

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 4480

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Table with 3 columns: DATE, D-PG, OFFICIAL STATUS. Rows include dates from 03/04/2024 to 03/11/2024 and corresponding D-PG numbers and official status descriptions.

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to children; making changes to the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation
1.3 Act; making conforming statutory changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022,
1.4 sections 260.755, subdivisions 2a, 5, 14, 17a, by adding subdivisions; 260.775;
1.5 260.785, subdivisions 1, 3; 260.810, subdivision 3; 260C.007, subdivision 26b;
1.6 260C.178, subdivision 1; 260C.201, subdivision 1; 260C.204; 260C.503,
1.7 subdivisions 1, 3; 260C.505; 260C.507; 260D.01; 260D.12; Minnesota Statutes
1.8 2023 Supplement, sections 260.755, subdivisions 1a, 3, 3a, 5b, 20, 22; 260.758,
1.9 subdivisions 2, 4, 5; 260.761; 260.762; 260.763, subdivisions 1, 4, 5; 260.765,
1.10 subdivisions 2, 3a, 4b; 260.771, subdivisions 1a, 1b, 1c, 2b, 2d, 6, by adding
1.11 subdivisions; 260.773, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11; 260.774, subdivisions 1,
1.12 2, 3; 260.781, subdivision 1; 260.786, subdivision 2; 260.795, subdivision 1;
1.13 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 259; 260D; 260E;
1.14 524; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, subdivision 13.

1.15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.16 ARTICLE 1

1.17 MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT PROVISIONS

1.18 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.755, subdivision 1a, is
1.19 amended to read:

1.20 Subd. 1a. Active efforts. (a) "Active efforts" means a rigorous and concerted level of
1.21 effort to preserve the Indian child's family that is ongoing throughout the involvement of
1.22 the child-placing agency to continuously involve the Indian child's Tribe and that uses the
1.23 or the petitioner with the Indian child. Active efforts require the engagement of the Indian
1.24 child, the Indian child's parents, the Indian custodian, the extended family, and the Tribe in
1.25 using the prevailing social and cultural values, conditions, and way of life of the Indian
1.26 child's Tribe to: (1) preserve the Indian child's family and; (2) prevent placement of an
1.27 Indian child and; (3) if placement occurs, to return the Indian child to the Indian child's

2.1 family at the earliest possible time; and (4) where a permanent change in parental rights or  
 2.2 custody are necessary, ensure the Indian child retains meaningful connections to the Indian  
 2.3 child's family, extended family, and Tribe.

2.4 (b) Active efforts under section for all Indian child placements includes this section and  
 2.5 sections 260.012 and 260.762 and require a higher standard than reasonable efforts as defined  
 2.6 in section 260.012 to preserve the family, prevent breakup of the family, and reunify the  
 2.7 family. Active efforts include reasonable efforts as required by Title IV-E of the Social  
 2.8 Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 679e are required for all Indian  
 2.9 child placement proceedings and for all voluntary Indian child placements that involve a  
 2.10 child-placing agency regardless of whether the reasonable efforts would have been relieved  
 2.11 under section 260.012.

2.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

2.13 Subd. 2a. **Best interests of an Indian child.** "Best interests of an Indian child" means  
 2.14 compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Indian Family  
 2.15 Preservation Act to preserve and maintain an Indian child's family. The best interests of an  
 2.16 Indian child support the Indian child's sense of belonging to family, extended family, and  
 2.17 Tribe. The best interests of an Indian child are interwoven with the best interests of the  
 2.18 Indian child's Tribe.

2.19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.755, subdivision 3, is amended  
 2.20 to read:

2.21 Subd. 3. **Child placement proceeding.** (a) "Child placement proceeding" includes a  
 2.22 judicial proceeding which could result in:

2.23 (1) "adoptive placement," meaning the permanent placement of an Indian child for  
 2.24 adoption, including an action resulting in a final decree of adoption;

2.25 (2) "involuntary foster care placement," meaning an action removing an Indian child  
 2.26 from the child's parents or Indian custodian for temporary placement in a foster home,  
 2.27 institution, or the home of a guardian. The parent or Indian custodian cannot have the Indian  
 2.28 child returned upon demand, but parental rights have not been terminated;

2.29 (3) "preadoptive placement," meaning the temporary placement of an Indian child in a  
 2.30 foster home or institution after the termination of parental rights, before or instead of adoptive  
 2.31 placement; or

3.1 (4) "termination of parental rights," meaning an action resulting in the termination of  
3.2 the parent-child relationship under section 260C.301.

3.3 (b) The term child placement proceeding is a domestic relations proceeding that includes  
3.4 all placements where Indian children are placed ~~out-of-home or~~ away from the care, custody,  
3.5 and control of their parent or parents or Indian custodian that do not implicate custody  
3.6 between the parents. Child placement proceeding also includes any placement based upon  
3.7 juvenile status offenses; but does not include a placement based upon an act which if  
3.8 committed by an adult would be deemed a crime, or upon an award of custody in a divorce  
3.9 proceeding to one of the parents.

3.10 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.755, subdivision 3a, is amended  
3.11 to read:

3.12 Subd. 3a. **Child-placing agency.** "Child-placing agency" means a public, private, or  
3.13 nonprofit legal entity: (1) providing assistance to ~~a~~ an Indian child and the Indian child's  
3.14 ~~parent or parents~~ or Indian custodian; or (2) placing ~~a~~ an Indian child in foster care or for  
3.15 adoption on a voluntary or involuntary basis.

3.16 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

3.17 Subd. 5. **Demand.** "Demand" means a written and notarized statement signed by a parent  
3.18 or Indian custodian of ~~a~~ an Indian child which requests the return of the Indian child who  
3.19 has been voluntarily placed in foster care.

3.20 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.755, subdivision 5b, is amended  
3.21 to read:

3.22 Subd. 5b. **Extended family member.** "Extended family member" is as defined by the  
3.23 law or custom of the Indian child's Tribe or, in the absence of any law or custom of the  
3.24 Tribe, is a person who has reached the age of 18 and who is the Indian child's grandparent,  
3.25 aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or  
3.26 second cousin, or stepparent. The legal parent, guardian, or custodian of the Indian child's  
3.27 sibling is not an extended family member or relative of an Indian child unless they are  
3.28 independently related to the Indian child or recognized by the Indian child's Tribe as an  
3.29 extended family member.

4.1 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

4.2 Subd. 14. **Parent.** "Parent" means the biological parent of an Indian child; or any ~~Indian~~  
4.3 person who has lawfully adopted an Indian child, including a person who has adopted ~~a~~ an  
4.4 Indian child by Tribal law or custom. Parent includes a father as defined by Tribal law or  
4.5 custom. Parent does not include an unmarried father whose paternity has not been  
4.6 acknowledged or established. Paternity has been acknowledged when an unmarried father  
4.7 takes any action to hold himself out as the biological father of an Indian child.

4.8 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
4.9 read:

4.10 Subd. 15a. **Petitioner.** "Petitioner" means one or more individuals other than a parent  
4.11 or Indian custodian who has filed a petition or motion seeking a grant of temporary or  
4.12 permanent guardianship, custody, or adoption of an Indian child.

4.13 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, subdivision 17a, is amended to read:

4.14 Subd. 17a. **Qualified expert witness.** "Qualified expert witness" means an individual  
4.15 who ~~(1) has specific knowledge of the Indian child's tribe's culture and customs, or~~ meets  
4.16 the criteria in section 260.771, subdivision 6, paragraph (d), and ~~(2)~~ provides testimony as  
4.17 required by the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section  
4.18 1912, and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, regarding out-of-home placement  
4.19 or termination of parental rights child placement or permanency proceedings relating to an  
4.20 Indian child.

4.21 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.755, subdivision 20, is amended  
4.22 to read:

4.23 Subd. 20. **Tribal court.** "Tribal court" means a court with jurisdiction over child custody  
4.24 proceedings and which is either a court of Indian offenses, ~~or~~ a court established and operated  
4.25 under the code or custom of an Indian Tribe, or any other administrative body of a Tribe  
4.26 which is vested with authority over child custody proceedings.

4.27 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, is amended by adding a subdivision  
4.28 to read:

4.29 Subd. 20a. **Tribal representative.** "Tribal representative" means a representative  
4.30 designated by and acting on behalf of a Tribe in connection with an Indian child placement  
4.31 proceeding as defined in subdivision 3. It is not required that the designated representative

5.1 be an attorney to represent the Tribe in these matters. An individual appearing as a Tribal  
5.2 representative on behalf of a Tribe and participating in a court proceeding under this chapter  
5.3 is not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

5.4 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.755, subdivision 22, is amended  
5.5 to read:

5.6 Subd. 22. **Voluntary foster care placement.** "Voluntary foster care placement" means  
5.7 a decision in which there has been participation by a child-placing agency resulting in the  
5.8 temporary placement of an Indian child away from the home of the Indian child's parents  
5.9 or Indian custodian in a foster home, institution, or the home of a guardian, and the parent  
5.10 or Indian custodian may have the Indian child returned upon demand.

5.11 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.758, subdivision 2, is amended  
5.12 to read:

5.13 Subd. 2. **Temporary emergency jurisdiction of state courts.** (a) The child-placing  
5.14 agency, petitioner, or court shall ensure that the emergency removal or placement terminates  
5.15 immediately when removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical  
5.16 damage or harm to the Indian child. The child-placing agency, petitioner, or court shall  
5.17 expeditiously initiate a child placement proceeding subject to the provisions of sections  
5.18 260.751 to 260.835, transfer the Indian child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian  
5.19 Tribe, or return the Indian child to the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian as may be  
5.20 appropriate.

5.21 (b) If the Indian child is a resident of or is domiciled on a reservation but temporarily  
5.22 located off the reservation, a court of this state has only temporary emergency jurisdiction  
5.23 until the Indian child is transferred to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian Tribe unless  
5.24 the Indian child's Tribe has expressly declined to exercise its jurisdiction, or the Indian child  
5.25 is returned to the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian.

5.26 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.758, subdivision 4, is amended  
5.27 to read:

5.28 Subd. 4. **Emergency proceeding requirements.** (a) The court shall hold a hearing no  
5.29 later than 72 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, after the emergency removal of the  
5.30 Indian child. The court shall determine whether the emergency removal continues to be  
5.31 necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the Indian child.

6.1 (b) The court shall hold additional hearings whenever new information indicates that  
6.2 the emergency situation has ended and must determine at any court hearing during the  
6.3 emergency proceeding ~~to determine~~ whether the emergency removal or placement is no  
6.4 longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the Indian child.

6.5 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.758, subdivision 5, is amended  
6.6 to read:

6.7 Subd. 5. **Termination of emergency removal or placement.** (a) An emergency removal  
6.8 or placement of an Indian child must immediately terminate once the child-placing agency  
6.9 or court possesses sufficient evidence to determine that the emergency removal or placement  
6.10 is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the Indian child  
6.11 and the Indian child shall be immediately returned to the custody of the Indian child's parent  
6.12 or Indian custodian.

6.13 (b) An emergency removal or placement ends when the Indian child is transferred to  
6.14 the jurisdiction of the Indian child's Tribe, or when the court orders, after service upon the  
6.15 Indian child's parents, Indian custodian, and Indian child's Tribe, ~~that~~ placement of the  
6.16 Indian child ~~shall be placed in foster care~~ upon a determination supported by clear and  
6.17 convincing evidence, including testimony by a qualified expert witness, that custody of the  
6.18 Indian child by the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious  
6.19 emotional or physical damage to the Indian child.

6.20 (c) In no instance shall emergency removal or emergency placement of an Indian child  
6.21 extend beyond 30 days unless the court finds by a showing of clear and convincing evidence  
6.22 that: (1) continued emergency removal or placement is necessary to prevent imminent  
6.23 physical damage or harm to the Indian child; (2) the court has been unable to transfer the  
6.24 proceeding to the jurisdiction of the Indian child's Tribal court; and (3) it has not been  
6.25 possible to initiate a child placement proceeding with all of the protections under sections  
6.26 260.751 to 260.835, including obtaining the testimony of a qualified expert witness.

6.27 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.761, is amended to read:

6.28 **260.761 INQUIRY OF TRIBAL LINEAGE; NOTICE TO TRIBES, PARENTS,**  
6.29 **AND INDIAN CUSTODIANS; ACCESS TO FILES.**

6.30 Subdivision 1. **Inquiry of Tribal lineage.** (a) The child-placing agency or ~~individual~~  
6.31 petitioner shall inquire of the child, the child's parents and custodians, and other appropriate  
6.32 persons whether there is any reason to believe that a child brought to the agency's attention  
6.33 may have lineage to an Indian Tribe. This inquiry shall occur at the time the child comes

7.1 to the attention of the child-placing agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner and shall continue  
 7.2 throughout the involvement of the child-placing agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner.

7.3 (b) In any child placement proceeding, the court shall inquire of the child, the child's  
 7.4 parents, custodian, and any person participating in the proceedings whether the child has  
 7.5 any American Indian heritage or lineage to an Indian Tribe. The inquiry shall be made at  
 7.6 the commencement of the proceeding and all responses must be on the record. The court  
 7.7 must instruct the parties to inform the court if they subsequently receive information that  
 7.8 provides reason to believe the child is an Indian child.

