following

1776 year.

1777 (e) The disclosure of material provisions of the contract
1778 and the distinction between the Statewide Guardian ad Litem
1779 Office and the state direct-support organization or the local
1780 direct-support organization to donors of gifts, contributions,
1781 or bequests, as well as on all promotional and fundraising
1782 publications.

1783 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The executive director of the
1784 Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office shall appoint a board of
1785 directors for the state direct-support organization. The
1786 executive director may designate employees of the Statewide
1787 Guardian ad Litem Office to serve on the board of directors of
1788 the state direct-support organization or a local direct-support
1789 organization. Members of the board of the state direct-support
1790 organization or a local direct-support organization shall serve
1791 at the pleasure of the executive director.

1792 (4) USE OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES.—The executive director
1793 of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office:

1794 (a) May authorize the use of facilities and property other
1795 than money that are owned by the Statewide Guardian ad Litem
1796 Office to be used by the state direct-support organization or a
1797 local direct-support organization.

1798 (b) May authorize the use of personal services provided by
1799 employees of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office to be used
1800 by the state direct-support organization or a local direct-

1801 support organization. For the purposes of this section, the term
 1802 "personal services" includes full-time personnel and part-time
 1803 personnel as well as payroll processing.

1804 (c) May prescribe the conditions by which the state
 1805 direct-support organization or a local direct-support
 1806 organization may use property, facilities, or personal services
 1807 of the office or the state direct-support organization.

1808 (d) May ~~shall~~ not authorize the use of property,
 1809 facilities, or personal services by the state ~~of the~~ direct-
 1810 support organization or a local direct-support organization if
 1811 the organization does not provide equal employment opportunities
 1812 to all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age,
 1813 or national origin.

1814 (5) MONEYS.—Moneys of the state direct-support
 1815 organization or a local direct-support organization must ~~may~~ be
 1816 held in a separate depository account in the name of the direct-
 1817 support organization and subject to the provisions of the
 1818 contract with the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.

1819 (6) ANNUAL AUDIT.—The state direct-support organization
 1820 and a local direct-support organization must ~~shall~~ provide for
 1821 an annual financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981.

1822 (7) LIMITS ON DIRECT-SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS ~~ORGANIZATION~~.—
 1823 The state direct-support organization and a local direct-support
 1824 organization may ~~shall~~ not exercise any power under s.
 1825 617.0302(12) or (16). A ~~No~~ state employee may not ~~shall~~ receive

1826 compensation from the state direct-support organization or a
1827 local direct-support organization for service on the board of
1828 directors or for services rendered to the direct-support
1829 organization.

1830 Section 35. Section 1009.898, Florida Statutes, is created
1831 to read:

1832 1009.898 Pathway to Prosperity grants.—

1833 (1) The Pathway to Prosperity program shall administer the
1834 following grants to youth and young adults aging out of foster
1835 care:

1836 (a) Grants to provide financial literacy instruction using
1837 a curriculum developed by the Department of Financial Services.

1838 (b) Grants to provide SAT and ACT preparation, including
1839 one-on-one support and fee waivers for the examinations.

1840 (c) Grants to youth and young adults planning to pursue
1841 trade careers or paid apprenticeships.

1842 (2) If a youth who is aging out of foster care is reunited
1843 with his or her parents, the grants remain available for the
1844 youth for up to 6 months after reunification.

1845 Section 36. Subsection (1) of section 39.302, Florida
1846 Statutes, is amended to read:

1847 39.302 Protective investigations of institutional child
1848 abuse, abandonment, or neglect.—

1849 (1) The department shall conduct a child protective
1850 investigation of each report of institutional child abuse,

1851 abandonment, or neglect. Upon receipt of a report that alleges
 1852 that an employee or agent of the department, or any other entity
 1853 or person covered by s. 39.01(39) or (57) ~~s. 39.01(36) or (54)~~,
 1854 acting in an official capacity, has committed an act of child
 1855 abuse, abandonment, or neglect, the department shall initiate a
 1856 child protective investigation within the timeframe established
 1857 under s. 39.101(2) and notify the appropriate state attorney,
 1858 law enforcement agency, and licensing agency, which shall
 1859 immediately conduct a joint investigation, unless independent
 1860 investigations are more feasible. When conducting investigations
 1861 or having face-to-face interviews with the child, investigation
 1862 visits shall be unannounced unless it is determined by the
 1863 department or its agent that unannounced visits threaten the
 1864 safety of the child. If a facility is exempt from licensing, the
 1865 department shall inform the owner or operator of the facility of
 1866 the report. Each agency conducting a joint investigation is
 1867 entitled to full access to the information gathered by the
 1868 department in the course of the investigation. A protective
 1869 investigation must include an interview with the child's parent
 1870 or legal guardian. The department shall make a full written
 1871 report to the state attorney within 3 business days after making
 1872 the oral report. A criminal investigation shall be coordinated,
 1873 whenever possible, with the child protective investigation of
 1874 the department. Any interested person who has information
 1875 regarding the offenses described in this subsection may forward

