

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 801

AN ACT

To repeal sections 193.265, 210.145, 210.160, 210.560, 210.565, 210.762, 210.795, 210.830, 211.032, 211.171, 211.211, 211.261, 211.355, 211.462, 452.423, and 452.785, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seventeen new sections relating to child protection.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 193.265, 210.145, 210.160, 210.560, 210.565, 210.762, 210.795, 210.830, 211.032, 211.171, 211.211, 211.261, 211.355, 211.462, 452.423, and 452.785, RSMo, are repealed and seventeen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 193.265, 210.145, 210.160, 210.560, 210.565, 210.762, 210.795, 210.830, 211.032, 211.171, 211.211, 211.261, 211.355, 211.462, 452.423, 452.785, and 477.700, to read as follows:

193.265. 1. For the issuance of a certification or copy of a death record, the applicant shall pay a fee of fourteen dollars for the first certification or copy and a fee of eleven dollars for each additional copy ordered at that time. For the issuance of a certification or copy of a birth, marriage, divorce, or fetal death record, the applicant shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars. No fee shall be required or collected for a certification of birth, death, or marriage if the request for certification is made by the children's division, the division of youth services, [a guardian ad litem, or] a juvenile officer, or the child's attorney on behalf of a child or person under twenty-one years of age who has come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under section 211.031. All fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited to the state

department of revenue. Beginning August 28, 2004, for each vital records fee collected, the director of revenue shall credit four dollars to the general revenue fund, five dollars to the children's trust fund, one dollar shall be credited to the endowed care cemetery audit fund, one dollar for each certification or copy of death records to the Missouri state coroners' training fund established in section 58.208, and three dollars for the first copy of death records and five dollars for birth, marriage, divorce, and fetal death records shall be credited to the Missouri public health services fund established in section 192.900. Money in the endowed care cemetery audit fund shall be available by appropriation to the division of professional registration to pay its expenses in administering sections 214.270 to 214.410. All interest earned on money deposited in the endowed care cemetery audit fund shall be credited to the endowed care cemetery fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, money placed in the endowed care cemetery audit fund shall not be transferred and placed to the credit of general revenue until the amount in the fund at the end of the biennium exceeds three times the amount of the appropriation from the endowed care cemetery audit fund for the preceding fiscal year. The money deposited in the public health services fund under this section shall be deposited in a separate account in the fund, and moneys in such account, upon appropriation, shall be used to automate and improve the state vital records system, and develop and maintain an electronic birth and death registration system. For any search of the files and records, when no record is found, the state shall be entitled to a fee equal to the amount for a certification of a vital record for a five-year search to be paid by the applicant. For the processing of each

legitimation, adoption, court order or recording after the registrant's twelfth birthday, the state shall be entitled to a fee equal to the amount for a certification of a vital record. Except whenever a certified copy or copies of a vital record is required to perfect any claim of any person on relief, or any dependent of any person who was on relief for any claim upon the government of the state or United States, the state registrar shall, upon request, furnish a certified copy or so many certified copies as are necessary, without any fee or compensation therefor.

2. For the issuance of a certification of a death record by the local registrar, the applicant shall pay a fee of fourteen dollars for the first certification or copy and a fee of eleven dollars for each additional copy ordered at that time. For each fee collected under this subsection, one dollar shall be deposited to the state department of revenue and the remainder shall be deposited to the official city or county health agency. The director of revenue shall credit all fees deposited to the state department of revenue under this subsection to the Missouri state coroners' training fund established in section 58.208.

3. For the issuance of a certification or copy of a birth, marriage, divorce, or fetal death record, the applicant shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars; except that, in any county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants, a donation of one dollar may be collected by the local registrar over and above any fees required by law when a certification or copy of any marriage license or birth certificate is provided, with such donations collected to be forwarded monthly by the local registrar to the county treasurer of such county and the donations so forwarded to be deposited by the county

treasurer into the housing resource commission fund to assist homeless families and provide financial assistance to organizations addressing homelessness in such county. The local registrar shall include a check-off box on the application form for such copies. All fees collected under this subsection, other than the donations collected in any county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants for marriage licenses and birth certificates, shall be deposited to the official city or county health agency.

4. A certified copy of a death record by the local registrar can only be issued after acceptance and registration with the state registrar. The fees paid to the official county health agency shall be retained by the local agency for local public health purposes.

5. No fee under this section shall be required or collected from a parent or guardian of a homeless child or homeless youth, as defined in subsection 1 of section 167.020, or an unaccompanied youth, as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(6), for the issuance of a certification, or copy of such certification, of birth of such child or youth. An unaccompanied youth shall be eligible to receive a certification or copy of his or her own birth record without the consent or signature of his or her parent or guardian; provided, that only one certificate under this provision shall be provided without cost to the unaccompanied or homeless youth. For the issuance of any additional certificates, the statutory fee shall be paid.

6. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no fee shall be required or collected for a certification of birth if the request is made by a victim of domestic violence or abuse, as those terms are defined in

section 455.010, and the victim provides documentation signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or a health care or mental health professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance relating to the domestic violence or abuse. Such documentation shall state that, under penalty of perjury, the employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, the attorney, or the health care or mental health professional believes the victim has been involved in an incident of domestic violence or abuse.

(2) A victim may be eligible only one time for a fee waiver under this subsection.

210.145. 1. The division shall develop protocols which give priority to:

(1) Ensuring the well-being and safety of the child in instances where child abuse or neglect has been alleged;

(2) Promoting the preservation and reunification of children and families consistent with state and federal law;

(3) Providing due process for those accused of child abuse or neglect; and

(4) Maintaining an information system operating at all times, capable of receiving and maintaining reports. This information system shall have the ability to receive reports over a single, statewide toll-free number. Such information system shall maintain the results of all investigations, family assessments and services, and other relevant information.

2. (1) The division shall utilize structured decision-making protocols, including a standard risk assessment that shall be completed within seventy-two hours of the report of abuse or neglect, for classification purposes of all child abuse and neglect reports. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and

safety of the child. All child abuse and neglect reports shall be initiated within twenty-four hours and shall be classified based upon the reported risk and injury to the child. The division shall promulgate rules regarding the structured decision-making protocols to be utilized for all child abuse and neglect reports.

(2) The director of the division and the office of state courts administrator shall develop a joint safety assessment tool before December 31, 2020, and such tool shall be implemented before January 1, 2022. The safety assessment tool shall replace the standard risk assessment required under subdivision (1) of this subsection and shall also be completed within seventy-two hours of the report of abuse or neglect.