7.9 (c) If there is reason to believe the child is an Indian child, but the court does not have  
 7.10 sufficient evidence to determine whether the child is an Indian child, the court shall:

7.11 (1) confirm with a report, declaration, or testimony in the record that the child-placing  
 7.12 agency or petitioner used due diligence to identify and work with all of the Tribes for which  
 7.13 there is reason to believe the child may be a member of or eligible for membership to verify  
 7.14 whether the child is an Indian child; and

7.15 (2) proceed with the case as if the child is an Indian child until it is determined on the  
 7.16 record that the child does not meet the definition of Indian child.

7.17 Subd. 2. **Notice to Tribes of services or court proceedings involving an Indian**  
 7.18 **child.** (a) When a child-placing agency or petitioner has information that a family assessment,  
 7.19 investigation, or noncaregiver sex trafficking assessment being conducted may involve an  
 7.20 Indian child, the child-placing agency or petitioner shall notify the Indian child's Tribe of  
 7.21 the family assessment, investigation, or noncaregiver sex trafficking assessment according  
 7.22 to section 260E.18. The child-placing agency or petitioner shall provide initial notice by  
 7.23 telephone and by email or facsimile and shall include the child's full name and date of birth;  
 7.24 the full names and dates of birth of the child's biological parents; and if known the full  
 7.25 names and dates of birth of the child's grandparents and of the child's Indian custodian. If  
 7.26 information regarding the child's grandparents or Indian custodian is not immediately  
 7.27 available, the child-placing agency or petitioner shall continue to request this information  
 7.28 and shall notify the Tribe when it is received. Notice shall be provided to all Tribes to which  
 7.29 the child may have any Tribal lineage. The child-placing agency or petitioner shall request  
 7.30 that the Tribe or a designated Tribal representative participate in evaluating the family  
 7.31 circumstances, identifying family and Tribal community resources, and developing case  
 7.32 plans. The child-placing agency or petitioner shall continue to include the Tribe in service  
 7.33 planning and updates as to the progress of the case.

8.1 (b) When a child-placing agency or petitioner has information that a child receiving  
8.2 services may be an Indian child, the child-placing agency or petitioner shall notify the Tribe  
8.3 by telephone and by email or facsimile of the child's full name and date of birth, the full  
8.4 names and dates of birth of the child's biological parents, and, if known, the full names and  
8.5 dates of birth of the child's grandparents and of the child's Indian custodian. This notification  
8.6 must be provided for the Tribe to determine if the child is a member or eligible for Tribal  
8.7 membership, and the child-placing agency or petitioner must provide this notification to  
8.8 the Tribe within seven days of receiving information that the child may be an Indian child.  
8.9 If information regarding the child's grandparents or Indian custodian is not available within  
8.10 the seven-day period, the child-placing agency or petitioner shall continue to request this  
8.11 information and shall notify the Tribe when it is received. Notice shall be provided to all  
8.12 Tribes to which the child may have any Tribal lineage.

8.13 (c) In all child placement proceedings, when a court has reason to believe that a child  
8.14 placed in emergency protective care is an Indian child, the court administrator or a designee  
8.15 shall, as soon as possible and before a hearing takes place, notify the Tribal social services  
8.16 agency by telephone and by email or facsimile of the date, time, and location of the  
8.17 emergency protective care or other initial hearing. The court shall ~~make efforts to allow~~  
8.18 ~~appearances by telephone or video conference for Tribal representatives, parents, and Indian~~  
8.19 ~~custodians~~ allow appearances by telephone, video conference, or other electronic medium  
8.20 for Tribal representatives, the Indian child's parents, or the Indian custodian.

8.21 (d) In all child placement proceedings, when a court has reason to believe the child is  
8.22 an Indian child, the child-placing agency or individual petitioner shall effect service of any  
8.23 petition governed by sections 260.751 to 260.835 provide notice of the proceedings and a  
8.24 copy of any petition to the Indian child's parents, Indian custodian, and the Indian child's  
8.25 Tribe and shall effect service of any notice and petition governed by sections 260.751 to  
8.26 260.835 upon the parent, Indian custodian, and the Indian child's Tribe by certified mail or  
8.27 registered mail, return receipt requested upon the Indian child's parents, Indian custodian,  
8.28 and Indian child's Tribe at least 10 days before the admit-deny hearing is held. If the identity  
8.29 or location of the Indian child's parents or Indian custodian ~~and~~ or Tribe cannot be  
8.30 determined, the child-placing agency or petitioner shall provide the notice required in this  
8.31 paragraph to the United States Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs by certified  
8.32 or registered mail, return receipt requested. Where service is only accomplished through  
8.33 the United States Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the initial hearing shall  
8.34 not be held until 20 days after notice upon the Tribe or the Secretary of the Interior.



9.1 (e) Notice under this subdivision must be in clear and understandable language and  
 9.2 include the following:

9.3 (1) the child's name, date of birth, and birth place;

9.4 (2) all names known for the parents and Indian custodian, including maiden, married,  
 9.5 former names, and aliases, correctly spelled;

9.6 (3) the dates of birth, birth place, and Tribal enrollment numbers of the Indian child, the  
 9.7 Indian child's parents, and the Indian custodian, if known;

9.8 (4) the full names, dates of birth, birth places, and Tribal enrollment or affiliation  
 9.9 information of direct lineal ancestors of the child, other extended family members, and  
 9.10 custodians of the child, if known;

9.11 (5) the name of any and all Indian Tribes in which the child is or may be a member or  
 9.12 eligible for membership in; and

9.13 (6) statements setting out:

9.14 (i) the name of the petitioner and name and address of the petitioner's attorney;

9.15 (ii) the right of any parent or Indian custodian of the Indian child, to intervene in the  
 9.16 child custody proceedings, if not already a party;

9.17 (iii) the right of the Indian child's Tribe to intervene in the proceedings at any time;

9.18 (iv) the right of the Indian child, the Indian child's parent, and the Indian custodian to  
 9.19 court-appointed counsel if they meet the requirements in section 611.17;

9.20 (v) the right to be granted, upon request, up to 20 additional days to prepare for the  
 9.21 child-placement proceedings;

9.22 (vi) the right of the Indian child's parent, the Indian custodian, and the Indian child's  
 9.23 Tribe to petition the court for transfer of the proceedings to Tribal court;

9.24 (vii) the mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the court and information related  
 9.25 to all parental and custodial rights of the parent or Indian custodian; and

9.26 (viii) that all parties must maintain confidentiality of all information contained in the  
 9.27 notice and must not provide the information to anyone other than their attorney.

9.28 ~~(e)~~ (f) A Tribe, the Indian child's parents, or the Indian custodian may request up to 20  
 9.29 additional days to prepare for the ~~admit-deny~~ initial hearing. The court shall allow  
 9.30 appearances by telephone, video conference, or other electronic medium for Tribal  
 9.31 representatives, the Indian child's parents, or the Indian custodian.

10.1        ~~(f)~~ (g) A child-placing agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner must provide the notices required  
10.2 under this subdivision at the earliest possible time to facilitate involvement of the Indian  
10.3 child's Tribe. Nothing in this subdivision is intended to hinder the ability of the child-placing  
10.4 agency, ~~individual~~ petitioner, and the court to respond to an emergency situation. Lack of  
10.5 participation by a Tribe shall not prevent the Tribe from intervening in services and  
10.6 proceedings at a later date. A Tribe may participate in a case at any time. At any stage of  
10.7 the child-placing ~~agency's~~ agency or petitioner's involvement with an Indian child, the  
10.8 child-placing agency or petitioner shall provide full cooperation to the Tribal social services  
10.9 agency, including disclosure of all data concerning the Indian child. Nothing in this  
10.10 subdivision relieves the child-placing agency or petitioner of satisfying the notice  
10.11 requirements in state or federal law.

10.12        (h) The court shall allow appearances by telephone, video conference, or other electronic  
10.13 means for Tribal representatives at all hearings and trials. The court shall allow appearances  
10.14 by telephone, video conference, or other electronic means for the Indian child's parents or  
10.15 Indian custodian for all hearings and shall allow such appearance for trials upon a showing  
10.16 that appearance in person would be unduly burdensome.

10.17        Subd. 3. **Notice of potential preadoptive or adoptive placement.** In any adoptive or  
10.18 preadoptive placement proceeding, including voluntary proceedings, where any party or  
10.19 participant has reason to believe that a child who is the subject of an adoptive or preadoptive  
10.20 placement proceeding is or may be an "Indian child," as defined in section 260.755,  
10.21 subdivision 8, and United States Code, title 25, section 1903(4), the child-placing agency  
10.22 or ~~individual~~ petitioner shall notify the Indian child's Tribe by registered mail or certified  
10.23 mail with return receipt requested of the pending proceeding and of the right of intervention  
10.24 under subdivision 6. If the identity or location of the Indian child's Tribe cannot be  
10.25 determined, the notice must be given to the United States Secretary of Interior in like manner.  
10.26 No preadoptive or adoptive placement proceeding may be held until at least 20 days after  
10.27 receipt of the notice by the Tribe or the secretary. Upon request, the Tribe must be granted  
10.28 up to 20 additional days to prepare for the proceeding. The child-placing agency or ~~individual~~  
10.29 petitioner shall include in the notice the identity of the birth parents and Indian child absent  
10.30 written objection by the birth parents. The child-placing agency or petitioner shall inform  
10.31 the birth parents of the Indian child of any services available to the Indian child through the  
10.32 child's Tribal social services agency, including child placement services, and shall  
10.33 additionally provide the birth parents of the Indian child with all information sent from the  
10.34 Tribal social services agency in response to the notice.

11.1 Subd. 4. **Unknown father.** If the child-placing agency, ~~individual~~ petitioner, the court,  
 11.2 or any party has reason to believe that a child who is the subject of a child placement  
 11.3 proceeding is or may be an Indian child but the father of the child is unknown and has not  
 11.4 registered with the fathers' adoption registry pursuant to section 259.52, the child-placing  
 11.5 agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner shall provide to the Tribe believed to be the Indian child's  
 11.6 Tribe information sufficient to enable the Tribe to determine the child's eligibility for  
 11.7 membership in the Tribe, including, but not limited to, the legal and maiden name of the  
 11.8 birth mother, her date of birth, the names and dates of birth of her parents and grandparents,  
 11.9 and, if available, information pertaining to the possible identity, Tribal affiliation, or location  
 11.10 of the birth father.

11.11 Subd. 5. **Proof of service of notice upon Tribe or secretary.** In cases where a  
 11.12 child-placing agency or party to an adoptive placement knows or has reason to believe that  
 11.13 a child is or may be an Indian child, proof of service upon the Indian child's Tribe or the  
 11.14 secretary of interior must be filed with the adoption petition.

11.15 Subd. 6. **Indian Tribe's right of intervention.** In any child placement proceeding under  
 11.16 sections 260.751 to 260.835, the Indian child's Tribe shall have a right to intervene at any  
 11.17 point in the proceeding.

11.18 Subd. 6a. **Indian Tribe's access to files.** At any stage of the child-placing ~~agency's~~  
 11.19 agency or petitioner's involvement with an Indian child, the child-placing agency or petitioner  
 11.20 shall, upon request, give the Tribal social services agency full cooperation including access  
 11.21 to all files concerning the Indian child. If the files contain confidential or private data, the  
 11.22 child-placing agency or petitioner may require execution of an agreement with the Tribal  
 11.23 social services agency to maintain the data according to statutory provisions applicable to  
 11.24 the data.

11.25 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.762, is amended to read:

11.26 **260.762 DUTY TO PREVENT ~~OUT-OF-HOME~~ CHILD PLACEMENT OR**  
 11.27 **PERMANENCY AND PROMOTE FAMILY REUNIFICATION; ACTIVE EFFORTS.**

11.28 Subdivision 1. **Active efforts.** Active efforts includes acknowledging traditional helping  
 11.29 and healing systems of an Indian child's Tribe and using these systems as the core to help  
 11.30 and heal the Indian child and family regardless of whether the Indian child's Tribe has  
 11.31 intervened in the proceedings. ~~Active efforts are not required to prevent voluntary~~  
 11.32 ~~out-of-home placement and to effect voluntary permanency for the Indian child.~~

12.1 ~~Subd. 2. Requirements for child-placing agencies and individual petitioners. A~~  
 12.2 ~~child-placing agency or individual petitioner shall:~~

12.3 ~~(1) work with the Indian child's Tribe and family to develop an alternative plan to~~  
 12.4 ~~out-of-home placement;~~

12.5 ~~(2) before making a decision that may affect an Indian child's safety and well-being or~~  
 12.6 ~~when contemplating out-of-home placement of an Indian child, seek guidance from the~~  
 12.7 ~~Indian child's Tribe on family structure, how the family can seek help, what family and~~  
 12.8 ~~Tribal resources are available, and what barriers the family faces at that time that could~~  
 12.9 ~~threaten its preservation; and~~

12.10 ~~(3) request participation of the Indian child's Tribe at the earliest possible time and~~  
 12.11 ~~request the Tribe's active participation throughout the case.~~

12.12 Subd. 2a. Required findings that active efforts were provided. (a) A court shall not  
 12.13 order a child placement, termination of parental rights, or temporary or permanent change  
 12.14 in custody of an Indian child unless the court finds that the child-placing agency or petitioner  
 12.15 demonstrated that active efforts were made to preserve the Indian child's family. Active  
 12.16 efforts to preserve the Indian child's family include efforts to prevent placement of the Indian  
 12.17 child to correct the conditions that led to the placement by ensuring remedial services and  
 12.18 rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the family were provided in a  
 12.19 manner consistent with the prevailing social and cultural conditions of the Indian child's  
 12.20 Tribe and in partnership with the Indian child, the Indian child's parents, the Indian custodian,  
 12.21 extended family members, and Tribe, and that these efforts have proved unsuccessful.