1876 a statement to the state attorney as to whether prosecution is
1877 warranted and appropriate. Within 15 days after the completion
1878 of the investigation, the state attorney shall report the
1879 findings to the department and shall include in the report a
1880 determination of whether or not prosecution is justified and
1881 appropriate in view of the circumstances of the specific case.

1882 Section 37. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
1883 39.521, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1884 39.521 Disposition hearings; powers of disposition.—

1885 (1) A disposition hearing shall be conducted by the court,
1886 if the court finds that the facts alleged in the petition for
1887 dependency were proven in the adjudicatory hearing, or if the
1888 parents or legal custodians have consented to the finding of
1889 dependency or admitted the allegations in the petition, have
1890 failed to appear for the arraignment hearing after proper
1891 notice, or have not been located despite a diligent search
1892 having been conducted.

1893 (c) When any child is adjudicated by a court to be
1894 dependent, the court having jurisdiction of the child has the
1895 power by order to:

1896 1. Require the parent and, when appropriate, the legal
1897 guardian or the child to participate in treatment and services
1898 identified as necessary. The court may require the person who
1899 has custody or who is requesting custody of the child to submit
1900 to a mental health or substance abuse disorder assessment or

1901 evaluation. The order may be made only upon good cause shown and
1902 pursuant to notice and procedural requirements provided under
1903 the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure. The mental health
1904 assessment or evaluation must be administered by a qualified
1905 professional as defined in s. 39.01, and the substance abuse
1906 assessment or evaluation must be administered by a qualified
1907 professional as defined in s. 397.311. The court may also
1908 require such person to participate in and comply with treatment
1909 and services identified as necessary, including, when
1910 appropriate and available, participation in and compliance with
1911 a mental health court program established under chapter 394 or a
1912 treatment-based drug court program established under s. 397.334.
1913 Adjudication of a child as dependent based upon evidence of harm
1914 as defined in s. 39.01(37)(g) ~~s. 39.01(34)(g)~~ demonstrates good
1915 cause, and the court shall require the parent whose actions
1916 caused the harm to submit to a substance abuse disorder
1917 assessment or evaluation and to participate and comply with
1918 treatment and services identified in the assessment or
1919 evaluation as being necessary. In addition to supervision by the
1920 department, the court, including the mental health court program
1921 or the treatment-based drug court program, may oversee the
1922 progress and compliance with treatment by a person who has
1923 custody or is requesting custody of the child. The court may
1924 impose appropriate available sanctions for noncompliance upon a
1925 person who has custody or is requesting custody of the child or

1926 | make a finding of noncompliance for consideration in determining
 1927 | whether an alternative placement of the child is in the child's
 1928 | best interests. Any order entered under this subparagraph may be
 1929 | made only upon good cause shown. This subparagraph does not
 1930 | authorize placement of a child with a person seeking custody of
 1931 | the child, other than the child's parent or legal custodian, who
 1932 | requires mental health or substance abuse disorder treatment.

1933 | 2. Require, if the court deems necessary, the parties to
 1934 | participate in dependency mediation.

1935 | 3. Require placement of the child either under the
 1936 | protective supervision of an authorized agent of the department
 1937 | in the home of one or both of the child's parents or in the home
 1938 | of a relative of the child or another adult approved by the
 1939 | court, or in the custody of the department. Protective
 1940 | supervision continues until the court terminates it or until the
 1941 | child reaches the age of 18, whichever date is first. Protective
 1942 | supervision shall be terminated by the court whenever the court
 1943 | determines that permanency has been achieved for the child,
 1944 | whether with a parent, another relative, or a legal custodian,
 1945 | and that protective supervision is no longer needed. The
 1946 | termination of supervision may be with or without retaining
 1947 | jurisdiction, at the court's discretion, and shall in either
 1948 | case be considered a permanency option for the child. The order
 1949 | terminating supervision by the department must set forth the
 1950 | powers of the custodian of the child and include the powers

1951 ordinarily granted to a guardian of the person of a minor unless
 1952 otherwise specified. Upon the court's termination of supervision
 1953 by the department, further judicial reviews are not required if
 1954 permanency has been established for the child.