3. Upon receipt of a report, the division shall determine if the report merits investigation, including reports which if true would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following: section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, or 565.050 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crimes under chapter 566 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 573.200, or 573.205, section 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or 573.040, or an attempt to commit any such crimes. The division shall immediately communicate all reports that merit investigation to its appropriate local office and any relevant information as may be contained in the information system. The local division staff shall determine, through the use of protocols developed by the division, whether an investigation or the

family assessment and services approach should be used to respond to the allegation. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child.

4. The division may accept a report for investigation or family assessment if either the child or alleged perpetrator resides in Missouri, may be found in Missouri, or if the incident occurred in Missouri.

5. If the division receives a report in which neither the child nor the alleged perpetrator resides in Missouri or may be found in Missouri and the incident did not occur in Missouri, the division shall document the report and communicate it to the appropriate agency or agencies in the state where the child is believed to be located, along with any relevant information or records as may be contained in the division's information system.

6. When the child abuse and neglect hotline receives three or more calls, within a seventy-two hour period, from one or more individuals concerning the same child, the division shall conduct a review to determine whether the calls meet the criteria and statutory definition for a child abuse and neglect report to be accepted. In conducting the review, the division shall contact the hotline caller or callers in order to collect information to determine whether the calls meet the criteria for harassment.

7. The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of a report which division personnel determine merits an investigation and provide such agency with a detailed description of the report received. In such cases the local division office shall request the assistance of the local law enforcement agency in all aspects of the investigation of the complaint. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall

either assist the division in the investigation or provide the division, within twenty-four hours, an explanation in writing detailing the reasons why it is unable to assist.

8. The local office of the division shall cause an investigation or family assessment and services approach to be initiated in accordance with the protocols established in subsection 2 of this section, except in cases where the sole basis for the report is educational neglect. If the report indicates that educational neglect is the only complaint and there is no suspicion of other neglect or abuse, the investigation shall be initiated within seventy-two hours of receipt of the report. If the report indicates the child is in danger of serious physical harm or threat to life, an investigation shall include direct observation of the subject child within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the report. Local law enforcement shall take all necessary steps to facilitate such direct observation. Callers to the child abuse and neglect hotline shall be instructed by the division's hotline to call 911 in instances where the child may be in immediate danger. If the parents of the child are not the alleged perpetrators, a parent of the child must be notified prior to the child being interviewed by the division. No person responding to or investigating a child abuse and neglect report shall call prior to a home visit or leave any documentation of any attempted visit, such as business cards, pamphlets, or other similar identifying information if he or she has a reasonable basis to believe the following factors are present:

(1) (a) No person is present in the home at the time of the home visit; and

(b) The alleged perpetrator resides in the home or the physical safety of the child may be compromised if the alleged perpetrator becomes aware of the attempted visit;

(2) The alleged perpetrator will be alerted regarding the attempted visit; or

(3) The family has a history of domestic violence or fleeing the community.

If the alleged perpetrator is present during a visit by the person responding to or investigating the report, such person shall provide written material to the alleged perpetrator informing him or her of his or her rights regarding such visit, including but not limited to the right to contact an attorney. The alleged perpetrator shall be given a reasonable amount of time to read such written material or have such material read to him or her by the case worker before the visit commences, but in no event shall such time exceed five minutes; except that, such requirement to provide written material and reasonable time to read such material shall not apply in cases where the child faces an immediate threat or danger, or the person responding to or investigating the report is or feels threatened or in danger of physical harm. If the abuse is alleged to have occurred in a school or child care facility the division shall not meet with the child in any school building or child-care facility building where abuse of such child is alleged to have occurred. When the child is reported absent from the residence, the location and the well-being of the child shall be verified. For purposes of this subsection, "child care facility" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in section 210.201.

9. The director of the division shall name at least one chief investigator for each local division office, who shall direct the division response on any case involving a second or subsequent incident regarding the same subject child or perpetrator. The duties of a chief investigator shall include verification of direct observation of the

subject child by the division and shall ensure information regarding the status of an investigation is provided to the public school district liaison. The public school district liaison shall develop protocol in conjunction with the chief investigator to ensure information regarding an investigation is shared with appropriate school personnel. The superintendent of each school district shall designate a specific person or persons to act as the public school district liaison. Should the subject child attend a nonpublic school the chief investigator shall notify the school principal of the investigation. Upon notification of an investigation, all information received by the public school district liaison or the school shall be subject to the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g, and federal rule 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

10. The investigation shall include but not be limited to the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse or neglect; the identity and age of the person responsible for the abuse or neglect; the names and conditions of other children in the home, if any; the home environment and the relationship of the subject child to the parents or other persons responsible for the child's care; any indication of incidents of physical violence against any other household or family member; and other pertinent data.

11. When a report has been made by a person required to report under section 210.115, the division shall contact the person who made such report within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the report in order to ensure that full information has been received and to obtain any additional information or medical records, or both, that may be pertinent.

12. Upon completion of the investigation, if the division suspects that the report was made maliciously or for the purpose of harassment, the division shall refer the report and any evidence of malice or harassment to the local prosecuting or circuit attorney.

13. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used whenever conducting the investigation as determined by the division in conjunction with local law enforcement. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used in providing protective or preventive social services, including the services of law enforcement, a liaison of the local public school, the juvenile officer, the juvenile court, and other agencies, both public and private.

14. For all family support team meetings involving an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect, the parents, legal counsel for the parents, foster parents, the legal guardian or custodian of the child, the guardian ad litem or the attorney for the child, and the volunteer advocate for the child shall be provided notice and be permitted to attend all such meetings. Family members, other than alleged perpetrators, or other community informal or formal service providers that provide significant support to the child and other individuals may also be invited at the discretion of the parents of the child. In addition, the parents, the legal counsel for the parents, the legal guardian or custodian and the foster parents may request that other individuals, other than alleged perpetrators, be permitted to attend such team meetings. Once a person is provided notice of or attends such team meetings, the division or the convenor of the meeting shall provide such persons with notice of all such subsequent meetings involving the child. Families may determine whether individuals invited at their discretion shall continue to be invited.

15. If the appropriate local division personnel determine after an investigation has begun that completing an investigation is not appropriate, the division shall conduct a family assessment and services approach. The division shall provide written notification to local law enforcement prior to terminating any investigative process. The reason for the termination of the investigative process shall be documented in the record of the division and the written notification submitted to local law enforcement. Such notification shall not preclude nor prevent any investigation by law enforcement.