12.22 (b) The court, in determining whether active efforts were made to preserve the Indian  
 12.23 child's family for purposes of child placement or permanency, shall ensure the provision of  
 12.24 active efforts designed to correct the conditions that led to the placement of the Indian child  
 12.25 and shall make findings regarding whether the following activities were appropriate and  
 12.26 necessary, and whether the child-placing agency or petitioner ensured appropriate and  
 12.27 meaningful services were available based upon the family's specific needs, whether listed  
 12.28 in this paragraph or not:

12.29 (1) whether active efforts were made at the earliest point possible to inquire into the  
 12.30 child's heritage, to identify any federally recognized Indian Tribe the child may be affiliated  
 12.31 with, to notify all potential Tribes at the earliest point possible, and to request participation  
 12.32 of the Indian child's Tribe;

12.33 (2) whether a Tribally designated representative with substantial knowledge of the  
 12.34 prevailing social and cultural standards and child-rearing practices within the Tribal

13.1 community was provided an opportunity to consult with and be involved in any investigations  
13.2 or assessments of the family's circumstances, participate in identifying the family's needs,  
13.3 and participate in development of any plan to keep the Indian child safely in the home,  
13.4 identify services designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian child's family, and to reunify  
13.5 the Indian child's family as soon as safety can be assured if out-of-home placement has  
13.6 occurred;

13.7 (3) whether the Tribal representative was provided with all information available  
13.8 regarding the proceeding, and whether it was requested that the Tribal representative assist  
13.9 in identifying services designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian child's family and to  
13.10 reunify the Indian child's family as soon as safety can be assured if out-of-home placement  
13.11 has occurred;

13.12 (4) whether, before making a decision that may affect an Indian child's safety and  
13.13 well-being or when contemplating placement of an Indian child, guidance from the Indian  
13.14 child's Tribe was sought regarding family structure, how the family can seek help, what  
13.15 family and Tribal resources are available, and what barriers the family faces that could  
13.16 threaten the family's preservation;

13.17 (5) whether a Tribal representative was consulted to determine and arrange for visitation  
13.18 in the most natural setting that ensures the Indian child's safety, when the Indian child's  
13.19 safety requires supervised visitation;

13.20 (6) whether early and ongoing efforts occurred to identify, locate, and include extended  
13.21 family members as supports for the Indian child and the Indian child's family;

13.22 (7) whether continued active efforts were made to identify and place the Indian child in  
13.23 a home that is compliant with the placement preferences in sections 260.751 to 260.835,  
13.24 including whether extended family members were consulted to provide support to the Indian  
13.25 child and Indian child's parents; to inform the child-placing agency, petitioner, and court  
13.26 as to cultural connections and family structure; to assist in identifying appropriate cultural  
13.27 services and supports for the Indian child and Indian child's parents; and to identify and  
13.28 serve as placement and permanency resources for the Indian child. If there was difficulty  
13.29 contacting or engaging extended family members, whether assistance was sought from the  
13.30 Tribe, the Department of Human Services, or other agencies with expertise in working with  
13.31 Indian families;

13.32 (8) whether services and resources were provided to extended family members who are  
13.33 considered the primary placement option for an Indian child, as agreed upon by the  
13.34 child-placing agency or petitioner and the Tribe, to overcome licensing and other barriers

14.1 to providing care to an Indian child. The need for services or resources shall not be a basis  
 14.2 to exclude an extended family member from consideration as a primary placement. Services  
 14.3 and resources shall include but are not limited to child care assistance, financial assistance,  
 14.4 housing resources, emergency resources, and foster care licensing assistance and resources;

14.5 (9) whether concrete services and access to both Tribal and non-Tribal services were  
 14.6 provided to the Indian child's parents and Indian custodian and, where necessary, members  
 14.7 of the Indian child's extended family members who provide support to the Indian child and  
 14.8 the Indian child's parents; and whether these services were provided in an ongoing manner  
 14.9 throughout the child-placing agency or petitioner's involvement with the Indian family to  
 14.10 directly assist the Indian family in accessing and utilizing services to maintain the Indian  
 14.11 family, or to reunify the Indian family as soon as safety can be assured if out-of-home  
 14.12 placement has occurred. Services may include but are not limited to financial assistance,  
 14.13 food, housing, health care, transportation, in-home services, community support services,  
 14.14 and specialized services; and

14.15 (10) whether visitation occurred whenever possible in the home of the Indian child's  
 14.16 parent, Indian custodian, or extended family member or in another noninstitutional setting  
 14.17 in order to keep the Indian child in close contact with the Indian child's parents, siblings,  
 14.18 and other relatives regardless of the Indian child's age and to allow the Indian child and  
 14.19 those with whom the Indian child visits to have natural, unsupervised interaction when  
 14.20 consistent with protecting the child's safety.

14.21 Subd. 2b. **Adoptions.** For adoptions under chapter 259, the court may find that active  
 14.22 efforts were made to prevent placement of an Indian child or to reunify the Indian child  
 14.23 with the Indian child's parents upon a finding that: (1) subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), clauses  
 14.24 (1) to (4), were met; (2) the Indian child's parent knowingly and voluntarily consented to  
 14.25 placement of the Indian child for adoption on the record as described in section 260.765,  
 14.26 subdivision 3a; (3) fraud was not present, and the Indian child's parent was not under duress;  
 14.27 (4) the Indian child's parent was offered and declined services that would enable the Indian  
 14.28 child's parent to maintain custody of the Indian child; and (5) the Indian child's parent was  
 14.29 counseled on alternatives to adoption, and adoption contact agreements.

14.30 Subd. 3. ~~Required findings that active efforts were provided.~~ (a) Any party seeking  
 14.31 to affect a termination of parental rights, other permanency action, or a placement where  
 14.32 custody of an Indian child may be temporarily or permanently transferred to a person or  
 14.33 entity who is not the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian, and where the Indian child's  
 14.34 parent or Indian custodian cannot have the Indian child returned to their care upon demand,  
 14.35 must satisfy the court that active efforts have been made to provide remedial services and

15.1 ~~rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family and that these~~  
15.2 ~~efforts have proved unsuccessful.~~

15.3 ~~(b) A court shall not order an out-of-home or permanency placement for an Indian child~~  
15.4 ~~unless the court finds that the child-placing agency made active efforts to, as required by~~  
15.5 ~~section 260.012 and this section, provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs~~  
15.6 ~~designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian child's family, and that these efforts have~~  
15.7 ~~proved unsuccessful. To the extent possible, active efforts must be provided in a manner~~  
15.8 ~~consistent with the prevailing social and cultural conditions of the Indian child's Tribe and~~  
15.9 ~~in partnership with the Indian child, Indian parents, extended family, and Tribe.~~

15.10 ~~(e) Regardless of whether the Indian child's Tribe has intervened in the proceedings, the~~  
15.11 ~~court, in determining whether the child-placing agency made active efforts to preserve the~~  
15.12 ~~Indian child's family for purposes of out-of-home placement and permanency, shall ensure~~  
15.13 ~~the provision of active efforts designed to correct the conditions that led to the out-of-home~~  
15.14 ~~placement of the Indian child and shall make findings regarding whether the following~~  
15.15 ~~activities were appropriate and necessary, and whether the child-placing agency made~~  
15.16 ~~appropriate and meaningful services, whether listed in this paragraph or not, available to~~  
15.17 ~~the family based upon that family's specific needs:~~

15.18 ~~(1) whether the child-placing agency made efforts at the earliest point possible to (i)~~  
15.19 ~~identify whether a child may be an Indian child as defined in section 260.755, subdivision~~  
15.20 ~~8; and (ii) identify and request participation of the Indian child's Tribe at the earliest point~~  
15.21 ~~possible and throughout the investigation or assessment, case planning, provision of services,~~  
15.22 ~~and case completion;~~

15.23 ~~(2) whether the child-placing agency requested that a Tribally designated representative~~  
15.24 ~~with substantial knowledge of prevailing social and cultural standards and child-rearing~~  
15.25 ~~practices within the Tribal community evaluate the circumstances of the Indian child's~~  
15.26 ~~family, provided the Tribally designated representative with all information available~~  
15.27 ~~regarding the case, and requested that the Tribally designated representative assist in~~  
15.28 ~~developing a case plan that uses Tribal and Indian community resources;~~

15.29 ~~(3) whether the child-placing agency provided concrete services and access to both~~  
15.30 ~~Tribal and non-Tribal services to members of the Indian child's family, including but not~~  
15.31 ~~limited to financial assistance, food, housing, health care, transportation, in-home services,~~  
15.32 ~~community support services, and specialized services; and whether these services are being~~  
15.33 ~~provided in an ongoing manner throughout the agency's involvement with the family, to~~  
15.34 ~~directly assist the family in accessing and utilizing services to maintain the Indian family,~~

16.1 ~~or reunify the Indian family as soon as safety can be assured if out-of-home placement has~~  
 16.2 ~~occurred;~~

16.3 ~~(4) whether the child-placing agency made early and ongoing efforts to identify, locate,~~  
 16.4 ~~and include extended family members;~~

16.5 ~~(5) whether the child-placing agency notified and consulted with the Indian child's~~  
 16.6 ~~extended family members, as identified by the child, the child's parents, or the Tribe; whether~~  
 16.7 ~~extended family members were consulted to provide support to the child and parents, to~~  
 16.8 ~~inform the child-placing agency and court as to cultural connections and family structure,~~  
 16.9 ~~to assist in identifying appropriate cultural services and supports for the child and parents,~~  
 16.10 ~~and to identify and serve as a placement and permanency resource for the child; and if there~~  
 16.11 ~~was difficulty contacting or engaging with extended family members, whether assistance~~  
 16.12 ~~was sought from the Tribe, the Department of Human Services, or other agencies with~~  
 16.13 ~~expertise in working with Indian families;~~

16.14 ~~(6) whether the child-placing agency provided services and resources to relatives who~~  
 16.15 ~~are considered the primary placement option for an Indian child, as agreed by the~~  
 16.16 ~~child-placing agency and the Tribe, to overcome barriers to providing care to an Indian~~  
 16.17 ~~child. Services and resources shall include but are not limited to child care assistance,~~  
 16.18 ~~financial assistance, housing resources, emergency resources, and foster care licensing~~  
 16.19 ~~assistance and resources; and~~

16.20 ~~(7) whether the child-placing agency arranged for visitation to occur, whenever possible,~~  
 16.21 ~~in the home of the Indian child's parent, Indian custodian, or other family member or in~~  
 16.22 ~~another noninstitutional setting, in order to keep the child in close contact with parents,~~  
 16.23 ~~siblings, and other relatives regardless of the child's age and to allow the child and those~~  
 16.24 ~~with whom the child visits to have natural, unsupervised interaction when consistent with~~  
 16.25 ~~protecting the child's safety; and whether the child-placing agency consulted with a Tribal~~  
 16.26 ~~representative to determine and arrange for visitation in the most natural setting that ensures~~  
 16.27 ~~the child's safety, when the child's safety requires supervised visitation.~~

16.28 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.763, subdivision 1, is amended  
 16.29 to read:

16.30 Subdivision 1. **Indian Tribe jurisdiction.** (a) An Indian Tribe has exclusive jurisdiction  
 16.31 over all child placement proceedings involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled  
 16.32 within the reservation of the Tribe, except where jurisdiction is otherwise vested in the state  
 16.33 by existing federal law. Tribal determination of the Tribe's exclusive jurisdiction is conclusive  
 16.34 when an Indian child resides or is domiciled within the reservation of the Tribe.



17.1 (b) Where an Indian child is a ward of the Tribal court, the Indian Tribe retains exclusive  
 17.2 jurisdiction, notwithstanding the residence or domicile of the child unless the Tribe agrees  
 17.3 to allow concurrent jurisdiction with the state.

17.4 (c) An Indian Tribe and the state of Minnesota share concurrent jurisdiction over a child  
 17.5 placement proceeding involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled outside of the  
 17.6 reservation of the Tribe.