1955 4. Determine whether the child has a strong attachment to
 1956 the prospective permanent guardian and whether such guardian has
 1957 a strong commitment to permanently caring for the child.

1958 Section 38. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section
 1959 119.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1960 119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of
 1961 public records.—

1962 (4) AGENCY PERSONNEL INFORMATION.—

1963 (d)1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

1964 a. "Home addresses" means the dwelling location at which
 1965 an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing
 1966 address, street address, parcel identification number, plot
 1967 identification number, legal property description, neighborhood
 1968 name and lot number, GPS coordinates, and any other descriptive
 1969 property information that may reveal the home address.

1970 b. "Telephone numbers" includes home telephone numbers,
 1971 personal cellular telephone numbers, personal pager telephone
 1972 numbers, and telephone numbers associated with personal
 1973 communications devices.

1974 2.a. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of
 1975 birth, and photographs of active or former sworn law enforcement

1976 personnel or of active or former civilian personnel employed by
 1977 a law enforcement agency, including correctional and
 1978 correctional probation officers, personnel of the Department of
 1979 Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of
 1980 abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal
 1981 activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties
 1982 are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect, and
 1983 personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments
 1984 whose responsibilities include revenue collection and
 1985 enforcement or child support enforcement; the names, home
 1986 addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and
 1987 places of employment of the spouses and children of such
 1988 personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care
 1989 facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt
 1990 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 1991 Constitution.

1992 b. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
 1993 and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative
 1994 personnel of the Department of Financial Services whose duties
 1995 include the investigation of fraud, theft, workers' compensation
 1996 coverage requirements and compliance, other related criminal
 1997 activities, or state regulatory requirement violations; the
 1998 names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and
 1999 places of employment of the spouses and children of such
 2000 personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care

2001 facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt
 2002 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 2003 Constitution.

2004 c. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
 2005 and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative
 2006 personnel of the Office of Financial Regulation's Bureau of
 2007 Financial Investigations whose duties include the investigation
 2008 of fraud, theft, other related criminal activities, or state
 2009 regulatory requirement violations; the names, home addresses,
 2010 telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of
 2011 the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and
 2012 locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
 2013 children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.
 2014 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2015 d. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
 2016 and photographs of current or former firefighters certified in
 2017 compliance with s. 633.408; the names, home addresses, telephone
 2018 numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment
 2019 of the spouses and children of such firefighters; and the names
 2020 and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
 2021 children of such firefighters are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and
 2022 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2023 e. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone
 2024 numbers of current or former justices of the Supreme Court,
 2025 district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and

2026 county court judges; the names, home addresses, telephone
2027 numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses
2028 and children of current or former justices and judges; and the
2029 names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended
2030 by the children of current or former justices and judges are
2031 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2032 Constitution.

2033 f. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2034 and photographs of current or former state attorneys, assistant
2035 state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide
2036 prosecutors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers,
2037 photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the
2038 spouses and children of current or former state attorneys,
2039 assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant
2040 statewide prosecutors; and the names and locations of schools
2041 and day care facilities attended by the children of current or
2042 former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide
2043 prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors are exempt from
2044 s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2045 g. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone
2046 numbers of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of
2047 compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division
2048 of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement
2049 hearing officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers,
2050 dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and

2051 children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of
2052 compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division
2053 of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement
2054 hearing officers; and the names and locations of schools and day
2055 care facilities attended by the children of general magistrates,
2056 special magistrates, judges of compensation claims,
2057 administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative
2058 Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers are
2059 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2060 Constitution.

2061 h. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2062 and photographs of current or former human resource, labor
2063 relations, or employee relations directors, assistant directors,
2064 managers, or assistant managers of any local government agency
2065 or water management district whose duties include hiring and
2066 firing employees, labor contract negotiation, administration, or
2067 other personnel-related duties; the names, home addresses,
2068 telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of
2069 the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and
2070 locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
2071 children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.
2072 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2073 i. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2074 and photographs of current or former code enforcement officers;
2075 the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,

2076 and places of employment of the spouses and children of such
 2077 personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care
 2078 facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt
 2079 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 2080 Constitution.