16. If the appropriate local division personnel determines to use a family assessment and services approach, the division shall:

- (1) Assess any service needs of the family. The assessment of risk and service needs shall be based on information gathered from the family and other sources;
- (2) Provide services which are voluntary and time-limited unless it is determined by the division based on the assessment of risk that there will be a high risk of abuse or neglect if the family refuses to accept the services. The division shall identify services for families where it is determined that the child is at high risk of future abuse or neglect. The division shall thoroughly document in the record its attempt to provide voluntary services and the reasons these services are important to reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect to the child. If the family continues to refuse voluntary services or the child needs to be protected, the division may commence an investigation;
- (3) Commence an immediate investigation if at any time during the family assessment and services approach the division determines that an investigation, as delineated in sections 210.109 to 210.183, is required. The division

staff who have conducted the assessment may remain involved in the provision of services to the child and family;

(4) Document at the time the case is closed, the outcome of the family assessment and services approach, any service provided and the removal of risk to the child, if it existed.

17. (1) Within forty-five days of an oral report of abuse or neglect, the local office shall update the information in the information system. The information system shall contain, at a minimum, the determination made by the division as a result of the investigation, identifying information on the subjects of the report, those responsible for the care of the subject child and other relevant dispositional information. The division shall complete all investigations within forty-five days, unless good cause for the failure to complete the investigation is specifically documented in the information system. Good cause for failure to complete an investigation shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) The necessity to obtain relevant reports of medical providers, medical examiners, psychological testing, law enforcement agencies, forensic testing, and analysis of relevant evidence by third parties which has not been completed and provided to the division;

(b) The attorney general or the prosecuting or circuit attorney of the city or county in which a criminal investigation is pending certifies in writing to the division that there is a pending criminal investigation of the incident under investigation by the division and the issuing of a decision by the division will adversely impact the progress of the investigation; or

(c) The child victim, the subject of the investigation or another witness with information relevant to the

investigation is unable or temporarily unwilling to provide complete information within the specified time frames due to illness, injury, unavailability, mental capacity, age, developmental disability, or other cause.

The division shall document any such reasons for failure to complete the investigation.

(2) If a child fatality or near-fatality is involved in a report of abuse or neglect, the investigation shall remain open until the division's investigation surrounding such death or near-fatal injury is completed.

(3) If the investigation is not completed within forty-five days, the information system shall be updated at regular intervals and upon the completion of the investigation, which shall be completed no later than ninety days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect, or one hundred twenty days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect involving sexual abuse, or until the division's investigation is complete in cases involving a child fatality or near-fatality. The information in the information system shall be updated to reflect any subsequent findings, including any changes to the findings based on an administrative or judicial hearing on the matter.

18. A person required to report under section 210.115 to the division and any person making a report of child abuse or neglect made to the division which is not made anonymously shall be informed by the division of his or her right to obtain information concerning the disposition of his or her report. Such person shall receive, from the local office, if requested, information on the general disposition of his or her report. Such person may receive, if requested, findings and information concerning the case. Such release of information shall be at the discretion of the director based upon a review of the reporter's ability

to assist in protecting the child or the potential harm to the child or other children within the family. The local office shall respond to the request within forty-five days. The findings shall be made available to the reporter within five days of the outcome of the investigation. If the report is determined to be unsubstantiated, the reporter may request that the report be referred by the division to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services established in sections 37.700 to 37.730. Upon request by a reporter under this subsection, the division shall refer an unsubstantiated report of child abuse or neglect to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services.

19. The division shall provide to any individual who is not satisfied with the results of an investigation information about the office of child advocate and the services it may provide under sections 37.700 to 37.730.

20. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child the fact that a report may have been made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 shall not be admissible. However:

(1) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the introduction of evidence from independent sources to support the allegations that may have caused a report to have been made; and

(2) The court may on its own motion, or shall if requested by a party to the proceeding, make an inquiry not on the record with the children's division to determine if such a report has been made.

If a report has been made, the court may stay the custody proceeding until the children's division completes its investigation.

21. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the children's division from coinvestigating a report of child abuse or neglect or sharing records and information with child welfare, law enforcement, or judicial officers of another state, territory, or nation if the children's division determines it is appropriate to do so under the standard set forth in subsection 4 of section 210.150 and if such receiving agency is exercising its authority under the law.

22. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child where the court determines that the child is in need of services under paragraph (d) of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 and has taken jurisdiction, the child's parent, guardian or custodian shall not be entered into the registry.

23. The children's division is hereby granted the authority to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of section 207.021 and chapter 536 to carry out the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183.

24. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2000, shall be invalid and void.

210.160. 1. In **[every case]** the following cases involving an abused or neglected child which results in a

judicial proceeding, but not including any case in which the court assumes jurisdiction under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the judge shall appoint a guardian ad litem to appear for and represent:

(1) A child who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to sections [210.110 to 210.165 except proceedings under subsection 6 of section 210.152, sections 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487,] 210.817 to 210.852 or sections 453.005 to 453.170[,] or proceedings to determine custody or visitation rights under sections 452.375 to 452.410; or

(2) A parent who is a minor, or who is a mentally ill person or otherwise incompetent, and whose child is the subject of proceedings under sections [210.110 to 210.165, sections 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487,] 210.817 to 210.852 or sections 453.005 to 453.170.

2. [The judge, either sua sponte or upon motion of a party, may appoint a guardian ad litem to appear for and represent an abused or neglected child involved in proceedings arising under subsection 6 of section 210.152.

[3.] The guardian ad litem shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any agency or person, shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, and upon appointment by the court to a case, shall be informed of and have the right to attend any and all family support team meetings involving the child. Employees of the division, officers of the court, and employees of any agency involved shall fully inform the guardian ad litem of all aspects of the case of which they have knowledge or belief.

[4.] 3. The appointing judge shall require the guardian ad litem to faithfully discharge such guardian ad

litem's duties, and upon failure to do so shall discharge such guardian ad litem and appoint another. The appointing judge shall have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons appointed as guardians ad litem, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are appointed to represent. The judge in making appointments pursuant to this section shall give preference to persons who served as guardian ad litem for the child in the earlier proceeding, unless there is a reason on the record for not giving such preference.

[5.] 4. The guardian ad litem may be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be set by the court. The court, in its discretion, may award such fees as a judgment to be paid by any party to the proceedings or from public funds. However, no fees as a judgment shall be taxed against a party or parties who have not been found to have abused or neglected a child or children. Such an award of guardian fees shall constitute a final judgment in favor of the guardian ad litem. Such final judgment shall be enforceable against the parties in accordance with chapter 513.

