

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 HOUSE BILL 3494

By: McEntire

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; amending 10A O.S. 2021,
8 Section 1-1-105, which relates to definitions of
9 child welfare reporting and investigations; modifying
10 definitions; amending 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-2-101,
11 which relates to revising reporting requirements for
12 certain health care providers; and providing an
13 effective date.

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

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

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

19 1. "Abandonment" means:

20 a. the willful intent by words, actions, or omissions not
21 to return for a child, or

22 b. the failure to maintain a significant parental
23 relationship with a child through visitation or
24 communication in which incidental or token visits or
communication are not considered significant, or

1 c. the failure to respond to notice of deprived
2 proceedings;

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

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

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

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

1 of a child, or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or
2 engaging in the lewd, obscene, or pornographic, as
3 defined by law, photographing, filming, or depicting
4 of a child in those acts by a person responsible for
5 the health, safety, and welfare of the child;

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

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

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

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

19 b. in the case of a specific child, activities or items
20 that are suitable for that child based on the
21 developmental stages attained by the child with
22 respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and
23 behavioral capacities of the specific child.
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1 In the event that any age-related activities have implications
2 relative to the academic curriculum of a child, nothing in this
3 paragraph shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of
4 the federal government to mandate, direct, or control a state or
5 local educational agency, or the specific instructional content,
6 academic achievement standards and assessments, curriculum, or
7 program of instruction of a school;

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

12 7. "Behavioral health" means mental health, substance abuse, or
13 co-occurring mental health and substance abuse diagnoses, and the
14 continuum of mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring mental
15 health and substance abuse treatment;

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

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

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- 1 a. nonurban centers in districts with child populations
- 2 that are less than sixty thousand (60,000), and
- 3 b. midlevel nonurban centers in districts with child
- 4 populations equal to or greater than sixty thousand
- 5 (60,000), but not including Oklahoma and Tulsa
- 6 Counties;

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

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

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

1 have been voluntarily placed by a parent or custodian during a
2 temporary crisis;

3 13. "Community-based services" or "community-based programs"
4 means services or programs which maintain community participation or
5 supervision in their planning, operation, and evaluation.

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

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

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

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1 16. "Court-appointed special advocate program" means an
2 organized program, administered by either an independent, not-for-
3 profit corporation, a dependent project of an independent, not-for-
4 profit corporation or a unit of local government, which recruits,
5 screens, trains, assigns, supervises and supports volunteers to be
6 available for appointment by the court as guardians ad litem;

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

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

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

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

20 21. "Deprived child" means a child:

- 21 a. who is for any reason destitute, homeless, or
- 22 abandoned,
- 23 b. who does not have the proper parental care or
- 24 guardianship,

- 1 c. who has been abused, neglected, or is dependent,
- 2 d. whose home is an unfit place for the child by reason
- 3 of depravity on the part of the parent or legal
- 4 guardian of the child, or other person responsible for
- 5 the health or welfare of the child,
- 6 e. who is a child in need of special care and treatment
- 7 because of the child's physical or mental condition,
- 8 and the child's parents, legal guardian, or other
- 9 custodian is unable or willfully fails to provide such
- 10 special care and treatment. As used in this
- 11 paragraph, a child in need of special care and
- 12 treatment includes, but is not limited to, a child who
- 13 at birth tests positive for alcohol or a controlled
- 14 dangerous substance and who, pursuant to a drug or
- 15 alcohol screen of the child and an assessment of the
- 16 parent, is determined to be at risk of harm or
- 17 threatened harm to the health or safety of a child,
- 18 f. who is a child with a disability deprived of the
- 19 nutrition necessary to sustain life or of the medical
- 20 treatment necessary to remedy or relieve a life-
- 21 threatening medical condition in order to cause or
- 22 allow the death of the child if such nutrition or
- 23 medical treatment is generally provided to similarly
- 24 situated children without a disability or children

1 with disabilities; provided that no medical treatment
2 shall be necessary if, in the reasonable medical
3 judgment of the attending physician, such treatment
4 would be futile in saving the life of the child,

5 g. who, due to improper parental care and guardianship,
6 is absent from school as specified in Section 10-106
7 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, if the child is
8 subject to compulsory school attendance,

9 h. whose parent, legal guardian or custodian for good
10 cause desires to be relieved of custody,

11 i. who has been born to a parent whose parental rights to
12 another child have been involuntarily terminated by
13 the court and the conditions which led to the making
14 of the finding, which resulted in the termination of
15 the parental rights of the parent to the other child,
16 have not been corrected, or

17 j. whose parent, legal guardian, or custodian has
18 subjected another child to abuse or neglect or has
19 allowed another child to be subjected to abuse or
20 neglect and is currently a respondent in a deprived
21 proceeding.