17.7 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.763, subdivision 4, is amended  
 17.8 to read:

17.9 Subd. 4. **Transfer of proceedings.** In any child placement proceeding, upon a motion  
 17.10 or request by the Indian child's parent, Indian custodian, or Tribe, the court, in the absence  
 17.11 of good cause to the contrary, shall transfer the proceeding to the jurisdiction of the Tribe  
 17.12 absent objection by either of the Indian child's parent or the Indian custodian. The ~~petition~~  
 17.13 motion or request to transfer may be ~~filed~~ made by the Indian child's parent, the Indian  
 17.14 custodian, or the Indian child's Tribe at any stage in the proceedings by: (1) filing a written  
 17.15 motion with the court and serving the motion upon the other parties; or (2) making a request  
 17.16 on the record during the hearing, which shall be reflected in the court's findings. A request  
 17.17 or motion to transfer made by a Tribal representative of the Indian child's Tribe under this  
 17.18 subdivision shall not be considered the unauthorized practice of law. The transfer is subject  
 17.19 to declination by the Tribal court of the Tribe.

17.20 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.763, subdivision 5, is amended  
 17.21 to read:

17.22 Subd. 5. **Good cause to deny transfer.** (a) Establishing good cause to deny transfer of  
 17.23 jurisdiction to a Tribal court is a fact-specific inquiry to be determined on a case-by-case  
 17.24 basis. Socioeconomic conditions and the perceived adequacy of Tribal or Bureau of Indian  
 17.25 Affairs social services or judicial systems must not be considered in a determination that  
 17.26 good cause exists. The party opposed to transfer of jurisdiction to a Tribal court has the  
 17.27 burden to prove by clear and convincing evidence that good cause to deny transfer exists.  
 17.28 Opposition to a motion to transfer jurisdiction to Tribal court must be in writing and must  
 17.29 be served upon all parties.

17.30 (b) Upon a motion or request by an Indian child's parent, Indian custodian, or Tribe, the  
 17.31 court may find good cause to deny transfer to Tribal court if shall transfer jurisdiction to a  
 17.32 Tribal court unless it is determined that there is good cause to deny transfer based on the  
 17.33 following:

18.1 (1) the Indian child's Tribe does not have a Tribal court or any other administrative body  
18.2 of a Tribe vested with authority over child placement proceedings, as defined in section  
18.3 260.755, subdivision 3, to which the case can be transferred, and no other Tribal court has  
18.4 been designated by the Indian child's Tribe; or

18.5 (2) the evidence necessary to decide the case could not be adequately presented in the  
18.6 Tribal court without undue hardship to the parties or the witnesses and the Tribal court is  
18.7 unable to mitigate the hardship by any means permitted in the Tribal court's rules. Without  
18.8 evidence of undue hardship, travel distance alone is not a basis for denying a transfer.

18.9 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.765, subdivision 2, is amended  
18.10 to read:

18.11 Subd. 2. **Notice.** When an Indian child is voluntarily placed ~~in foster care~~ out of the care  
18.12 of the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian, the child-placing agency involved in the  
18.13 decision to place the Indian child shall give notice as described in section 260.761 of the  
18.14 placement to the Indian child's parent, parents, Indian custodian, and the Tribal social  
18.15 services agency within seven days of placement, excluding weekends and holidays.

18.16 If a child-placing agency makes a temporary voluntary ~~foster care~~ placement pending  
18.17 a decision on adoption by ~~a~~ an Indian child's parent or Indian custodian, notice of the  
18.18 placement shall be given to the Indian child's parents, Tribal social services agency, and  
18.19 the Indian custodian upon the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights or three  
18.20 months following the temporary placement, whichever occurs first.

18.21 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.765, subdivision 3a, is amended  
18.22 to read:

18.23 Subd. 3a. **Court requirements for consent.** Where any parent or Indian custodian  
18.24 voluntarily consents to a foster care placement or to termination of parental rights or adoption,  
18.25 the consent shall not be valid unless executed in writing and recorded before a judge and  
18.26 accompanied by the presiding judge's finding that the terms and consequences of the consent  
18.27 were fully explained in detail and were fully understood by the parent or Indian custodian.  
18.28 The court shall also find that either the parent or Indian custodian fully understood the  
18.29 explanation in English or that it was interpreted into a language the parent or Indian custodian  
18.30 understood. Any consent given prior to, or within ten days after, the birth of an Indian child  
18.31 shall not be valid.

19.1 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.765, subdivision 4b, is amended  
19.2 to read:

19.3 Subd. 4b. **Collateral attack; vacation of decree and return of custody;**  
19.4 **limitations.** After the entry of a final decree of adoption of an Indian child in any state  
19.5 court, the Indian child's parent may withdraw consent upon the grounds that consent was  
19.6 obtained through fraud or duress and may petition the court to vacate the decree. Upon a  
19.7 finding that consent was obtained through fraud or duress, the court shall vacate the decree  
19.8 and return the Indian child to the Indian child's parent. No adoption that has been effective  
19.9 for at least two years may be invalidated under the provisions of this subdivision unless  
19.10 otherwise permitted under a provision of state law.

19.11 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, subdivision 1a, is amended  
19.12 to read:

19.13 Subd. 1a. **Active efforts.** In any child placement proceeding, the child-placing agency  
19.14 or ~~individual~~ petitioner shall ensure that appropriate active efforts as described in section  
19.15 260.762 are provided to the Indian child's parent or parents, Indian custodian, and family  
19.16 to support reunification and preservation of the Indian child's placement with and relationship  
19.17 to the Indian child's extended family.

19.18 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, subdivision 1b, is amended  
19.19 to read:

19.20 Subd. 1b. **Placement preference.** In any child placement proceeding, the child-placing  
19.21 agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner shall follow the placement preferences described in section  
19.22 260.773 or, where preferred placement is not available even with the provision of active  
19.23 efforts, shall follow section 260.773, subdivisions 12 to 15.

19.24 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, subdivision 1c, is amended  
19.25 to read:

19.26 Subd. 1c. **Identification of extended family members.** Any child-placing agency or  
19.27 ~~individual~~ petitioner considering placement of an Indian child shall ~~make~~ ensure active  
19.28 efforts are made to identify and locate siblings and extended family members and to explore  
19.29 placement with ~~an~~ extended family member ~~and facilitate continued involvement in the~~  
19.30 ~~Indian child's life~~ members and ensure the Indian child's relationship with the Indian child's  
19.31 extended family and Tribe.

20.1 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, subdivision 2b, is amended  
20.2 to read:

20.3 Subd. 2b. **Appointment of counsel.** (a) In any state court child placement proceeding,  
20.4 including but not limited to any proceeding where the petitioner or another party seeks to  
20.5 temporarily or permanently remove an Indian child from the Indian child's parent or parents  
20.6 or Indian custodian, the Indian child's parent or parents or Indian custodian shall have the  
20.7 right to be represented by an attorney. If the parent or parents or Indian custodian cannot  
20.8 afford an attorney and meet the requirements of section 611.17, an attorney will be appointed  
20.9 to represent them.

20.10 (b) In any state court child placement proceeding, any Indian child ten years of age or  
20.11 older shall have the right to court-appointed counsel. The court may appoint counsel for  
20.12 any Indian child under ten years of age in any state court child placement proceeding if the  
20.13 court determines that appointment is appropriate and in the best interest of the Indian child.

20.14 (c) If the court appoints counsel to represent a person pursuant to this subdivision, the  
20.15 court shall appoint counsel to represent the person prior to the first hearing on the petition,  
20.16 but may appoint counsel at any stage of the proceeding if the court deems it necessary.  
20.17 Appointments may be made through the Statewide Office of Appellate Counsel and Training,  
20.18 or through another mechanism chosen by the court. The court shall not appoint a public  
20.19 defender to represent the person unless such appointment is authorized by section 611.14.

20.20 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, subdivision 2d, is amended  
20.21 to read:

20.22 Subd. 2d. **Tribal access to files and other documents.** At any subsequent stage of the  
20.23 child-placing agency or petitioner's involvement with an Indian child, the child-placing  
20.24 agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner shall, upon request, give the Tribal social services agency  
20.25 full cooperation including access to all files concerning the Indian child. If the files contain  
20.26 confidential or private data, the child-placing agency or ~~individual~~ petitioner may require  
20.27 execution of an agreement with the Tribal social services agency specifying that the Tribal  
20.28 social services agency shall maintain the data according to statutory provisions applicable  
20.29 to the data.

20.30 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, is amended by adding a  
20.31 subdivision to read:

20.32 Subd. 2e. **Intervention of foster parents as parties to proceedings.** Persons who are  
20.33 either currently a placement for the Indian child, anticipate being a placement for the Indian

21.1 child in the future, or have been a placement for the Indian child in the past shall not intervene  
 21.2 as a party to any child placement proceedings, termination of parental rights proceedings,  
 21.3 and transfer of custody proceedings under this chapter and chapter 259, 260C, or 260D.

21.4 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, is amended by adding a  
 21.5 subdivision to read:

21.6 Subd. 2f. **Participation of Indian child's Tribe in court proceedings.** (a) In any child  
 21.7 placement proceeding that involves an Indian child, any Tribe that the Indian child may be  
 21.8 eligible for membership in, as determined by the Tribe, is a party to the proceedings without  
 21.9 the need to file a motion.

21.10 (b) An Indian child's Tribe, Tribal representative, or attorney representing the Tribe:

21.11 (1) may appear remotely at hearings by telephone, video conference, or other electronic  
 21.12 medium without prior request;

21.13 (2) is not required to use the court's electronic filing and service system and may use  
 21.14 United States mail, facsimile, or other alternative method for filing and service;

21.15 (3) may file documents with the court using an alternative method that the clerk of court  
 21.16 shall accept and file electronically;

21.17 (4) is exempt from any filing fees required under section 357.021; and

21.18 (5) is exempt from the pro hac vice requirements of Rule 5 of the Minnesota General  
 21.19 Rules of Practice.

21.20 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.771, subdivision 6, is amended  
 21.21 to read:

21.22 Subd. 6. **Qualified expert witness and evidentiary requirements.** (a) In ~~an~~ any  
 21.23 involuntary foster-care placement proceeding, the court must determine by clear and  
 21.24 convincing evidence, including testimony of a qualified expert witness, that continued  
 21.25 custody of the Indian child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious  
 21.26 emotional damage or serious physical damage to the Indian child.

21.27 In a termination of parental rights proceeding, the court must determine by evidence  
 21.28 beyond a reasonable doubt, including testimony of a qualified expert witness, that continued  
 21.29 custody of the Indian child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious  
 21.30 emotional damage or serious physical damage to the Indian child.

22.1 In an involuntary permanent transfer of legal and physical custody ~~proceeding~~, permanent  
22.2 custody to the agency ~~proceeding~~, temporary custody to the agency, or other permanency  
22.3 proceeding, the court must determine by clear and convincing evidence, including testimony  
22.4 of a qualified expert witness, that the continued custody of the Indian child by the Indian  
22.5 child's parent or parents or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional damage  
22.6 or serious physical damage to the Indian child. Qualified expert witness testimony is not  
22.7 required where custody is transferred to the Indian child's parent.

22.8 Testimony of a qualified expert witness shall be provided for involuntary ~~foster care~~  
22.9 child placement and permanency proceedings independently.

22.10 (b) The child-placing agency, ~~individual~~ petitioner, or any other party shall make diligent  
22.11 efforts to locate and present to the court a qualified expert witness designated by the Indian  
22.12 child's Tribe. The qualifications of a qualified expert witness designated by the Indian child's  
22.13 Tribe are not subject to a challenge in Indian child placement proceedings.

22.14 (c) If a party cannot obtain testimony from a Tribally designated qualified expert witness,  
22.15 the party shall submit to the court the diligent efforts made to obtain a Tribally designated  
22.16 qualified expert witness.

22.17 (d) If clear and convincing evidence establishes that a party's diligent efforts cannot  
22.18 produce testimony from a Tribally designated qualified expert witness, the party shall  
22.19 demonstrate to the court that a proposed qualified expert witness is, in descending order of  
22.20 preference:

22.21 (1) a member of the Indian child's Tribe who is recognized by the Indian child's Tribal  
22.22 community as knowledgeable in Tribal customs as they pertain to family organization and  
22.23 child-rearing practices; or

22.24 (2) an Indian person from an Indian community who has substantial experience in the  
22.25 delivery of child and family services to Indians and extensive knowledge of prevailing social  
22.26 and cultural standards and contemporary and traditional child-rearing practices of the Indian  
22.27 child's Tribe.

22.28 If clear and convincing evidence establishes that diligent efforts have been made to obtain  
22.29 a qualified expert witness who meets the criteria in clause (1) or (2), but those efforts have  
22.30 not been successful, a party may use an expert witness, as defined by the Minnesota Rules  
22.31 of Evidence, rule 702, who has substantial experience in providing services to Indian families  
22.32 and who has substantial knowledge of prevailing social and cultural standards and  
22.33 child-rearing practices within the Indian community. The court or any party may request

23.1 the assistance of the Indian child's Tribe or the Bureau of Indian Affairs agency serving the  
 23.2 Indian child's Tribe in locating persons qualified to serve as expert witnesses.

23.3 (e) The court may allow alternative methods of participation and testimony in state court  
 23.4 proceedings by a qualified expert witness, such as participation or testimony by telephone,  
 23.5 ~~videoconferencing~~ video conference, or other ~~methods~~ electronic medium.