[6.] 5. The court may designate volunteer advocates, who may or may not be attorneys licensed to practice law, to assist in the performance of the guardian ad litem duties for the court. Nonattorney volunteer advocates shall not provide legal representation. The court shall have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons designated as volunteer advocates, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are

designated to represent. The volunteer advocate shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any agency or person, shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, and upon designation by the court to a case, shall be informed of and have the right to attend any and all family support team meetings involving the child. Any such designated person shall receive no compensation from public funds. This shall not preclude reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

[7.] 6. Any person appointed to perform guardian ad litem duties shall have completed a training program in permanency planning and shall advocate for timely court hearings whenever possible to attain permanency for a child as expeditiously as possible to reduce the effects that prolonged foster care may have on a child. A nonattorney volunteer advocate shall have access to a court appointed attorney guardian ad litem should the circumstances of the particular case so require.

210.560. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Child", any child placed in the legal custody of the division under chapter 211;

(2) "Division", the children's division of the department of social services of the state of Missouri;

(3) "Money", any legal tender, note, draft, certificate of deposit, stocks, bond or check;

(4) "Vested right", a legal right that is more than a mere expectancy and may be reduced to a present monetary value.

2. The child, the child's parents, any fiduciary or any representative payee holding or receiving money that are vested rights solely for or on behalf of a child are jointly

and severally liable for funds expended by the division to or on behalf of the child. The liability of any person, except a parent of the child, shall be limited to the money received in his or her fiduciary or representative capacity. The Missouri state government shall not require a trustee or a financial institution acting as a trustee to exercise any discretionary powers in the operation of a trust.

3. The division may accept an appointment to serve as representative payee or fiduciary, or in a similar capacity for payments to a child under any public or private benefit arrangement. Money so received shall be governed by this section to the extent that laws and regulations governing payment of such benefits provide otherwise.

4. Any money received by the division on behalf of a child shall be accounted for in the name of the child. Any money in the account of a child may be expended by the division for care or services for the child. The division shall by rule adopted under chapter 536 establish procedures for the accounting of the money and the protection of the money against theft, loss or misappropriation.

5. The division shall deposit money with a financial institution. Any earnings attributable to the money in the account of a child shall be credited to that child's account. The division shall receive bids from banking corporations, associations or trust companies which desire to be selected as depositories of children's moneys for the division.

6. The division may accept funds which a parent, guardian or other person wishes to provide for the use or benefit of the child. The use and deposit of such funds shall be governed by this section and any additional directions given by the provider of the funds.

7. Each child for whose benefit funds have been received by the division and the guardian ad litem attorney of such child shall be furnished annually with a statement listing all transactions involving the funds which have been deposited on the child's behalf, to include each receipt and disbursement.

8. The division shall use all proper diligence to dispose of the balance of money accumulated in the child's account when the child is released from the care and custody of the division or the child dies. When the child is deceased the balance shall be disposed of as provided by law for descent and distribution. If, after the division has diligently used such methods and means as considered reasonable to refund such funds, there shall remain any money, the owner of which is unknown to the division, or if known, cannot be located by the division, in each and every such instance such money shall escheat and vest in the state of Missouri, and the director and officials of the division shall pay the same to the state director of the department of revenue, taking a receipt therefor, who shall deposit the money in the state treasury to be credited to a fund to be designated as "escheat".

9. Within five years after money has been paid into the state treasury, any person who appears and claims the money may file a petition in the circuit court of Cole County, Missouri, stating the nature of the claim and praying that such money be paid to him. A copy of the petition shall be served upon the director of the department of revenue who shall file an answer to the same. The court shall proceed to examine the claim and the allegations and proof, and if it finds that such person is entitled to any money so paid into the state treasury, it shall order the commissioner of administration to issue a warrant on the

state treasurer for the amount of such claim, but without interest or costs. A certified copy of the order shall be sufficient voucher for issuing a warrant; provided, that either party may appeal from the decision of the court in the same manner as provided by law in other civil actions.

10. All moneys paid into the state treasury under the provisions of this section after remaining there unclaimed for five years shall escheat and vest absolutely in the state and be credited to the state treasury, and all persons shall be forever barred and precluded from setting up title or claim to any such funds.

11. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to apply to funds regularly due the state of Missouri for the support and maintenance of children in the care and custody of the division or collected by the state of Missouri as reimbursement for state funds expended on behalf of the child.

210.565. 1. Whenever a child is placed in a foster home and the court has determined pursuant to subsection 4 of this section that foster home placement with relatives is not contrary to the best interest of the child, the children's division shall give foster home placement to relatives of the child. Notwithstanding any rule of the division to the contrary and under section 210.305, the children's division shall complete a diligent search to locate and notify the grandparents, adult siblings, parents of siblings of the child, and all other relatives and determine whether they wish to be considered for placement of the child. Grandparents who request consideration shall be given preference and first consideration for foster home placement of the child. If more than one grandparent requests consideration, the family support team shall make

recommendations to the juvenile or family court about which grandparent should be considered for placement.

2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Adult sibling", any brother or sister of whole or half-blood who is at least eighteen years of age;

(2) "Relative", a grandparent or any other person related to another by blood or affinity or a person who is not so related to the child but has a close relationship with the child or the child's family. A foster parent or kinship caregiver with whom a child has resided for nine months or more is a person who has a close relationship with the child. The status of a grandparent shall not be affected by the death or the dissolution of the marriage of a son or daughter;

(3) "Sibling", one of two or more individuals who have one or both parents in common through blood, marriage, or adoption, including siblings as defined by the child's tribal code or custom.

3. The following shall be the order or preference for placement of a child under this section:

(1) Grandparents;

(2) Adult siblings or parents of siblings;

(3) Relatives; and

(4) Any foster parent who is currently licensed and capable of accepting placement of the child.

4. The preference for placement and first consideration for grandparents or preference for placement with other relatives created by this section shall only apply where the court finds that placement with such grandparents or other relatives is not contrary to the best interest of the child considering all circumstances. If the court finds that it is contrary to the best interest of a

child to be placed with grandparents or other relatives, the court shall make specific findings on the record detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child necessitate placement of the child with persons other than grandparents or other relatives. Absent evidence to the contrary, the court may presume that continuation of the child's placement with his or her current caregivers is in the child's best interests.

5. Recognizing the critical nature of sibling bonds for children, the children's division shall make reasonable efforts to place siblings in the same foster care, kinship, guardianship, or adoptive placement, unless doing so would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings. If siblings are not placed together, the children's division shall make reasonable efforts to provide frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between the siblings, unless this interaction would be contrary to a sibling's safety or well-being.

6. The age of the child's grandparent or other relative shall not be the only factor that the children's division takes into consideration when it makes placement decisions and recommendations to the court about placing the child with such grandparent or other relative.

7. For any Native American child placed in protective custody, the children's division shall comply with the placement requirements set forth in 25 U.S.C. Section 1915.