22 Nothing in the Oklahoma Children's Code shall be construed to
23 mean a child is deprived for the sole reason the parent, legal
24 guardian, or person having custody or control of a child, in good

1 faith, selects and depends upon spiritual means alone through
2 prayer, in accordance with the tenets and practice of a recognized
3 church or religious denomination, for the treatment or cure of
4 disease or remedial care of such child.

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

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

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

15 23. "Drug-endangered child" means a child who is at risk of
16 suffering physical, psychological or sexual harm as a result of the
17 use, possession, distribution, manufacture or cultivation of
18 controlled substances, or the attempt of any of these acts, by a
19 person responsible for the health, safety or welfare of the child,
20 as defined in this section. This term includes circumstances
21 wherein the substance abuse of the person responsible for the
22 health, safety or welfare of the child interferes with that person's
23 ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment for
24 the child. The term also includes neonatal abstinence syndrome from

1 any substance other than medications administered as part of a
2 formal opioid disorder treatment program such as buprenorphine or
3 methadone;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 d. any other similar aggravating circumstance;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 47. "Multidisciplinary child abuse team" means any team
22 established pursuant to Section 1-9-102 of this title of three or
23 more persons who are trained in the prevention, identification,
24 investigation, prosecution, and treatment of physical and sexual

1 child abuse and who are qualified to facilitate a broad range of
2 prevention- and intervention-related services and services related
3 to child abuse. For purposes of this definition, "freestanding"
4 means a team not used by a child advocacy center for its
5 accreditation;

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

9 49. a. "Neglect" means:

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

12 (a) adequate nurturance and affection, food,
13 clothing, shelter, sanitation, hygiene, or
14 appropriate education,

15 (b) medical, dental, or behavioral health care,

16 (c) supervision or appropriate caretakers to
17 protect the child from harm or threatened
18 harm of which any reasonable and prudent
19 person responsible for the child's health,
20 safety or welfare would be aware, or

21 (d) special care made necessary for the child's
22 health and safety by the physical or mental
23 condition of the child,

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

3 (a) the use, possession, sale, or manufacture of
4 illegal drugs,

5 (b) illegal activities, or

6 (c) sexual acts or materials that are not age-
7 appropriate, or

8 (3) abandonment.

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

16 (1) traveling to and from school including by
17 walking, running or bicycling,

18 (2) traveling to and from nearby commercial or
19 recreational facilities,

20 (3) engaging in outdoor play,

21 (4) remaining at home unattended for a reasonable
22 amount of time,

23 (5) remaining in a vehicle if the temperature inside
24 the vehicle is not or will not become dangerously

1 hot or cold, except under the conditions
2 described in Section 11-1119 of Title 47 of the
3 Oklahoma Statutes, or

4 (6) engaging in similar activities alone or with
5 other children.

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

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

19 51. "Permanent custody" means the court-ordered custody of an
20 adjudicated deprived child when a parent-child relationship no
21 longer exists due to termination of parental rights or due to the
22 death of a parent or parents;

23 52. "Permanent guardianship" means a judicially created
24 relationship between a child, a kinship relation of the child, or

1 other adult established pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-4-
2 709 of this title;

3 53. "Person responsible for a child's health, safety, or
4 welfare" includes a parent; a legal guardian; custodian; a foster
5 parent; a person eighteen (18) years of age or older with whom the
6 child's parent cohabitates or any other adult residing in the home
7 of the child; an agent or employee of a public or private
8 residential home, institution, facility or day treatment program as
9 defined in Section 175.20 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or
10 an owner, operator, or employee of a child care facility as defined
11 by Section 402 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

12 54. "Plan of safe care" means a plan developed for an infant
13 with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
14 Disorder upon release from the care of a health care provider that
15 addresses the health and substance use treatment needs of the infant
16 and mother or caregiver;

17 55. "Protective custody" means custody of a child taken by a
18 law enforcement officer or designated employee of the court without
19 a court order;