2081 j. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of
 2082 employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former
 2083 guardians ad litem, as defined in s. 39.01 ~~s. 39.820~~; the names,
 2084 home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of
 2085 employment of the spouses and children of such persons; and the
 2086 names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended
 2087 by the children of such persons are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and
 2088 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2089 k. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
 2090 and photographs of current or former juvenile probation
 2091 officers, juvenile probation supervisors, detention
 2092 superintendents, assistant detention superintendents, juvenile
 2093 justice detention officers I and II, juvenile justice detention
 2094 officer supervisors, juvenile justice residential officers,
 2095 juvenile justice residential officer supervisors I and II,
 2096 juvenile justice counselors, juvenile justice counselor
 2097 supervisors, human services counselor administrators, senior
 2098 human services counselor administrators, rehabilitation
 2099 therapists, and social services counselors of the Department of
 2100 Juvenile Justice; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers,

2101 | dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children
 2102 | of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and
 2103 | day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel
 2104 | are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
 2105 | Constitution.

2106 | 1. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
 2107 | and photographs of current or former public defenders, assistant
 2108 | public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel,
 2109 | and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; the
 2110 | names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and
 2111 | places of employment of the spouses and children of current or
 2112 | former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal
 2113 | conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal
 2114 | conflict and civil regional counsel; and the names and locations
 2115 | of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of
 2116 | current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders,
 2117 | criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant
 2118 | criminal conflict and civil regional counsel are exempt from s.
 2119 | 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2120 | m. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
 2121 | and photographs of current or former investigators or inspectors
 2122 | of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; the
 2123 | names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and
 2124 | places of employment of the spouses and children of such current
 2125 | or former investigators and inspectors; and the names and

2126 | locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
2127 | children of such current or former investigators and inspectors
2128 | are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2129 | Constitution.

2130 | n. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of
2131 | birth of county tax collectors; the names, home addresses,
2132 | telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of
2133 | the spouses and children of such tax collectors; and the names
2134 | and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
2135 | children of such tax collectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and
2136 | s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2137 | o. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2138 | and photographs of current or former personnel of the Department
2139 | of Health whose duties include, or result in, the determination
2140 | or adjudication of eligibility for social security disability
2141 | benefits, the investigation or prosecution of complaints filed
2142 | against health care practitioners, or the inspection of health
2143 | care practitioners or health care facilities licensed by the
2144 | Department of Health; the names, home addresses, telephone
2145 | numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses
2146 | and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of
2147 | schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such
2148 | personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of
2149 | the State Constitution.

2150 | p. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,

2151 and photographs of current or former impaired practitioner
2152 consultants who are retained by an agency or current or former
2153 employees of an impaired practitioner consultant whose duties
2154 result in a determination of a person's skill and safety to
2155 practice a licensed profession; the names, home addresses,
2156 telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of
2157 the spouses and children of such consultants or their employees;
2158 and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities
2159 attended by the children of such consultants or employees are
2160 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2161 Constitution.

2162 q. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2163 and photographs of current or former emergency medical
2164 technicians or paramedics certified under chapter 401; the
2165 names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and
2166 places of employment of the spouses and children of such
2167 emergency medical technicians or paramedics; and the names and
2168 locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
2169 children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics are
2170 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2171 Constitution.

2172 r. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2173 and photographs of current or former personnel employed in an
2174 agency's office of inspector general or internal audit
2175 department whose duties include auditing or investigating waste,

2176 fraud, abuse, theft, exploitation, or other activities that
2177 could lead to criminal prosecution or administrative discipline;
2178 the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2179 and places of employment of spouses and children of such
2180 personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care
2181 facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt
2182 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2183 Constitution.

2184 s. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2185 and photographs of current or former directors, managers,
2186 supervisors, nurses, and clinical employees of an addiction
2187 treatment facility; the home addresses, telephone numbers,
2188 photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the
2189 spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and
2190 locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the
2191 children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.
2192 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. For purposes of this
2193 sub-subparagraph, the term "addiction treatment facility" means
2194 a county government, or agency thereof, that is licensed
2195 pursuant to s. 397.401 and provides substance abuse prevention,
2196 intervention, or clinical treatment, including any licensed
2197 service component described in s. 397.311(26).