8. A grandparent or other relative may, on a case-by-case basis, have standards for licensure not related to safety waived for specific children in care that would otherwise impede licensing of the grandparent's or relative's home. In addition, any person receiving a preference may be licensed in an expedited manner if a child is placed under such person's care.

9. The [guardian ad litem] child's attorney shall ascertain the child's wishes and feelings about his or her placement by conducting an interview or interviews with the child, if appropriate based on the child's age and maturity level, which shall be considered as a factor in placement decisions and recommendations, but shall not supersede the preference for relative placement created by this section or be contrary to the child's best interests.

210.762. 1. When a child is taken into custody by a juvenile officer or law enforcement official under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 and initially placed with the division, the division may make a temporary placement and shall arrange for a family support team meeting prior to or within twenty-four hours following the protective custody hearing held under section 211.032. After a child is in the division's custody and a temporary placement has been made, the division shall arrange an additional family support team meeting prior to taking any action relating to the placement of such child; except that, when the welfare of a child in the custody of the division requires an immediate or emergency change of placement, the division may make a temporary placement and shall schedule a family support team meeting within seventy-two hours. The requirement for a family support team meeting shall not apply when the parent has consented in writing to the termination of his or her parental rights in conjunction with a placement in a licensed child-placing agency under subsection 6 of section 453.010.

2. The parents, the legal counsel for the parents, the foster parents, the legal guardian or custodian of the child, the guardian ad litem or the attorney for the child, and the volunteer advocate, and any designee of the parent that has written authorization shall be notified and invited

to participate in all family support team meetings. The family support team meeting may include such other persons whose attendance at the meeting may assist the team in making appropriate decisions in the best interests of the child. If the division finds that it is not in the best interest of a child to be placed with relatives, the division shall make specific findings in the division's report detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child necessitate placement of the child with persons other than relatives.

3. The division shall use the form created in subsection 2 of section 210.147 to be signed upon the conclusion of the meeting pursuant to subsection 1 of this section confirming that all involved parties are aware of the team's decision regarding the custody and placement of the child. Any dissenting views must be recorded and attested to on such form.

4. The case manager shall be responsible for including such form with the case records of the child.

210.795. 1. (1) A child in the care and custody of the children's division whose physical whereabouts are unknown to the division, the child's physical custodian, or contracted service providers shall be considered missing and the case manager or placement provider shall immediately inform a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children within two hours of discovery that the child is missing.

(2) The case manager shall document the report number and any relevant information in the child's record.

(3) Within twenty-four hours of a report being made under this subsection, the department shall inform and obtain information about the child's disappearance from the child's parents, known relatives, out-of-home caregivers,

attorney, guardian [or guardian ad litem], court-appointed special advocate, juvenile officer, or Indian tribe, as applicable, or from any other person known to the department who may have relevant information regarding the child's disappearance.

(4) The case manager shall:

(a) Within one week and monthly thereafter, maintain contact with the child's family members, friends, school faculty, and service providers and with any other person or agency involved in the child's case;

(b) Document ongoing efforts to locate the child; and

(c) Continue contacting law enforcement about the missing child and shall make quarterly reports to the court about the status of the child and efforts to locate the child.

The department shall contact law enforcement every seven days and document the information provided and any information received.

(5) The division shall not petition the court for a release of jurisdiction for the child or stop searching for the child while the child is missing until the child reaches the age of twenty-one.

2. The division shall maintain protocols, including appropriate trainings, for conducting ongoing searches for children missing from care. Such protocols shall include preventative measures to identify and mitigate risk to children who are at increased risk for running away or disappearing or of being victims of trafficking as defined under section 566.200.

3. The division shall ensure that each child in the care and custody of the division has an updated photograph in the child's record.

4. When a child is located, the department shall:

(1) Inform all law enforcement agencies and organizations involved in the child's case; and

(2) Have in-person contact with the child within twenty-four hours after the child is located to assess the child's health, experiences while absent, the appropriateness of the child returning to the child's current placement, and the factors that contributed to the child's absence.

5. Any employee or contractor with the children's division, child welfare agencies, other state agencies, or schools shall, upon becoming aware that an emancipated minor as defined in section 302.178, a homeless youth as defined in section 167.020, or an unaccompanied minor as defined in section 210.121 is missing, inform the appropriate law enforcement agency and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children within twenty-four hours.

6. Within twenty-four hours of a missing child being found, the division shall assess whether the child was a victim of trafficking and determine any factors that caused the child to go missing.

7. The general assembly may require an annual independent audit of the department's compliance with this section.

210.830. The child shall be made a party to any action commenced under sections 210.817 to 210.852. If he or she is a minor, he or she may be represented by a next friend appointed for him or her for any such action. The child's mother or father or the family support division or any person having physical or legal custody of the child may represent him or her as his or her next friend. A guardian ad litem shall be appointed for the child only if child abuse or neglect is alleged and the alleged abuse or neglect has been reported to the children's division pursuant to

section 210.145, or if the child is named as a defendant, or if the court determines that the interests of the child and his or her next friend are in conflict. The natural mother, each man presumed to be the father under section 210.822, and each man alleged to be the natural father, shall be made parties or, if not subject to the jurisdiction of the court, shall be given notice of the action in a manner prescribed by the court and an opportunity to be heard. The court may align the parties.

211.032. 1. Except as otherwise provided in a circuit participating in a pilot project established by the Missouri supreme court, when a child, alleged to be in need of care and treatment pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, is taken into custody, the juvenile or family court shall notify the parties of the right to have a protective custody hearing. Such notification shall be in writing.

2. Upon request from any party, the court shall hold a protective custody hearing. Such hearing shall be held within three days of the request for a hearing, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. For circuits participating in a pilot project established by the Missouri supreme court, the parties shall be notified at the status conference of their right to request a protective custody hearing.

3. No later than February 1, 2005, the Missouri supreme court shall require a mandatory court proceeding to be held within three days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in all cases under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031. The Missouri supreme court shall promulgate rules for the implementation of such mandatory court proceedings and may consider recommendations from any pilot projects established by the Missouri supreme

court regarding such proceedings. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Missouri supreme court from expanding pilot projects prior to the implementation of this subsection.

4. The court shall hold an adjudication hearing no later than sixty days after the child has been taken into custody. The court shall notify the parties in writing of the specific date, time, and place of such hearing. If at such hearing the court determines that sufficient cause exists for the child to remain in the custody of the state, the court shall conduct a dispositional hearing no later than ninety days after the child has been taken into custody and shall conduct review hearings regarding the reunification efforts made by the division every ninety to one hundred twenty days for the first year the child is in the custody of the division. After the first year, review hearings shall be held as necessary, but in no event less than once every six months for as long as the child is in the custody of the division.