23.6 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 1, is amended  
 23.7 to read:

23.8 Subdivision 1. **Least restrictive setting.** In all proceedings where custody of the Indian  
 23.9 child may be removed from the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian, the Indian child  
 23.10 shall be placed in the least restrictive setting which most approximates a family and in which  
 23.11 the Indian child's special needs, if any, may be met. The Indian child shall also be placed  
 23.12 within reasonable proximity to the Indian child's home, taking into account any special  
 23.13 needs of the Indian child.

23.14 Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 2, is amended  
 23.15 to read:

23.16 Subd. 2. **Tribe's order of placement recognized.** In the case of a placement under  
 23.17 subdivision 3 or 4, if the Indian child's Tribe has established a different order of placement  
 23.18 preference by resolution, the child-placing agency or petitioner and the court shall recognize  
 23.19 the Indian child's Tribe's order of placement in the form provided by the Tribe.

23.20 Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 3, is amended  
 23.21 to read:

23.22 Subd. 3. **Placement ~~options~~ preferences for temporary proceedings.** Preference shall  
 23.23 be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to a placement with:

23.24 (1) a noncustodial parent or Indian custodian;

23.25 (2) a member of the Indian child's extended family;

23.26 (3) a foster home licensed, approved, or specified by the Indian child's Tribe;

23.27 (4) an Indian foster home licensed or approved by an authorized non-Indian licensing  
 23.28 authority; or

23.29 (5) an institution for children approved by an Indian Tribe or operated by an Indian  
 23.30 organization which has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs.

24.1 Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 4, is amended  
24.2 to read:

24.3 Subd. 4. **Placement ~~preference~~ preferences for permanent proceedings.** In any  
24.4 adoptive placement, transfer of custody placement, or other permanency placement of an  
24.5 Indian child, a preference shall be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to a  
24.6 placement with:

24.7 (1) the Indian child's noncustodial parent or Indian custodian;

24.8 (2) a member of the Indian child's extended family;

24.9 (3) other members of the Indian child's Tribe; or

24.10 (4) other persons or entities recognized as appropriate to be a permanency resource for  
24.11 the Indian child, by the Indian child's parent or parents, Indian custodian, or Indian Tribe.

24.12 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 5, is amended  
24.13 to read:

24.14 Subd. 5. **Suitability of placement.** The ~~county~~ child-placing agency and petitioner shall  
24.15 defer to the judgment of the Indian child's Tribe as to the suitability of a placement.

24.16 Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 10, is amended  
24.17 to read:

24.18 Subd. 10. **Exceptions to placement preferences.** The court shall follow the placement  
24.19 preferences in subdivisions 1 to 9, except as follows:

24.20 (1) where a parent evidences a desire for anonymity, the child-placing agency or petitioner  
24.21 and the court shall give weight to the parent's desire for anonymity in applying the  
24.22 preferences. A parent's desire for anonymity does not excuse the application of sections  
24.23 260.751 to 260.835; or

24.24 (2) where the court determines there is good cause based on:

24.25 (i) the reasonable request of the Indian child's parents, if one or both parents attest that  
24.26 they have reviewed the placement options that comply with the order of placement  
24.27 preferences;

24.28 (ii) the reasonable request of the Indian child if the Indian child is able to understand  
24.29 and comprehend the decision that is being made;



25.1 (iii) the testimony of a qualified expert designated by the Indian child's Tribe and, if  
 25.2 necessary, testimony from an expert witness who meets qualifications of section 260.771,  
 25.3 subdivision 6, paragraph (d), clause (2), that supports placement outside the order of  
 25.4 placement preferences due to extraordinary physical or emotional needs of the Indian child  
 25.5 that require highly specialized services; or

25.6 (iv) the testimony by the child-placing agency or petitioner that a diligent search has  
 25.7 been conducted that did not locate any available, suitable families for the Indian child that  
 25.8 meet the placement preference criteria.

25.9 Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.773, subdivision 11, is amended  
 25.10 to read:

25.11 Subd. 11. **Factors considered in determining placement.** Testimony of the Indian  
 25.12 child's bonding or attachment to a foster family alone, without the existence of at least one  
 25.13 of the factors in subdivision 10, clause (2), shall not be considered good cause to keep an  
 25.14 Indian child in a lower preference or nonpreference placement. Ease of visitation and  
 25.15 facilitation of relationship with the Indian child's parents, Indian custodian, extended family,  
 25.16 or Tribe may be considered when determining placement.

25.17 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.774, subdivision 1, is amended  
 25.18 to read:

25.19 Subdivision 1. **Improper removal.** In any proceeding where custody of the Indian child  
 25.20 was improperly removed from the parent or ~~parents~~ Indian custodian or where the petitioner  
 25.21 has improperly retained custody after a visit or other temporary relinquishment of custody,  
 25.22 the court shall decline jurisdiction over the petition and shall immediately return the Indian  
 25.23 child to the Indian child's parent ~~or parents~~ or Indian custodian unless returning the Indian  
 25.24 child to the Indian child's parent ~~or parents~~ or Indian custodian would subject the Indian  
 25.25 child to a substantial and immediate danger or threat of such danger.

25.26 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.774, subdivision 2, is amended  
 25.27 to read:

25.28 Subd. 2. **Invalidation.** (a) Any order for ~~out-of-home~~ child placement, transfer of custody,  
 25.29 termination of parental rights, or other permanent change in custody of an Indian child shall  
 25.30 be invalidated upon a showing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a violation of any  
 25.31 one of the provisions in section 260.761, 260.762, 260.763, 260.765, 260.771, 260.773, or  
 25.32 260.7745 has occurred.

26.1 (b) The Indian child, the Indian child's parent or parents, guardian, Indian custodian, or  
 26.2 Indian Tribe may file a petition or motion to invalidate under this subdivision.

26.3 (c) Upon a finding that a violation of one of the provisions in section 260.761, 260.762,  
 26.4 260.763, 260.765, 260.771, 260.773, or 260.7745 has occurred, the court shall:

26.5 (1) dismiss the petition without prejudice; ~~and~~

26.6 (2) return the Indian child to the care, custody, and control of the parent or parents or  
 26.7 Indian custodian, unless the Indian child would be subjected to imminent physical damage  
 26.8 or harm; and

26.9 (3) determine whether the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian has been assessed  
 26.10 placement costs and order reimbursement of those costs.

26.11 (d) Upon a finding that a willful, intentional, knowing, or reckless violation of one of  
 26.12 the provisions in section 260.761, 260.762, 260.763, 260.765, 260.771, 260.773, or 260.7745  
 26.13 has occurred, the court may consider whether sanctions, reasonable costs, and attorney fees  
 26.14 should be imposed against the offending party.

26.15 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.774, subdivision 3, is amended  
 26.16 to read:

26.17 Subd. 3. **Return of custody following adoption.** (a) Whenever a final decree of adoption  
 26.18 of an Indian child has been vacated, set aside, or there is a termination of the parental rights  
 26.19 of the adoptive parents to the Indian child, a biological parent or prior Indian custodian may  
 26.20 petition for return of custody and the court shall grant the petition unless there is a showing,  
 26.21 in proceedings subject to the provision of sections 260.751 to 260.835, that the return of  
 26.22 custody is not in the best interests of the Indian child.

26.23 (b) The county attorney, Indian child, Indian child's Tribe, Indian custodian, or ~~a~~ an  
 26.24 Indian child's parent whose parental rights were terminated under a previous order of the  
 26.25 court may file a petition for the return of custody.

26.26 (c) A petition for return of custody may be filed in court when:

26.27 (1) the parent or Indian custodian has corrected the conditions that led to an order  
 26.28 terminating parental rights;

26.29 (2) the parent or Indian custodian is willing and has the capability to provide day-to-day  
 26.30 care and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the Indian child; and

26.31 (3) the adoption has been vacated, set aside, or termination of the parental rights of the  
 26.32 adoptive parents to the Indian child has occurred.

27.1 (d) A petition for reestablishment of the legal parent and child relationship for a an Indian  
27.2 child who has not been adopted must meet the requirements in section 260C.329.

27.3 Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.775, is amended to read:

27.4 **260.775 PLACEMENT RECORDS.**

27.5 (a) The commissioner of human services shall publish annually an inventory of all Indian  
27.6 children in residential facilities. The inventory shall include, by county and statewide,  
27.7 information on legal status, living arrangement, age, sex, Tribe in which the Indian child is  
27.8 a member or eligible for membership, accumulated length of time in foster care, and other  
27.9 demographic information deemed appropriate concerning all Indian children in residential  
27.10 facilities. The report must also state the extent to which authorized child-placing agencies  
27.11 comply with the order of preference described in United States Code, title 25, section 1901,  
27.12 et seq. The commissioner shall include the information required under this paragraph in the  
27.13 annual report on child maltreatment and on children in ~~out-of-home~~ placement under section  
27.14 257.0725.

27.15 (b) This section expires January 1, 2032.

27.16 Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.781, subdivision 1, is amended  
27.17 to read:

27.18 Subdivision 1. **Court decree information.** (a) A state court entering a final decree or  
27.19 order in an Indian child adoptive placement shall provide the Department of Human Services  
27.20 and the child's Tribal social services agency with a copy of the decree or order together with  
27.21 such other information to show:

27.22 (1) the name and Tribal affiliation of the Indian child;

27.23 (2) the names and addresses of the biological parents and Indian custodian, if any;

27.24 (3) the names and addresses of the adoptive parents; and

27.25 (4) the identity of any agency having files or information relating to the adoptive  
27.26 placement.

27.27 If the court records contain an affidavit of the biological or adoptive ~~parent or parents~~  
27.28 or Indian custodian requesting anonymity, the court shall delete the name and address of  
27.29 the biological or adoptive parents or Indian custodian from the information sent to the Indian  
27.30 child's Tribal social services agency. The court shall include the affidavit with the other  
27.31 information provided to the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Secretary

28.1 of the Interior. The Minnesota Department of Human Services shall and the Secretary of  
 28.2 the Interior is requested to ensure that the confidentiality of the information is maintained  
 28.3 and the information shall not be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, United States  
 28.4 Code, title 5, section 552, as amended.

28.5 (b) For:

28.6 (1) disclosure of information for ~~enrollment~~ membership of an Indian child in the Tribe;

28.7 (2) determination of member rights or benefits; or

28.8 (3) certification of entitlement to membership upon the request of the adopted Indian  
 28.9 child over the age of eighteen, the adoptive or foster parents of an Indian child, or an Indian  
 28.10 Tribe,

28.11 the Secretary of the Interior is requested to disclose any other necessary information for the  
 28.12 membership of an Indian child in the Tribe in which the Indian child may be eligible for  
 28.13 membership or for determining any rights or benefits associated with that membership.

28.14 Where the documents relating to the Indian child contain an affidavit from the biological  
 28.15 parent or ~~parents~~ Indian custodian requesting anonymity, the Secretary of the Interior is  
 28.16 requested to certify to the Indian child's Tribe, where the information warrants, that the  
 28.17 Indian child's parentage and other circumstances of birth entitle the Indian child to  
 28.18 membership under the criteria established by the Tribe.

28.19 Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.785, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

28.20 Subdivision 1. **Primary support grants.** The commissioner shall establish direct grants  
 28.21 to Indian Tribes, Indian organizations, and Tribal social services agency programs located  
 28.22 off-reservation that serve Indian children and their families to provide primary support for  
 28.23 Indian child welfare programs to implement the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.

28.24 Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.785, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

28.25 Subd. 3. **Compliance grants.** The commissioner shall establish direct grants to an Indian  
 28.26 child welfare defense corporation, as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 611.216,  
 28.27 subdivision 1a, to promote statewide compliance with the Minnesota Indian Family  
 28.28 Preservation Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, section  
 28.29 1901, et seq. The commissioner shall give priority consideration to applicants with  
 28.30 demonstrated capability of providing legal advocacy services statewide.

29.1 Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.786, subdivision 2, is amended  
29.2 to read:

29.3 Subd. 2. **Purposes.** Money must be used to address staffing for responding to notifications  
29.4 under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation  
29.5 Act, to the extent necessary, or to provide other child protection and child welfare services.  
29.6 Money must not be used to supplant current Tribal expenditures for these purposes.

29.7 Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 260.795, subdivision 1, is amended  
29.8 to read:

29.9 Subdivision 1. **Types of services.** (a) Eligible Indian child welfare services provided  
29.10 under primary support grants include:

29.11 (1) placement prevention and reunification services;

29.12 (2) family-based services;

29.13 (3) individual and family counseling;

29.14 (4) access to professional individual, group, and family counseling;

29.15 (5) crisis intervention and crisis counseling;

29.16 (6) development of foster and adoptive placement resources, including recruitment,  
29.17 licensing, and support;

29.18 (7) court advocacy;

29.19 (8) training and consultation to county and private social services agencies regarding  
29.20 the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act;

29.21 (9) advocacy in working with the county and private social services agencies, and  
29.22 activities to help provide access to agency services, including but not limited to 24-hour  
29.23 caretaker and homemaker services, day care, emergency shelter care up to 30 days in 12  
29.24 months, access to emergency financial assistance, and arrangements to provide temporary  
29.25 respite care to a family for up to 72 hours consecutively or 30 days in 12 months;

29.26 (10) transportation services to the child and parents to prevent placement or reunite the  
29.27 family; and

29.28 (11) other activities and services approved by the commissioner that further the goals  
29.29 of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act,  
29.30 including but not limited to recruitment of Indian staff for child-placing agencies and licensed

30.1 child-placing agencies. The commissioner may specify the priority of an activity and service  
30.2 based on its success in furthering these goals.