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

22 57. "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program
23 that:
24

- 1 a. has a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed
2 to address the needs including clinical needs as
3 appropriate, of children with serious emotional or
4 behavioral disorders or disturbances and, with respect
5 to a child, is able to implement the treatment
6 identified for the child from a required assessment,
- 7 b. has registered or licensed nursing staff and other
8 licensed clinical staff who:
- 9 (1) provide care within the scope of their practice
10 as defined by the laws of this state,
11 (2) are on-site according to the treatment model
12 referred to in subparagraph a of this paragraph,
13 and
14 (3) are available twenty-four (24) hours a day and
15 seven (7) days a week,
- 16 c. to the extent appropriate, and in accordance with the
17 child's best interest, facilitates participation of
18 family members in the child's treatment program,
- 19 d. facilitates outreach to the family members of the
20 child including siblings, documents how the outreach
21 is made including contact information, and maintains
22 contact information for any known biological family of
23 the child,
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- 1 e. documents how family members are integrated into the
2 treatment process for the child including post-
3 discharge, and how sibling connections are maintained,
4 f. provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare
5 support for at least six (6) months post-discharge,
6 and
7 g. is licensed and accredited by any of the following
8 independent, not-for-profit organizations:
- 9 (1) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation
10 Facilities (CARF),
 - 11 (2) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of
12 Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO),
 - 13 (3) The Council on Accreditation (COA), or
 - 14 (4) any other federally approved independent, not-
15 for-profit accrediting organization;

16 58. "Reasonable and prudent parent standard" means the standard
17 characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that
18 maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at
19 the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of
20 the child. This standard shall be used by the child's caregiver
21 when determining whether to allow a child to participate in
22 extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. For
23 purposes of this definition, the term "caregiver" means a foster
24 parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed, a

1 representative of a group home where a child has been placed or a
2 designated official for a residential child care facility where a
3 child in foster care has been placed;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 66. "Secure facility" means a facility which is designed and
5 operated to ensure that all entrances and exits from the facility
6 are subject to the exclusive control of the staff of the facility,
7 whether or not the juvenile being detained has freedom of movement
8 within the perimeter of the facility, or a facility which relies on
9 locked rooms and buildings, fences, or physical restraint in order
10 to control behavior of its residents;

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

- 14 a. the individual is considered by state law to be a
15 sibling of the child, or
- 16 b. the individual would have been considered a sibling
17 under state law but for a termination or other
18 disruption of parental rights, such as the death of a
19 parent;

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

- 22 a. has been certified by the Developmental Disabilities
23 Services Division of the Department of Human Services,
- 24 b. is monitored by the Division, and

1 c. is funded through the Home- and Community-Based Waiver
2 Services Program administered by the Division;

3 69. "Successful adulthood program" means a program specifically
4 designed to assist a child to enhance those skills and abilities
5 necessary for successful adult living. A successful adulthood
6 program may include, but shall not be limited to, such features as
7 minimal direct staff supervision, and the provision of supportive
8 services to assist children with activities necessary for finding an
9 appropriate place of residence, completing an education or
10 vocational training, obtaining employment, or obtaining other
11 similar services;

12 70. "Temporary custody" means court-ordered custody of an
13 adjudicated deprived child;

14 71. "Therapeutic foster family home" means a foster family home
15 which provides specific treatment services, pursuant to a
16 therapeutic foster care contract, which are designed to remedy
17 social and behavioral problems of a foster child residing in the
18 home;

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

22 a. "sex trafficking" means the recruitment, harboring,
23 transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing or
24

1 soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial
2 sex act, and

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

4 (1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is
5 induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which
6 the person induced to perform such act has not
7 attained eighteen (18) years of age, or

8 (2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation,
9 provision, obtaining, patronizing or soliciting
10 of a person for labor or services, through the
11 use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose
12 of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage,
13 debt bondage, or slavery;

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

22 74. "Voluntary foster care placement" means the temporary
23 placement of a child by the parent, legal guardian or custodian of
24 the child in foster care pursuant to a signed placement agreement

1 between the Department or a child-placing agency and the child's
2 parent, legal guardian or custodian.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-2-101, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 1-2-101. A. 1. The Department of Human Services shall
6 establish a statewide centralized hotline for the reporting of child
7 abuse or neglect to the Department.

8 2. The Department shall provide hotline-specific training
9 including, but not limited to, interviewing skills, customer service
10 skills, narrative writing, necessary computer systems, making case
11 determinations, and identifying priority situations.