5. At all hearings held pursuant to this section the court may receive testimony and other evidence relevant to the necessity of detaining the child out of the custody of the parents, guardian or custodian.

6. By January 1, 2005, the supreme court shall develop rules regarding the effect of untimely hearings.

7. If the placement of any child in the custody of the children's division will result in the child attending a school other than the school the child was attending when taken into custody:

(1) The child's records from such school shall automatically be forwarded to the school that the child is transferring to upon notification within two business days by the division; or

(2) Upon request of the foster family, the [guardian ad litem] child's attorney, or the volunteer advocate and whenever possible, the child shall be permitted to continue to attend the same school that the child was enrolled in and attending at the time the child was taken into custody by the division. The division, in consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education, shall establish the necessary procedures to implement the provisions of this subsection.

211.171. 1. The procedure to be followed at the hearing shall be determined by the juvenile court judge and may be as formal or informal as he or she considers desirable, consistent with constitutional and statutory requirements. The judge may take testimony and inquire into the habits, surroundings, conditions and tendencies of the child and the family to enable the court to render such order or judgment as will best promote the welfare of the child and carry out the objectives of this chapter.

2. The hearing may, in the discretion of the court, proceed in the absence of the child and may be adjourned from time to time.

3. The current foster parent of a child, or any preadoptive parent or relative currently providing care for the child, shall be provided with notice of, and an opportunity to be heard in, any hearing to be held with respect to a child in his or her care, and a foster parent shall have standing to participate in all court hearings pertaining to a child in their care. If a foster parent alleges the court failed to allow the foster parent to be heard orally or by submission of correspondence at any hearing regarding a child in their care, the foster parent may seek remedial writ relief pursuant to Missouri supreme court rules 84, 94, and 97. No docket fee shall be required

to be paid by the foster parent. The children's division shall not remove a child from placement with a foster parent based solely upon the foster parent's filing of a petition for a remedial writ or while a writ is pending, unless removal is necessary to ensure the health and safety of the child.

4. A current foster parent of a child in a juvenile court case proceeding under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 who has been that child's foster parent for at least nine months shall have the right to intervene as a party. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the court to join a foster parent as a party to the case without the foster parent's consent.

5. The court shall ensure a child's foster parent has received full access to the child's medical, psychological, and psychiatric records, including prior records, from the children's division and its contractors under section 210.566, by inquiring at the first hearing at which the foster parent is present.

[5.] 6. All cases of children shall be heard separately from the trial of cases against adults.

[6.] 7. Stenographic notes or an authorized recording of the hearing shall be required if the court so orders or, if requested by any party interested in the proceeding.

[7.] 8. The general public shall be excluded and only such persons admitted as have a direct interest in the case or in the work of the court except in cases where the child is accused of conduct which, if committed by an adult, would be considered a class A or B felony; or for conduct which would be considered a class C felony, if the child has previously been formally adjudicated for the commission of two or more unrelated acts which would have been class A, B or C felonies, if committed by an adult.

[8.] 9. The practice and procedure customary in proceedings in equity shall govern all proceedings in the juvenile court; except that, the court shall not grant a continuance in such proceedings absent compelling extenuating circumstances, and in such cases, the court shall make written findings on the record detailing the specific reasons for granting a continuance.

[9.] 10. The court shall allow the victim of any offense to submit a written statement to the court. The court shall allow the victim to appear before the court personally or by counsel for the purpose of making a statement, unless the court finds that the presence of the victim would not serve justice. The statement shall relate solely to the facts of the case and any personal injuries or financial loss incurred by the victim. A member of the immediate family of the victim may appear personally or by counsel to make a statement if the victim has died or is otherwise unable to appear as a result of the offense committed by the child.

211.211. 1. A child is entitled to be represented by counsel in all proceedings under [subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 and by a guardian ad litem in all proceedings under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of] section 211.031.

2. (1) In the case of a proceeding for a child under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall appoint counsel for the child. Counsel shall be appointed before the first hearing and shall represent the child at all stages of the proceeding, including appeal. The child and child's parent or guardian shall not be represented by the same counsel.

(2) In proceedings under subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall appoint counsel for a child prior to the filing of a petition if a request is made therefor to the court and the court finds that the child is the subject of a juvenile court proceeding and that the child making the request is indigent.

3. (1) Counsel appointed under subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any agency or person, shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, and upon appointment by the court to a case, shall be informed of and have the right to attend any and all family support team meetings involving the child. Employees of the children's division, officers of the court, and employees of any agency involved shall fully inform the child's counsel of all aspects of the case of which they have knowledge or belief.

(2) The appointing judge shall require the child's counsel to faithfully discharge such counsel's duties, and upon failure to do so shall discharge such counsel and appoint another. The appointing judge shall have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons appointed as counsel, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.936, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are appointed to represent. The judge in making appointments pursuant to this subsection shall give preference to persons who served as counsel for the child in earlier proceedings, unless there is a reason on the record for not giving such preference.

(3) Any person appointed to serve as a child's counsel under this subsection shall have completed a training program in permanency planning and shall advocate for timely court hearings whenever possible to attain permanency for a child as expeditiously as possible to reduce the effects that prolonged foster care may have on a child.

(4) Right to representation by counsel under this subsection shall not be waived by the child.

4. (1) When a petition has been filed under subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court may appoint counsel for the child except if private counsel has entered his or her appearance on behalf of the child or if counsel has been waived in accordance with law; except that, counsel shall not be waived for any proceeding specified under subsection ~~[10]~~ 11 of this section unless the child has had the opportunity to meaningfully consult with counsel and the court has conducted a hearing on the record.

(2) If a child waives his or her right to counsel, such waiver shall be made in open court and be recorded and in writing and shall be made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily. In determining whether a child has knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived his or her right to counsel, the court shall look to the totality of the circumstances including, but not limited to, the child's age, intelligence, background, and experience generally and in the court system specifically; the child's emotional stability; and the complexity of the proceedings.

~~[4.]~~ 5. When a petition has been filed and the child's custodian appears before the court without counsel, the court shall appoint counsel for the custodian if it finds:

(1) That the custodian is indigent; and

(2) That the custodian desires the appointment of counsel; and

(3) That a full and fair hearing requires appointment of counsel for the custodian.

[5.] 6. Counsel shall be allowed a reasonable time in which to prepare to represent his client.

[6.] 7. Counsel shall serve for all stages of the proceedings, including appeal, unless relieved by the court for good cause shown. If no appeal is taken, services of counsel are terminated following the entry of an order of disposition.