2198 t. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,
2199 and photographs of current or former directors, managers,
2200 supervisors, and clinical employees of a child advocacy center

2201 that meets the standards of s. 39.3035(2) and fulfills the
2202 screening requirement of s. 39.3035(3), and the members of a
2203 Child Protection Team as described in s. 39.303 whose duties
2204 include supporting the investigation of child abuse or sexual
2205 abuse, child abandonment, child neglect, and child exploitation
2206 or to provide services as part of a multidisciplinary case
2207 review team; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers,
2208 photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the
2209 spouses and children of such personnel and members; and the
2210 names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended
2211 by the children of such personnel and members are exempt from s.
2212 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2213 u. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of
2214 employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former
2215 staff and domestic violence advocates, as defined in s.
2216 90.5036(1)(b), of domestic violence centers certified by the
2217 Department of Children and Families under chapter 39; the names,
2218 home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates
2219 of birth, and photographs of the spouses and children of such
2220 personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care
2221 facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt
2222 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State
2223 Constitution.

2224 3. An agency that is the custodian of the information
2225 specified in subparagraph 2. and that is not the employer of the

2226 officer, employee, justice, judge, or other person specified in
 2227 subparagraph 2. must maintain the exempt status of that
 2228 information only if the officer, employee, justice, judge, other
 2229 person, or employing agency of the designated employee submits a
 2230 written and notarized request for maintenance of the exemption
 2231 to the custodial agency. The request must state under oath the
 2232 statutory basis for the individual's exemption request and
 2233 confirm the individual's status as a party eligible for exempt
 2234 status.

2235 4.a. A county property appraiser, as defined in s.
 2236 192.001(3), or a county tax collector, as defined in s.
 2237 192.001(4), who receives a written and notarized request for
 2238 maintenance of the exemption pursuant to subparagraph 3. must
 2239 comply by removing the name of the individual with exempt status
 2240 and the instrument number or Official Records book and page
 2241 number identifying the property with the exempt status from all
 2242 publicly available records maintained by the property appraiser
 2243 or tax collector. For written requests received on or before
 2244 July 1, 2021, a county property appraiser or county tax
 2245 collector must comply with this sub-subparagraph by October 1,
 2246 2021. A county property appraiser or county tax collector may
 2247 not remove the street address, legal description, or other
 2248 information identifying real property within the agency's
 2249 records so long as a name or personal information otherwise
 2250 exempt from inspection and copying pursuant to this section are

2251 not associated with the property or otherwise displayed in the
2252 public records of the agency.

2253 b. Any information restricted from public display,
2254 inspection, or copying under sub-subparagraph a. must be
2255 provided to the individual whose information was removed.

2256 5. An officer, an employee, a justice, a judge, or other
2257 person specified in subparagraph 2. may submit a written request
2258 for the release of his or her exempt information to the
2259 custodial agency. The written request must be notarized and must
2260 specify the information to be released and the party authorized
2261 to receive the information. Upon receipt of the written request,
2262 the custodial agency must release the specified information to
2263 the party authorized to receive such information.

2264 6. The exemptions in this paragraph apply to information
2265 held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the
2266 exemption.

2267 7. Information made exempt under this paragraph may be
2268 disclosed pursuant to s. 28.2221 to a title insurer authorized
2269 pursuant to s. 624.401 and its affiliates as defined in s.
2270 624.10; a title insurance agent or title insurance agency as
2271 defined in s. 626.841(1) or (2), respectively; or an attorney
2272 duly admitted to practice law in this state and in good standing
2273 with The Florida Bar.

2274 8. The exempt status of a home address contained in the
2275 Official Records is maintained only during the period when a

2276 | protected party resides at the dwelling location. Upon
2277 | conveyance of real property after October 1, 2021, and when such
2278 | real property no longer constitutes a protected party's home
2279 | address as defined in sub-subparagraph 1.a., the protected party
2280 | must submit a written request to release the removed information
2281 | to the county recorder. The written request to release the
2282 | removed information must be notarized, must confirm that a
2283 | protected party's request for release is pursuant to a
2284 | conveyance of his or her dwelling location, and must specify the
2285 | Official Records book and page, instrument number, or clerk's
2286 | file number for each document containing the information to be
2287 | released.

2288 | 9. Upon the death of a protected party as verified by a
2289 | certified copy of a death certificate or court order, any party
2290 | can request the county recorder to release a protected
2291 | decedent's removed information unless there is a related request
2292 | on file with the county recorder for continued removal of the
2293 | decedent's information or unless such removal is otherwise
2294 | prohibited by statute or by court order. The written request to
2295 | release the removed information upon the death of a protected
2296 | party must attach the certified copy of a death certificate or
2297 | court order and must be notarized, must confirm the request for
2298 | release is due to the death of a protected party, and must
2299 | specify the Official Records book and page number, instrument
2300 | number, or clerk's file number for each document containing the

2301 information to be released. A fee may not be charged for the
 2302 release of any document pursuant to such request.