30.3 (b) Eligible services provided under special focus grants include:

30.4 (1) permanency planning activities that meet the special needs of Indian families;

30.5 (2) teenage pregnancy;

30.6 (3) independent living skills;

30.7 (4) family and community involvement strategies to combat child abuse and chronic  
30.8 neglect of children;

30.9 (5) coordinated child welfare and mental health services to Indian families;

30.10 (6) innovative approaches to assist Indian youth to establish better self-image, decrease  
30.11 isolation, and decrease the suicide rate;

30.12 (7) expanding or improving services by packaging and disseminating information on  
30.13 successful approaches or by implementing models in Indian communities relating to the  
30.14 development or enhancement of social structures that increase family self-reliance and links  
30.15 with existing community resources;

30.16 (8) family retrieval services to help adopted individuals reestablish legal affiliation with  
30.17 the Indian Tribe; and

30.18 (9) other activities and services approved by the commissioner that further the goals of  
30.19 the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.

30.20 The commissioner may specify the priority of an activity and service based on its success  
30.21 in furthering these goals.

30.22 (c) The commissioner shall give preference to programs that use Indian staff, contract  
30.23 with Indian organizations or Tribes, or whose application is a joint effort between the Indian  
30.24 and non-Indian community to achieve the goals of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act  
30.25 and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act. Programs must have input and support  
30.26 from the Indian community.

30.27 Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.810, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

30.28 Subd. 3. **Final report.** A final evaluation report must be submitted by each approved  
30.29 program to the commissioner. It must include client outcomes, cost and effectiveness in  
30.30 meeting the goals of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act and permanency planning

31.1 goals. The commissioner must compile the final reports into one document and provide a  
 31.2 copy to each Tribe.

31.3 Sec. 49. **REPEALER.**

31.4 Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260.755, subdivision 13, is repealed.

31.5 **ARTICLE 2**

31.6 **CONFORMING CHANGES**

31.7 Section 1. **[259.201] COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE**  
 31.8 **ACT AND MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT.**

31.9 Adoption proceedings under this chapter that involve an Indian child are child custody  
 31.10 proceedings governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections  
 31.11 1901 to 1963; by the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835;  
 31.12 and by this chapter when not inconsistent with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and  
 31.13 the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.

31.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.007, subdivision 26b, is amended to read:

31.15 Subd. 26b. **Relative of an Indian child.** "Relative of an Indian child" means a person  
 31.16 who is a member of the Indian child's family as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act of  
 31.17 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1903, paragraphs (2), (6), and (9), and who is an  
 31.18 extended family member as defined in section 260.755, subdivision 5b, of the Minnesota  
 31.19 Indian Family Preservation Act. The legal parent, guardian, or custodian of the Indian child's  
 31.20 sibling is not a relative of the Indian child unless they are independently related to the Indian  
 31.21 child.

31.22 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.178, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

31.23 Subdivision 1. **Hearing and release requirements.** (a) If a child was taken into custody  
 31.24 under section 260C.175, subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), item (ii), the court shall hold a  
 31.25 hearing within 72 hours of the time that the child was taken into custody, excluding  
 31.26 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, to determine whether the child should continue to be in  
 31.27 custody.

31.28 (b) Unless there is reason to believe that the child would endanger self or others or not  
 31.29 return for a court hearing, or that the child's health or welfare would be immediately  
 31.30 endangered, the child shall be released to the custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or  
 31.31 other suitable person, subject to reasonable conditions of release including, but not limited

32.1 to, a requirement that the child undergo a chemical use assessment as provided in section  
32.2 260C.157, subdivision 1.

32.3 (c) If the court determines that there is reason to believe that the child would endanger  
32.4 self or others or not return for a court hearing, or that the child's health or welfare would be  
32.5 immediately endangered if returned to the care of the parent or guardian who has custody  
32.6 and from whom the child was removed, the court shall order the child:

32.7 (1) into the care of the child's noncustodial parent and order the noncustodial parent to  
32.8 comply with any conditions that the court determines appropriate to ensure the safety and  
32.9 care of the child, including requiring the noncustodial parent to cooperate with paternity  
32.10 establishment proceedings if the noncustodial parent has not been adjudicated the child's  
32.11 father; or

32.12 (2) into foster care as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 18, under the legal  
32.13 responsibility of the responsible social services agency or responsible probation or corrections  
32.14 agency for the purposes of protective care as that term is used in the juvenile court rules.  
32.15 The court shall not give the responsible social services legal custody and order a trial home  
32.16 visit at any time prior to adjudication and disposition under section 260C.201, subdivision  
32.17 1, paragraph (a), clause (3), but may order the child returned to the care of the parent or  
32.18 guardian who has custody and from whom the child was removed and order the parent or  
32.19 guardian to comply with any conditions the court determines to be appropriate to meet the  
32.20 safety, health, and welfare of the child.

32.21 (d) In determining whether the child's health or welfare would be immediately  
32.22 endangered, the court shall consider whether the child would reside with a perpetrator of  
32.23 domestic child abuse.

32.24 (e) The court, before determining whether a child should be placed in or continue in  
32.25 foster care under the protective care of the responsible agency, shall also make a  
32.26 determination, consistent with section 260.012 as to whether reasonable efforts were made  
32.27 to prevent placement or whether reasonable efforts to prevent placement are not required.  
32.28 In the case of an Indian child, the court shall determine whether active efforts, according  
32.29 to section 260.762 and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25,  
32.30 section 1912(d), were made to prevent placement. The court shall enter a finding that the  
32.31 responsible social services agency has made reasonable efforts to prevent placement when  
32.32 the agency establishes either:



33.1 (1) that the agency has actually provided services or made efforts in an attempt to prevent  
33.2 the child's removal but that such services or efforts have not proven sufficient to permit the  
33.3 child to safely remain in the home; or

33.4 (2) that there are no services or other efforts that could be made at the time of the hearing  
33.5 that could safely permit the child to remain home or to return home. The court shall not  
33.6 make a reasonable efforts determination under this clause unless the court is satisfied that  
33.7 the agency has sufficiently demonstrated to the court that there were no services or other  
33.8 efforts that the agency was able to provide at the time of the hearing enabling the child to  
33.9 safely remain home or to safely return home. When reasonable efforts to prevent placement  
33.10 are required and there are services or other efforts that could be ordered that would permit  
33.11 the child to safely return home, the court shall order the child returned to the care of the  
33.12 parent or guardian and the services or efforts put in place to ensure the child's safety. When  
33.13 the court makes a prima facie determination that one of the circumstances under paragraph  
33.14 (g) exists, the court shall determine that reasonable efforts to prevent placement and to  
33.15 return the child to the care of the parent or guardian are not required.

33.16 (f) If the court finds the social services agency's preventive or reunification efforts have  
33.17 not been reasonable but further preventive or reunification efforts could not permit the child  
33.18 to safely remain at home, the court may nevertheless authorize or continue the removal of  
33.19 the child.

33.20 (g) The court may not order or continue the foster care placement of the child unless the  
33.21 court makes explicit, individualized findings that continued custody of the child by the  
33.22 parent or guardian would be contrary to the welfare of the child and that placement is in the  
33.23 best interest of the child.

33.24 (h) At the emergency removal hearing, or at any time during the course of the proceeding,  
33.25 and upon notice and request of the county attorney, the court shall determine whether a  
33.26 petition has been filed stating a prima facie case that:

33.27 (1) the parent has subjected a child to egregious harm as defined in section 260C.007,  
33.28 subdivision 14;

33.29 (2) the parental rights of the parent to another child have been involuntarily terminated;

33.30 (3) the child is an abandoned infant under section 260C.301, subdivision 2, paragraph  
33.31 (a), clause (2);

34.1 (4) the parents' custodial rights to another child have been involuntarily transferred to a  
34.2 relative under Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 260C.201, subdivision 11, paragraph (e),  
34.3 clause (1); section 260C.515, subdivision 4; or a similar law of another jurisdiction;

34.4 (5) the parent has committed sexual abuse as defined in section 260E.03, against the  
34.5 child or another child of the parent;

34.6 (6) the parent has committed an offense that requires registration as a predatory offender  
34.7 under section 243.166, subdivision 1b, paragraph (a) or (b); or

34.8 (7) the provision of services or further services for the purpose of reunification is futile  
34.9 and therefore unreasonable.

34.10 (i) When a petition to terminate parental rights is required under section 260C.301,  
34.11 subdivision 4, or 260C.503, subdivision 2, but the county attorney has determined not to  
34.12 proceed with a termination of parental rights petition, and has instead filed a petition to  
34.13 transfer permanent legal and physical custody to a relative under section 260C.507, the  
34.14 court shall schedule a permanency hearing within 30 days of the filing of the petition.

34.15 (j) If the county attorney has filed a petition under section 260C.307, the court shall  
34.16 schedule a trial under section 260C.163 within 90 days of the filing of the petition except  
34.17 when the county attorney determines that the criminal case shall proceed to trial first under  
34.18 section 260C.503, subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

34.19 (k) If the court determines the child should be ordered into foster care and the child's  
34.20 parent refuses to give information to the responsible social services agency regarding the  
34.21 child's father or relatives of the child, the court may order the parent to disclose the names,  
34.22 addresses, telephone numbers, and other identifying information to the responsible social  
34.23 services agency for the purpose of complying with sections 260C.150, 260C.151, 260C.212,  
34.24 260C.215, 260C.219, and 260C.221.

34.25 (l) If a child ordered into foster care has siblings, whether full, half, or step, who are  
34.26 also ordered into foster care, the court shall inquire of the responsible social services agency  
34.27 of the efforts to place the children together as required by section 260C.212, subdivision 2,  
34.28 paragraph (d), if placement together is in each child's best interests, unless a child is in  
34.29 placement for treatment or a child is placed with a previously noncustodial parent who is  
34.30 not a parent to all siblings. If the children are not placed together at the time of the hearing,  
34.31 the court shall inquire at each subsequent hearing of the agency's reasonable efforts to place  
34.32 the siblings together, as required under section 260.012. If any sibling is not placed with  
34.33 another sibling or siblings, the agency must develop a plan to facilitate visitation or ongoing

35.1 contact among the siblings as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, unless it is  
35.2 contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings to do so.

35.3 (m) When the court has ordered the child into the care of a noncustodial parent or in  
35.4 foster care, the court may order a chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation,  
35.5 medical examination, and parenting assessment for the parent as necessary to support the  
35.6 development of a plan for reunification required under subdivision 7 and section 260C.212,  
35.7 subdivision 1, or the child protective services plan under section 260E.26, and Minnesota  
35.8 Rules, part 9560.0228.

35.9 (n) When the court has ordered an Indian child into an emergency child placement, the  
35.10 Indian child shall be placed according to the placement preferences in the Minnesota Indian  
35.11 Family Preservation Act, section 260.773.