[7.] 8. The child and his custodian may be represented by the same counsel except where a conflict of interest exists, except as otherwise provided in subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section. Where it appears to the court that a conflict exists, it shall order that the child and his custodian be represented by separate counsel, and it shall appoint counsel if required by subsection [3 or 4] 4 or 5 of this section.

[8.] 9. When a petition has been filed, a child may waive his or her right to counsel only with the approval of the court and if such waiver is not prohibited under subsection [10] 11 of this section. If a child waives his or her right to counsel for any proceeding except proceedings under subsection [10] 11 of this section, the waiver shall only apply to that proceeding. In any subsequent proceeding, the child shall be informed of his or her right to counsel.

[9.] 10. Waiver of counsel by a child may be withdrawn at any stage of the proceeding, in which event the court shall appoint counsel for the child if required by subsection [3] 4 of this section.

[10.] 11. A child's right to be represented by counsel shall not be waived in any of the following proceedings:

(1) At any contested detention hearing under Missouri supreme court rule 127.08 where the petitioner alleges that the child violated any law that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony unless an agreement is otherwise reached;

(2) At a certification hearing under section 211.071 or a dismissal hearing under Missouri supreme court rule 129.04;

(3) At an adjudication hearing under Missouri supreme court rule 128.02 for any felony offense or at any detention hearing arising from a misdemeanor or felony motion to modify or revoke, including the acceptance of an admission;

(4) At a dispositional hearing under Missouri supreme court rule 128.03; [or]

(5) At a hearing on a motion to modify or revoke supervision under subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031; or

(6) At any proceeding for a child under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031.

211.261. 1. An appeal shall be allowed to the child from any final judgment, order or decree made under the provisions of this chapter and may be taken on the part of the child by its parent, guardian, legal custodian, spouse, relative or next friend. An appeal shall be allowed to a parent from any final judgment, order or decree made under the provisions of this chapter which adversely affects him. An appeal shall be allowed to the juvenile officer from any final judgment, order or decree made under this chapter, except that no such appeal shall be allowed concerning a final determination pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031. Notice of appeal shall be

filed within thirty days after the final judgment, order or decree has been entered but neither the notice of appeal nor any motion filed subsequent to the final judgment acts as a supersedeas unless the court so orders.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, an appeal shall be allowed to the:

(1) Juvenile officer from any order suppressing evidence, a confession or an admission, in proceedings under subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031; or

(2) Parent, guardian ad litem child's counsel, or juvenile officer from any order changing or modifying the placement of a child.

3. The appeal provided for in subsection 2 of this section shall be an interlocutory appeal, filed in the appropriate district of the Missouri court of appeals. Notice of such interlocutory appeal shall be filed within three days of the entry of the order of trial court; the time limits applicable to such appeal shall be the same as in interlocutory appeals allowed to the state in criminal cases.

211.355. 1. There is hereby created within the office of state courts administrator the "Missouri State Juvenile Justice Advisory Board", which shall provide consultation and recommendations regarding ongoing best practices within the juvenile court system and juvenile officer standards. The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) A judge of a juvenile or family court as appointed by the supreme court of Missouri;

(2) A juvenile officer as appointed by the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association;

(3) A foster parent appointed by the Missouri state foster care and adoption board;

(4) One attorney representing parents' interests appointed by the Missouri Bar Association;

(5) One guardian ad litem attorney who represents abused or neglected children appointed by the Missouri Bar Association;

(6) A representative from a child advocacy center to be appointed by the Missouri Network of Child Advocacy Centers;

(7) A prosecuting attorney appointed by the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys;

(8) A law enforcement representative as designated by the Missouri Sheriffs' Association;

(9) A law enforcement representative as designated by the Missouri Police Chiefs Association; and

(10) The following shall be ex officio voting members:

(a) The director of the children's division or the director's designee;

(b) The director of the division of youth services or the director's designee;

(c) The director of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association or the director's designee;

(d) The executive director of the Missouri Court Appointed Special Advocate Association or the director's designee;

(e) The director of the office of child advocate or the director's designee; and

(f) The director of the public defender's office or the director's designee.

2. All appointed members of the board shall serve for a term of four years. Members may be reappointed to the board by their entities for consecutive terms. All vacancies on the board shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner in which the board

membership which is vacant was originally filled. Members of the board shall serve without compensation.

3. The board shall elect officers from the membership consisting of a chairperson and secretary.

4. The board shall meet a minimum of four times per calendar year.

5. The board shall provide to the office of state courts administrator, the office of child advocate, and the joint committee on child abuse and neglect a written annual report of recommendations and activities conducted and made.

211.462. 1. In all actions to terminate parental rights, [if not previously appointed pursuant to section 210.160, a guardian ad litem] an attorney shall be appointed for the child as soon as practicable after the filing of the petition, in accordance with the provisions of section 211.211.

2. The parent or guardian of the person of the child shall be notified of the right to have counsel, and if they request counsel and are financially unable to employ counsel, counsel shall be appointed by the court. Notice of this provision shall be contained in the summons. When the parent is a minor or incompetent the court shall appoint [a guardian ad litem] an attorney to represent such parent.

3. The [guardian ad litem] attorney appointed under this section shall, during all stages of the proceedings:

(1) Be the legal representative of the child, and may examine, cross-examine, subpoena witnesses and offer testimony. The [guardian ad litem] attorney may also initiate an appeal of any disposition that he determines to be adverse to the best interests of the child;

(2) Be an advocate for the child during the dispositional hearing and aid in securing a permanent placement plan for the child. To ascertain the child's

wishes, feelings, attachments, and attitudes, he shall conduct all necessary interviews with persons, other than the parent, having contact with or knowledge of the child and, if appropriate, with the child;

(3) Protect the rights, interest and welfare of a minor or incompetent parent by exercising the powers and duties enumerated in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

4. Court costs shall be paid by the county in which the proceeding is instituted, except that the court may require the agency or person having or receiving legal or actual custody to pay the costs.

452.423. 1. In all proceedings for child custody or for dissolution of marriage or legal separation where custody, visitation, or support of a child is a contested issue, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem. Disqualification of a guardian ad litem shall be ordered in any legal proceeding only pursuant to this chapter, upon the filing of a written application by any party within ten days of appointment, or within ten days of August 28, 1998, if the appointment occurs prior to August 28, 1998. Each party shall be entitled to one disqualification of a guardian ad litem appointed under this subsection in each proceeding, except a party may be entitled to additional disqualifications of a guardian ad litem for good cause shown.

2. The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem in any proceeding in which child abuse or neglect is alleged and the alleged abuse or neglect has been reported to the children's division pursuant to section 210.145.