2303 10. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government
 2304 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand
 2305 repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from
 2306 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

2307 Section 39. Subsection (4) of section 322.09, Florida
 2308 Statutes, is amended to read:

2309 322.09 Application of minors; responsibility for
 2310 negligence or misconduct of minor.—

2311 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), if a
 2312 caregiver of a minor who is under the age of 18 years and is in
 2313 out-of-home care as defined in s. 39.01 ~~s. 39.01(55)~~, an
 2314 authorized representative of a residential group home at which
 2315 such a minor resides, the caseworker at the agency at which the
 2316 state has placed the minor, or a guardian ad litem specifically
 2317 authorized by the minor's caregiver to sign for a learner's
 2318 driver license signs the minor's application for a learner's
 2319 driver license, that caregiver, group home representative,
 2320 caseworker, or guardian ad litem does not assume any obligation
 2321 or become liable for any damages caused by the negligence or
 2322 willful misconduct of the minor by reason of having signed the
 2323 application. Before signing the application, the caseworker,
 2324 authorized group home representative, or guardian ad litem shall
 2325 notify the caregiver or other responsible party of his or her

2326 | intent to sign and verify the application.

2327 | Section 40. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section
2328 | 394.495, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2329 | 394.495 Child and adolescent mental health system of care;
2330 | programs and services.—

2331 | (4) The array of services may include, but is not limited
2332 | to:

2333 | (p) Trauma-informed services for children who have
2334 | suffered sexual exploitation as defined in s. 39.01(80)(g) ~~s.~~
2335 | ~~39.01(77)(g)~~.

2336 | Section 41. Section 627.746, Florida Statutes, is amended
2337 | to read:

2338 | 627.746 Coverage for minors who have a learner's driver
2339 | license; additional premium prohibited.—An insurer that issues
2340 | an insurance policy on a private passenger motor vehicle to a
2341 | named insured who is a caregiver of a minor who is under the age
2342 | of 18 years and is in out-of-home care as defined in s. 39.01 ~~s.~~
2343 | ~~39.01(55)~~ may not charge an additional premium for coverage of
2344 | the minor while the minor is operating the insured vehicle, for
2345 | the period of time that the minor has a learner's driver
2346 | license, until such time as the minor obtains a driver license.

2347 | Section 42. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section
2348 | 768.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2349 | 768.28 Waiver of sovereign immunity in tort actions;
2350 | recovery limits; civil liability for damages caused during a

2351 riot; limitation on attorney fees; statute of limitations;
 2352 exclusions; indemnification; risk management programs.—

2353 (9)

2354 (b) As used in this subsection, the term:

2355 1. "Employee" includes any volunteer firefighter.

2356 2. "Officer, employee, or agent" includes, but is not
 2357 limited to, any health care provider when providing services
 2358 pursuant to s. 766.1115; any nonprofit independent college or
 2359 university located and chartered in this state which owns or
 2360 operates an accredited medical school, and its employees or
 2361 agents, when providing patient services pursuant to paragraph
 2362 (10) (f); any public defender or her or his employee or agent,
 2363 including an assistant public defender or an investigator; and
 2364 any member of a Child Protection Team, as defined in s. 39.01 ~~s.~~
 2365 ~~39.01(13)~~, when carrying out her or his duties as a team member
 2366 under the control, direction, and supervision of the state or
 2367 any of its agencies or subdivisions.

2368 Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 2369 934.255, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2370 934.255 Subpoenas in investigations of sexual offenses.—

2371 (1) As used in this section, the term:

2372 (c) "Sexual abuse of a child" means a criminal offense
 2373 based on any conduct described in s. 39.01(80) ~~s. 39.01(77)~~.

2374 Section 44. Subsection (5) of section 960.065, Florida
 2375 Statutes, is amended to read:

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2376 | 960.065 Eligibility for awards.—

2377 | (5) A person is not ineligible for an award pursuant to
2378 | paragraph (2)(a), paragraph (2)(b), or paragraph (2)(c) if that
2379 | person is a victim of sexual exploitation of a child as defined
2380 | in s. 39.01(80)(g) ~~s. 39.01(77)(g)~~.

2381 | Section 45. The Division of Law Revision is requested to
2382 | prepare a reviser's bill for the 2024 Regular Session of the
2383 | Legislature to substitute the term "Statewide Guardian ad Litem
2384 | Office" for the term "Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program"
2385 | throughout the Florida Statutes.

2386 | Section 46. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.