35.12 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.201, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

35.13 Subdivision 1. **Dispositions.** (a) If the court finds that the child is in need of protection  
35.14 or services or neglected and in foster care, the court shall enter an order making any of the  
35.15 following dispositions of the case:

35.16 (1) place the child under the protective supervision of the responsible social services  
35.17 agency or child-placing agency in the home of a parent of the child under conditions  
35.18 prescribed by the court directed to the correction of the child's need for protection or services:

35.19 (i) the court may order the child into the home of a parent who does not otherwise have  
35.20 legal custody of the child, however, an order under this section does not confer legal custody  
35.21 on that parent;

35.22 (ii) if the court orders the child into the home of a father who is not adjudicated, the  
35.23 father must cooperate with paternity establishment proceedings regarding the child in the  
35.24 appropriate jurisdiction as one of the conditions prescribed by the court for the child to  
35.25 continue in the father's home; and

35.26 (iii) the court may order the child into the home of a noncustodial parent with conditions  
35.27 and may also order both the noncustodial and the custodial parent to comply with the  
35.28 requirements of a case plan under subdivision 2; or

35.29 (2) transfer legal custody to one of the following:

35.30 (i) a child-placing agency; or

35.31 (ii) the responsible social services agency. In making a foster care placement of a child  
35.32 whose custody has been transferred under this subdivision, the agency shall make an

36.1 individualized determination of how the placement is in the child's best interests using the  
36.2 placement consideration order for relatives and the best interest factors in section 260C.212,  
36.3 subdivision 2, and may include a child colocated with a parent in a licensed residential  
36.4 family-based substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190; or

36.5 (3) order a trial home visit without modifying the transfer of legal custody to the  
36.6 responsible social services agency under clause (2). Trial home visit means the child is  
36.7 returned to the care of the parent or guardian from whom the child was removed for a period  
36.8 not to exceed six months. During the period of the trial home visit, the responsible social  
36.9 services agency:

36.10 (i) shall continue to have legal custody of the child, which means that the agency may  
36.11 see the child in the parent's home, at school, in a child care facility, or other setting as the  
36.12 agency deems necessary and appropriate;

36.13 (ii) shall continue to have the ability to access information under section 260C.208;

36.14 (iii) shall continue to provide appropriate services to both the parent and the child during  
36.15 the period of the trial home visit;

36.16 (iv) without previous court order or authorization, may terminate the trial home visit in  
36.17 order to protect the child's health, safety, or welfare and may remove the child to foster care;

36.18 (v) shall advise the court and parties within three days of the termination of the trial  
36.19 home visit when a visit is terminated by the responsible social services agency without a  
36.20 court order; and

36.21 (vi) shall prepare a report for the court when the trial home visit is terminated whether  
36.22 by the agency or court order that describes the child's circumstances during the trial home  
36.23 visit and recommends appropriate orders, if any, for the court to enter to provide for the  
36.24 child's safety and stability. In the event a trial home visit is terminated by the agency by  
36.25 removing the child to foster care without prior court order or authorization, the court shall  
36.26 conduct a hearing within ten days of receiving notice of the termination of the trial home  
36.27 visit by the agency and shall order disposition under this subdivision or commence  
36.28 permanency proceedings under sections 260C.503 to 260C.515. The time period for the  
36.29 hearing may be extended by the court for good cause shown and if it is in the best interests  
36.30 of the child as long as the total time the child spends in foster care without a permanency  
36.31 hearing does not exceed ~~12~~ 21 months;

36.32 (4) if the child has been adjudicated as a child in need of protection or services because  
36.33 the child is in need of special services or care to treat or ameliorate a physical or mental

37.1 disability or emotional disturbance as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, the court  
37.2 may order the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to provide it. The court may order the  
37.3 child's health plan company to provide mental health services to the child. Section 62Q.535  
37.4 applies to an order for mental health services directed to the child's health plan company.  
37.5 If the health plan, parent, guardian, or custodian fails or is unable to provide this treatment  
37.6 or care, the court may order it provided. Absent specific written findings by the court that  
37.7 the child's disability is the result of abuse or neglect by the child's parent or guardian, the  
37.8 court shall not transfer legal custody of the child for the purpose of obtaining special  
37.9 treatment or care solely because the parent is unable to provide the treatment or care. If the  
37.10 court's order for mental health treatment is based on a diagnosis made by a treatment  
37.11 professional, the court may order that the diagnosing professional not provide the treatment  
37.12 to the child if it finds that such an order is in the child's best interests; or

37.13 (5) if the court believes that the child has sufficient maturity and judgment and that it is  
37.14 in the best interests of the child, the court may order a child 16 years old or older to be  
37.15 allowed to live independently, either alone or with others as approved by the court under  
37.16 supervision the court considers appropriate, if the county board, after consultation with the  
37.17 court, has specifically authorized this dispositional alternative for a child.

37.18 (b) If the child was adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child is a  
37.19 runaway or habitual truant, the court may order any of the following dispositions in addition  
37.20 to or as alternatives to the dispositions authorized under paragraph (a):

37.21 (1) counsel the child or the child's parents, guardian, or custodian;

37.22 (2) place the child under the supervision of a probation officer or other suitable person  
37.23 in the child's own home under conditions prescribed by the court, including reasonable rules  
37.24 for the child's conduct and the conduct of the parents, guardian, or custodian, designed for  
37.25 the physical, mental, and moral well-being and behavior of the child;

37.26 (3) subject to the court's supervision, transfer legal custody of the child to one of the  
37.27 following:

37.28 (i) a reputable person of good moral character. No person may receive custody of two  
37.29 or more unrelated children unless licensed to operate a residential program under sections  
37.30 245A.01 to 245A.16; or

37.31 (ii) a county probation officer for placement in a group foster home established under  
37.32 the direction of the juvenile court and licensed pursuant to section 241.021;

38.1 (4) require the child to pay a fine of up to \$100. The court shall order payment of the  
38.2 fine in a manner that will not impose undue financial hardship upon the child;

38.3 (5) require the child to participate in a community service project;

38.4 (6) order the child to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation and, if warranted by  
38.5 the evaluation, order participation by the child in a drug awareness program or an inpatient  
38.6 or outpatient chemical dependency treatment program;

38.7 (7) if the court believes that it is in the best interests of the child or of public safety that  
38.8 the child's driver's license or instruction permit be canceled, the court may order the  
38.9 commissioner of public safety to cancel the child's license or permit for any period up to  
38.10 the child's 18th birthday. If the child does not have a driver's license or permit, the court  
38.11 may order a denial of driving privileges for any period up to the child's 18th birthday. The  
38.12 court shall forward an order issued under this clause to the commissioner, who shall cancel  
38.13 the license or permit or deny driving privileges without a hearing for the period specified  
38.14 by the court. At any time before the expiration of the period of cancellation or denial, the  
38.15 court may, for good cause, order the commissioner of public safety to allow the child to  
38.16 apply for a license or permit, and the commissioner shall so authorize;

38.17 (8) order that the child's parent or legal guardian deliver the child to school at the  
38.18 beginning of each school day for a period of time specified by the court; or

38.19 (9) require the child to perform any other activities or participate in any other treatment  
38.20 programs deemed appropriate by the court.

38.21 To the extent practicable, the court shall enter a disposition order the same day it makes  
38.22 a finding that a child is in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care, but  
38.23 in no event more than 15 days after the finding unless the court finds that the best interests  
38.24 of the child will be served by granting a delay. If the child was under eight years of age at  
38.25 the time the petition was filed, the disposition order must be entered within ten days of the  
38.26 finding and the court may not grant a delay unless good cause is shown and the court finds  
38.27 the best interests of the child will be served by the delay.

38.28 (c) If a child who is 14 years of age or older is adjudicated in need of protection or  
38.29 services because the child is a habitual truant and truancy procedures involving the child  
38.30 were previously dealt with by a school attendance review board or county attorney mediation  
38.31 program under section 260A.06 or 260A.07, the court shall order a cancellation or denial  
38.32 of driving privileges under paragraph (b), clause (7), for any period up to the child's 18th  
38.33 birthday.

39.1 (d) In the case of a child adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child  
39.2 has committed domestic abuse and been ordered excluded from the child's parent's home,  
39.3 the court shall dismiss jurisdiction if the court, at any time, finds the parent is able or willing  
39.4 to provide an alternative safe living arrangement for the child, as defined in Laws 1997,  
39.5 chapter 239, article 10, section 2.

39.6 (e) When a parent has complied with a case plan ordered under subdivision 6 and the  
39.7 child is in the care of the parent, the court may order the responsible social services agency  
39.8 to monitor the parent's continued ability to maintain the child safely in the home under such  
39.9 terms and conditions as the court determines appropriate under the circumstances.

39.10 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.204, is amended to read:

39.11 **260C.204 PERMANENCY PROGRESS REVIEW FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER**  
39.12 **CARE FOR SIX MONTHS.**

39.13 (a) When a child continues in placement out of the home of the parent or guardian from  
39.14 whom the child was removed, no later than six months after the child's placement the court  
39.15 shall conduct a permanency progress hearing to review:

39.16 (1) the progress of the case, the parent's progress on the case plan or out-of-home  
39.17 placement plan, whichever is applicable;

39.18 (2) the agency's reasonable, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts for  
39.19 reunification and its provision of services;

39.20 (3) the agency's reasonable efforts to finalize the permanent plan for the child under  
39.21 section 260.012, paragraph (e), and to make a placement as required under section 260C.212,  
39.22 subdivision 2, in a home that will commit to being the legally permanent family for the  
39.23 child in the event the child cannot return home according to the timelines in this section;  
39.24 and

39.25 (4) in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to prevent the breakup of the Indian  
39.26 family and to make a placement according to the placement preferences under United States  
39.27 Code, title 25, chapter 21, section 1915.

39.28 (b) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined  
39.29 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit  
39.30 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

39.31 (c) The court shall ensure that notice of the hearing is sent to any relative who:

40.1 (1) responded to the agency's notice provided under section 260C.221, indicating an  
40.2 interest in participating in planning for the child or being a permanency resource for the  
40.3 child and who has kept the court apprised of the relative's address; or

40.4 (2) asked to be notified of court proceedings regarding the child as is permitted in section  
40.5 260C.152, subdivision 5.

40.6 (d)(1) If the parent or guardian has maintained contact with the child and is complying  
40.7 with the court-ordered out-of-home placement plan, and if the child would benefit from  
40.8 reunification with the parent, the court may either:

40.9 (i) return the child home, if the conditions that led to the out-of-home placement have  
40.10 been sufficiently mitigated that it is safe and in the child's best interests to return home; or

40.11 (ii) continue the matter up to a total of six additional months. If the child has not returned  
40.12 home by the end of the additional six months, unless timelines are extended pursuant to  
40.13 section 260C.503, subdivision 1, the court must conduct a hearing according to sections  
40.14 260C.503 to 260C.521.

40.15 (2) If the court determines that the parent or guardian is not complying, is not making  
40.16 progress with or engaging with services in the out-of-home placement plan, or is not  
40.17 maintaining regular contact with the child as outlined in the visitation plan required as part  
40.18 of the out-of-home placement plan under section 260C.212, the court may order the  
40.19 responsible social services agency:

40.20 (i) to develop a plan for legally permanent placement of the child away from the parent;

40.21 (ii) to consider, identify, recruit, and support one or more permanency resources from  
40.22 the child's relatives and foster parent, consistent with section 260C.212, subdivision 2,  
40.23 paragraph (a), to be the legally permanent home in the event the child cannot be returned  
40.24 to the parent. Any relative or the child's foster parent may ask the court to order the agency  
40.25 to consider them for permanent placement of the child in the event the child cannot be  
40.26 returned to the parent. A relative or foster parent who wants to be considered under this  
40.27 item shall cooperate with the background study required under section 245C.08, if the  
40.28 individual has not already done so, and with the home study process required under chapter  
40.29 245A for providing child foster care and for adoption under section 259.41. The home study  
40.30 referred to in this item shall be a single-home study in the form required by the commissioner  
40.31 of human services or similar study required by the individual's state of residence when the  
40.32 subject of the study is not a resident of Minnesota. The court may order the responsible  
40.33 social services agency to make a referral under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of



41.1 Children when necessary to obtain a home study for an individual who wants to be considered  
41.2 for transfer of permanent legal and physical custody or adoption of the child; and

41.3 (iii) to file a petition to support an order for the legally permanent placement plan.

41.4 (e) Following the review under this section:

41.5 (1) if the court has either returned the child home or continued the matter up to a total  
41.6 of six additional months, the agency shall continue to provide services to support the child's  
41.7 return home or to make reasonable efforts to achieve reunification of the child and the parent  
41.8 as ordered by the court under an approved case plan;

41.9 (2) if the court orders the agency to develop a plan for the transfer of permanent legal  
41.10 and physical custody of the child to a relative, a petition supporting the plan shall be filed  
41.11 in juvenile court within 30 days of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the  
41.12 petition held within 60 days of the filing of the pleadings; or

41.13 (3) if the court orders the agency to file a termination of parental rights, unless the county  
41.14 attorney can show cause why a termination of parental rights petition should not be filed,  
41.15 a petition for termination of parental rights shall be filed in juvenile court within 30 days  
41.16 of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the petition held within 60 days of  
41.17 the filing of the petition.

41.18 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.503, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

41.19 Subdivision 1. **Required permanency proceedings.** (a) Except for children in foster  
41.20 care pursuant to chapter 260D, where the child is in foster care or in the care of a noncustodial  
41.21 or nonresident parent, the court shall commence proceedings to determine the permanent  
41.22 status of a child by holding the admit-deny hearing required under section 260C.507 not  
41.23 later than ~~12~~ 15 months after the child is placed in foster care or in the care of a noncustodial  
41.24 or nonresident parent. Permanency proceedings for children in foster care pursuant to chapter  
41.25 260D shall be according to section 260D.07.

41.26 (b) Permanency proceedings for a foster child who is colocated with a parent in a licensed  
41.27 residential family-based substance use disorder treatment program shall be conducted  
41.28 according to section 260C.190.

41.29 (c) If a child has been in foster care for 15 months or more, including time on a trial  
41.30 home visit, the court may extend the total time the child may continue out of the home under  
41.31 the current petition for up to an additional six months in lieu of filing the permanency petition  
41.32 required under section 260C.505, upon findings that:

42.1 (1) the child is being cared for by a relative;

42.2 (2) there are compelling reasons that termination of parental rights or another permanency  
 42.3 option is not in the best interests of the child; or

42.4 (3) reasonable efforts as described in section 260.012 or where the child is an Indian  
 42.5 child, active efforts as defined in section 260.755, subdivision 1a, have not been made to  
 42.6 provide all of the services the child-placing agency believes are necessary for the safe return  
 42.7 of the child to the child's home.