3. The guardian ad litem shall:

(1) Be the legal representative of the child at the hearing, and may examine, cross-examine, subpoena witnesses and offer testimony;

(2) Prior to the hearing, conduct all necessary interviews with persons having contact with or knowledge of the child in order to ascertain the child's wishes, feelings, attachments and attitudes. If appropriate, the child should be interviewed;

(3) Request the juvenile officer to cause a petition to be filed in the juvenile division of the circuit court if the guardian ad litem believes the child alleged to be abused or neglected is in danger.

4. The appointing judge shall require the guardian ad litem to faithfully discharge such guardian ad litem's duties, and upon failure to do so shall discharge such guardian ad litem and appoint another. The judge in making appointments pursuant to this section shall give preference to persons who served as guardian ad litem for the child in the earlier proceeding, unless there is a reason on the record for not giving such preference.

5. The guardian ad litem shall be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be set by the court. The court, in its discretion, may:

(1) Issue a direct payment order to the parties. If a party fails to comply with the court's direct payment order, the court may find such party to be in contempt of court; or

(2) Award such fees as a judgment to be paid by any party to the proceedings or from public funds. Such an award of guardian fees shall constitute a final judgment in favor of the guardian ad litem. Such final judgment shall be enforceable against the parties in accordance with chapter 513.

452.785. 1. The court may order any party to the proceeding who is in this state to appear before the court personally. If the court finds the physical presence of the child to be in the best interest of the child, the court may order that the party who has physical custody of the child to appear physically with the child.

2. If a party to a child custody proceeding whose presence is desired by the court is outside this state, with or without the child, the court may order that a notice given under section 452.762 include a statement directing the party to appear personally with or without the child.

3. If a party to the proceeding who is outside this state is directed to appear under subsection 1 of this section or desires to appear personally before the court with or without the child, the court may require another party to pay to the clerk of the court travel and other necessary expenses of the party so appearing and of the child, if this is just and proper under the circumstances.

4. If the court finds it to be in the best interest of the child that a guardian ad litem be appointed, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the child. The guardian ad litem so appointed shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri. Disqualification of a guardian ad litem shall be ordered in any legal proceeding under this chapter upon the filing of a written application by any party within ten days of appointment. Each party shall be entitled to one disqualification of a guardian ad litem appointed under this subsection in each proceeding, except a party may be entitled to additional disqualifications of a guardian ad litem for good cause shown. The guardian ad litem may, for the purpose of determining custody of the child only, participate in the proceeding as if such guardian ad litem were a party. The

court shall enter judgment allowing a reasonable fee to the guardian ad litem.

5. The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem in any proceeding in which child abuse or neglect is alleged and the alleged abuse or neglect has been reported to the children's division pursuant to section 210.145.

6. The court may enter any orders necessary to ensure the safety of the child and of any person ordered to appear under this section.

477.700. 1. There shall be created within the supreme court the "Office of the Child's Representative". The office shall be responsible for collaborating with the various judicial circuits, judges, and attorneys to ensure uniform, high-quality legal representation to children involved in legal proceedings in this state.

2. (1) The supreme court shall appoint nine members to the "Child's Representative Board". No more than five members shall be from the same political party and at least one member shall be from each congressional district. Three members of the board shall be attorneys licensed to practice in this state with experience representing children as counsel or guardians ad litem. Three members of the board shall be residents of this state who are not licensed attorneys and who have experience advocating for children in the court system. Three members of the board shall be residents of this state who are not licensed attorneys and who have not served as court appointed special advocates or children's division investigators.

(2) Members of the board shall serve for terms of four years; except that, of the members first appointed, five shall serve for terms of two years. Vacancies shall be filled by the supreme court for the remainder of the expired term. In making appointments to the board, the supreme

court shall consider place of residence, gender, race, and ethnic background. The supreme court shall establish procedures for the operation of the board.

(3) Members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(4) The board shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Appoint, and discharge for cause, an executive director of the office of the child's representative, who shall have been licensed to practice law in this state for at least five years prior to appointment and who shall be familiar with the process of representing a child in the legal system. The director shall devote his or her full time to the performance of his or her duties and shall not engage in the private practice of law while serving as executive director. The compensation of the director shall be fixed by the general assembly and shall not be reduced during the director's term of appointment; and

(b) Work cooperatively with the director to provide governance to the office of the child's representative, to provide fiscal oversight of the general operating budget of the office, to participate in funding decisions relating to the provision of children's counsel and guardian ad litem services throughout the state, and to assist with the duties of the office relating to counsel and guardian ad litem training, as needed.

3. In addition to any responsibilities assigned to it by the supreme court, the office of the child's representative shall have the following duties:

(1) Enhance the provision of counsel or guardian ad litem services to children in this state by:

(a) Ensuring the provision and availability of high-quality, accessible training throughout the state for persons seeking to serve as counsel or guardians ad litem for children, as well as to judges who regularly hear matters involving children and families;

(b) Making recommendations to the supreme court concerning the establishment or modification, by court rule, of minimum training requirements and practice standards that attorneys seeking to serve as counsel or guardians ad litem shall meet, including, but not limited to, appropriate maximum caseloads, minimum responsibilities and duties, and practice guidelines;

(c) Overseeing the practice of counsel and guardians ad litem to ensure compliance with all relevant statutes, court rules, and other directives, policies, or procedures;

(d) Working cooperatively with judges, attorneys, and children impacted by the child welfare and justice system to form partnerships for the purposes of ensuring high-quality legal representation for children in this state;

(e) Establishing fair and realistic rates by which to compensate court-appointed children's counsel and guardians ad litem that take into consideration the caseload limitations placed on counsel and guardians ad litem and that are sufficient to attract and retain high-quality, experienced attorneys to serve as counsel and guardians ad litem;

(f) Seeking to enhance existing funding sources for the provision of high-quality counsel and guardian ad litem services for children in Missouri;

(g) Studying the availability of or developing new funding sources for the provision of counsel and guardian ad litem services for children in Missouri, including, but not limited to, long-term pooling of funds programs; and

(h) Accepting grants, donations, and other nongovernmental contributions to be used to fund the work of the office of the child's representative relating to children's counsel or guardians ad litem. Such gifts, grants, donations, and other nongovernmental contributions shall be credited to the fund created in subsection 4 of this section and shall be subject to appropriation by the general assembly for the provision of children's counsel and guardian ad litem services and other purposes contemplated by this section; and

(2) Develop measures to assess and document the various models of representation and the outcomes achieved by representatives and advocates for children, including collaborative models with local court appointed special advocate programs.

4. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Child's Representative Fund", which shall consist of moneys collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.