42.8 (d) At a subsequent hearing for a child which must be held within six months of the  
 42.9 initial extension, the court shall determine whether it is in the best interests of the child  
 42.10 based on the criteria in paragraph (c) to extend the total time the child continues out of the  
 42.11 home under the current petition for up to an additional six months or whether a permanency  
 42.12 petition required under section 260C.505 should be filed.

42.13 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.503, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

42.14 **Subd. 3. Calculating time to required permanency proceedings.** (a) For purposes of  
 42.15 this section, the date of the child's placement in foster care is the earlier of the first  
 42.16 court-ordered placement or 60 days after the date on which the child has been voluntarily  
 42.17 placed in foster care by the child's parent or guardian. For purposes of this section, time  
 42.18 spent by a child in the home of the noncustodial parent pursuant to court order under section  
 42.19 260C.178 or under the protective supervision of the responsible social services agency in  
 42.20 the home of the noncustodial parent pursuant to an order under section 260C.201, subdivision  
 42.21 1, counts towards the requirement of a permanency hearing under this section. Time spent  
 42.22 on a trial home visit counts towards the requirement of a permanency hearing under this  
 42.23 section and the permanency progress review required under section 260C.204.

42.24 (b) For the purposes of this section, ~~12~~ 15 months is calculated as follows:

42.25 (1) during the pendency of a petition alleging that a child is in need of protection or  
 42.26 services, all time periods when a child is placed in foster care or in the home of a noncustodial  
 42.27 parent are cumulated; and

42.28 (2) if a child has been placed in foster care within the previous five years under one or  
 42.29 more previous petitions, the lengths of all prior time periods when the child was placed in  
 42.30 foster care within the previous five years are cumulated. If a child under this clause has  
 42.31 been in foster care for ~~12~~ 15 months or more, the court, if it is in the best interests of the  
 42.32 child and for compelling reasons, may extend the total time the child may continue out of

43.1 the home under the current petition ~~up to an additional six months before making a~~  
43.2 ~~permanency determination~~ as described in section 260C.503, subdivision 1, paragraph (c).

43.3 (c) If the child is on a trial home visit 12 months after the child was placed in foster care  
43.4 or in the care of a noncustodial parent, the responsible social services agency may file a  
43.5 report with the court regarding the child's and parent's progress on the trial home visit and  
43.6 the agency's reasonable efforts to finalize the child's safe and permanent return to the care  
43.7 of the parent in lieu of filing the petition required under section 260C.505. The court shall  
43.8 make findings regarding the reasonable efforts of the agency to finalize the child's return  
43.9 home as the permanency disposition order in the best interests of the child. The court may  
43.10 continue the trial home visit to a total time not to exceed six months as provided in section  
43.11 260C.201, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (3). If the court finds the agency has not  
43.12 made reasonable efforts to finalize the child's return home as the permanency disposition  
43.13 order in the child's best interests, the court may order other or additional efforts to support  
43.14 the child remaining in the care of the parent. If a trial home visit ordered or continued at  
43.15 permanency proceedings under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521 terminates, the court shall  
43.16 commence or recommence permanency proceedings under this chapter no later than 30  
43.17 days after the child is returned to foster care or to the care of a noncustodial parent.

43.18 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.505, is amended to read:

43.19 **260C.505 PETITION.**

43.20 (a) A permanency or termination of parental rights petition must be filed at or prior to  
43.21 the time the child has been in foster care or in the care of a noncustodial or nonresident  
43.22 parent for ~~at least~~ 14 months or in the expedited manner required in section 260C.503, subdivision  
43.23 2, paragraph (a). The court administrator shall serve the petition as required in the Minnesota  
43.24 Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure and section 260C.152 for the admit-deny hearing  
43.25 on the petition required in section 260C.507.

43.26 (b) A petition under this section is not required if the responsible social services agency  
43.27 intends to recommend that the child return to the care of the parent from whom the child  
43.28 was removed at or prior to the time the court is required to hold the admit-deny hearing  
43.29 required under section 260C.507.

44.1 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.507, is amended to read:

44.2 **260C.507 ADMIT-DENY HEARING.**

44.3 (a) An admit-deny hearing on the permanency or termination of parental rights petition  
44.4 shall be held not later than ~~12~~ 15 months from the child's placement in foster care or an  
44.5 order for the child to be in the care of a noncustodial or nonresident parent.

44.6 (b) An admit-deny hearing on the termination of parental rights or transfer of permanent  
44.7 legal and physical custody petition required to be immediately filed under section 260C.503,  
44.8 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), shall be within ten days of the filing of the petition.

44.9 (c) At the admit-deny hearing, the court shall determine whether there is a prima facie  
44.10 basis for finding that the agency made reasonable efforts, or in the case of an Indian child  
44.11 active efforts, for reunification as required or that reasonable efforts for reunification are  
44.12 not required under section 260.012 and proceed according to the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile  
44.13 Protection Procedure.

44.14 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260D.01, is amended to read:

44.15 **260D.01 CHILD IN VOLUNTARY FOSTER CARE FOR TREATMENT.**

44.16 (a) Sections 260D.01 to 260D.10, may be cited as the "child in voluntary foster care for  
44.17 treatment" provisions of the Juvenile Court Act.

44.18 (b) The juvenile court has original and exclusive jurisdiction over a child in voluntary  
44.19 foster care for treatment upon the filing of a report or petition required under this chapter.  
44.20 All obligations of the responsible social services agency to a child and family in foster care  
44.21 contained in chapter 260C not inconsistent with this chapter are also obligations of the  
44.22 agency with regard to a child in foster care for treatment under this chapter.

44.23 (c) This chapter shall be construed consistently with the mission of the children's mental  
44.24 health service system as set out in section 245.487, subdivision 3, and the duties of an agency  
44.25 under sections 256B.092 and 260C.157 and Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0004 to 9525.0016,  
44.26 to meet the needs of a child with a developmental disability or related condition. This  
44.27 chapter:

44.28 (1) establishes voluntary foster care through a voluntary foster care agreement as the  
44.29 means for an agency and a parent to provide needed treatment when the child must be in  
44.30 foster care to receive necessary treatment for an emotional disturbance or developmental  
44.31 disability or related condition;

45.1 (2) establishes court review requirements for a child in voluntary foster care for treatment  
45.2 due to emotional disturbance or developmental disability or a related condition;

45.3 (3) establishes the ongoing responsibility of the parent as legal custodian to visit the  
45.4 child, to plan together with the agency for the child's treatment needs, to be available and  
45.5 accessible to the agency to make treatment decisions, and to obtain necessary medical,  
45.6 dental, and other care for the child;

45.7 (4) applies to voluntary foster care when the child's parent and the agency agree that the  
45.8 child's treatment needs require foster care either:

45.9 (i) due to a level of care determination by the agency's screening team informed by the  
45.10 child's diagnostic and functional assessment under section 245.4885; or

45.11 (ii) due to a determination regarding the level of services needed by the child by the  
45.12 responsible social services agency's screening team under section 256B.092, and Minnesota  
45.13 Rules, parts 9525.0004 to 9525.0016; and

45.14 (5) includes the requirements for a child's placement in sections 260C.70 to 260C.714,  
45.15 when the juvenile treatment screening team recommends placing a child in a qualified  
45.16 residential treatment program, except as modified by this chapter.

45.17 (d) This chapter does not apply when there is a current determination under chapter  
45.18 260E that the child requires child protective services or when the child is in foster care for  
45.19 any reason other than treatment for the child's emotional disturbance or developmental  
45.20 disability or related condition. When there is a determination under chapter 260E that the  
45.21 child requires child protective services based on an assessment that there are safety and risk  
45.22 issues for the child that have not been mitigated through the parent's engagement in services  
45.23 or otherwise, or when the child is in foster care for any reason other than the child's emotional  
45.24 disturbance or developmental disability or related condition, the provisions of chapter 260C  
45.25 apply.

45.26 (e) The paramount consideration in all proceedings concerning a child in voluntary foster  
45.27 care for treatment is the safety, health, and the best interests of the child. The purpose of  
45.28 this chapter is:

45.29 (1) to ensure that a child with a disability is provided the services necessary to treat or  
45.30 ameliorate the symptoms of the child's disability;

45.31 (2) to preserve and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible and in the child's  
45.32 best interests, approving the child's placement away from the child's parents only when the

46.1 child's need for care or treatment requires out-of-home placement and the child cannot be  
46.2 maintained in the home of the parent; and

46.3 (3) to ensure that the child's parent retains legal custody of the child and associated  
46.4 decision-making authority unless the child's parent willfully fails or is unable to make  
46.5 decisions that meet the child's safety, health, and best interests. The court may not find that  
46.6 the parent willfully fails or is unable to make decisions that meet the child's needs solely  
46.7 because the parent disagrees with the agency's choice of foster care facility, unless the  
46.8 agency files a petition under chapter 260C, and establishes by clear and convincing evidence  
46.9 that the child is in need of protection or services.

46.10 (f) The legal parent-child relationship shall be supported under this chapter by maintaining  
46.11 the parent's legal authority and responsibility for ongoing planning for the child and by the  
46.12 agency's assisting the parent, when necessary, to exercise the parent's ongoing right and  
46.13 obligation to visit or to have reasonable contact with the child. Ongoing planning means:

46.14 (1) actively participating in the planning and provision of educational services, medical,  
46.15 and dental care for the child;

46.16 (2) actively planning and participating with the agency and the foster care facility for  
46.17 the child's treatment needs;

46.18 (3) planning to meet the child's need for safety, stability, and permanency, and the child's  
46.19 need to stay connected to the child's family and community;

46.20 (4) engaging with the responsible social services agency to ensure that the family and  
46.21 permanency team under section 260C.706 consists of appropriate family members. For  
46.22 purposes of voluntary placement of a child in foster care for treatment under chapter 260D,  
46.23 prior to forming the child's family and permanency team, the responsible social services  
46.24 agency must consult with the child's parent or legal guardian, the child if the child is 14  
46.25 years of age or older, and, if applicable, the child's Tribe to obtain recommendations regarding  
46.26 which individuals to include on the team and to ensure that the team is family-centered and  
46.27 will act in the child's best interests. If the child, child's parents, or legal guardians raise  
46.28 concerns about specific relatives or professionals, the team should not include those  
46.29 individuals unless the individual is a treating professional or an important connection to the  
46.30 youth as outlined in the case or crisis plan; and

46.31 (5) for a voluntary placement under this chapter in a qualified residential treatment  
46.32 program, as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, for purposes of engaging in a  
46.33 relative search as provided in section 260C.221, the county agency must consult with the  
46.34 child's parent or legal guardian, the child if the child is 14 years of age or older, and, if

47.1 applicable, the child's Tribe to obtain recommendations regarding which adult relatives the  
 47.2 county agency should notify. If the child, child's parents, or legal guardians raise concerns  
 47.3 about specific relatives, the county agency should not notify those relatives.

47.4 ~~(g) The provisions of section 260.012 to ensure placement prevention, family~~  
 47.5 ~~reunification, and all active and reasonable effort requirements of that section apply. This~~  
 47.6 ~~chapter shall be construed consistently with the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare~~  
 47.7 ~~Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1901, et al., and the provisions of the~~  
 47.8 ~~Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835.~~

47.9 Sec. 11. **[260D.011] COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE**  
 47.10 **ACT AND MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT.**

47.11 Proceedings under this chapter concerning an Indian child are child custody proceedings  
 47.12 governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to  
 47.13 1963; by the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835; and  
 47.14 by this chapter when not inconsistent with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act or the  
 47.15 Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.

47.16 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260D.12, is amended to read:

47.17 **260D.12 TRIAL HOME VISITS; VOLUNTARY FOSTER CARE FOR**  
 47.18 **TREATMENT.**

47.19 When a child is in foster care for treatment under this chapter, the child's parent and the  
 47.20 responsible social services agency may agree that the child is returned to the care of the  
 47.21 parent on a trial home visit. The purpose of the trial home visit is to provide sufficient  
 47.22 planning for supports and services to the child and family to meet the child's needs following  
 47.23 treatment so that the child can return to and remain in the parent's home. During the period  
 47.24 of the trial home visit, the agency has placement and care responsibility for the child. The  
 47.25 trial home visit shall not exceed ~~six~~ 12 months and may be terminated by either the parent  
 47.26 or the agency within ten days' written notice.

47.27 Sec. 13. **[260E.015] COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE**  
 47.28 **ACT AND MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT.**

47.29 Proceedings under this chapter concerning an Indian child are child custody proceedings  
 47.30 governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to  
 47.31 1963; by the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835; and

48.1 by this chapter when not inconsistent with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act or the  
48.2 Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.

48.3 Sec. 14. **[524.5-2011] COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE**  
48.4 **ACT AND MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT.**

48.5 Proceedings under this chapter concerning an Indian child are child custody proceedings  
48.6 governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to  
48.7 1963; by the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835; and  
48.8 by this chapter when not inconsistent with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act or the  
48.9 Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.



APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: S4480-1

**260.755 DEFINITIONS.**

Subd. 13. **Local social services agency.** "Local social services agency" means the local agency under the authority of the county welfare or human services board or county board of commissioners which is responsible for human services.