12 3. The Department is authorized to contract with third parties
13 in order to train hotline workers.

14 4. The Department shall develop a system to track the number of
15 calls received, and of that number:

- 16 a. the number of calls screened out,
- 17 b. the number of referrals assigned,
- 18 c. the number of calls received by persons unwilling to
19 disclose basic personal information including, but not
20 limited to, first and last name, and
- 21 d. the number of calls in which the allegations were
22 later found to be unsubstantiated or ruled out.

23 5. The Department shall electronically record each referral
24 received by the hotline and establish a secure means of retaining

1 the recordings for twelve (12) months. The recordings shall be
2 confidential and subject to disclosure only if a court orders the
3 disclosure of the referral. The Department shall redact any
4 information identifying the reporting party unless otherwise ordered
5 by the court.

6 B. 1. Every person having reason to believe that a child under
7 the age of eighteen (18) years is a victim of abuse or neglect shall
8 report the matter immediately to the Department of Human Services.
9 Reports shall be made to the hotline provided for in subsection A of
10 this section. Any allegation of abuse or neglect reported in any
11 manner to a county office shall immediately be referred to the
12 hotline by the Department. Provided, however, that in actions for
13 custody by abandonment, provided for in Section 2-117 of Title 30 of
14 the Oklahoma Statutes, there shall be no reporting requirement.

15 2. a. Every school employee having reason to believe that a
16 student under the age of eighteen (18) years is a
17 victim of abuse or neglect shall report the matter
18 immediately to the Department of Human Services and
19 local law enforcement. Reports to the Department
20 shall be made to the hotline provided for in
21 subsection A of this section. Any allegation of abuse
22 or neglect reported in any manner to a county office
23 shall immediately be referred to the hotline by the
24 Department. Provided, however, that in actions for

1 custody by abandonment, provided for in Section 2-117
2 of Title 30 of the Oklahoma Statutes, there shall be
3 no reporting requirement.

4 b. Every school employee having reason to believe that a
5 student age eighteen (18) years or older is a victim
6 of abuse or neglect shall report the matter
7 immediately to local law enforcement.

8 c. In reports required by subparagraph a or b of this
9 paragraph, local law enforcement shall keep
10 confidential and redact any information identifying
11 the reporting school employee unless otherwise ordered
12 by the court. A school employee with knowledge of a
13 report required by subparagraph a or b of this
14 paragraph shall not disclose information identifying
15 the reporting school employee unless otherwise ordered
16 by the court or as part of an investigation by local
17 law enforcement or the Department.

18 3. Every physician, surgeon, or other health care professional
19 including doctors of medicine, licensed osteopathic physicians,
20 residents and interns, or any other health care professional or
21 midwife involved in the prenatal care of expectant mothers or the
22 delivery or care of infants shall promptly report to the Department
23 instances in which an infant tests positive for alcohol or a
24 controlled dangerous substance. This shall include infants who are

1 diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, not associated with a
2 formal opioid use disorder treatment program that uses either
3 buprenorphine or methadone, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

4 4. No privilege or contract shall relieve any person from the
5 requirement of reporting pursuant to this section.

6 5. The reporting obligations under this section are individual,
7 and no employer, supervisor, administrator, governing body or entity
8 shall interfere with the reporting obligations of any employee or
9 other person or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against the
10 employee or other person who in good faith reports suspected child
11 abuse or neglect, or who provides testimony in any proceeding
12 involving child abuse or neglect. Any employer, supervisor,
13 administrator, governing body or entity who discharges,
14 discriminates or retaliates against the employee or other person
15 shall be liable for damages, costs and attorney fees. If a child
16 who is the subject of the report or other child is harmed by the
17 discharge, discrimination or retaliation described in this
18 paragraph, the party harmed may file an action to recover damages,
19 costs and attorney fees.

20 6. Every physician, surgeon, other health care professional or
21 midwife making a report of abuse or neglect as required by this
22 subsection or examining a child to determine the likelihood of abuse
23 or neglect and every hospital or related institution in which the
24 child was examined or treated shall provide, upon request, copies of

1 the results of the examination or copies of the examination on which
2 the report was based and any other clinical notes, x-rays,
3 photographs, and other previous or current records relevant to the
4 case to law enforcement officers conducting a criminal investigation
5 into the case and to employees of the Department of Human Services
6 conducting an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect in the case.

7 C. Any person who knowingly and willfully fails to promptly
8 report suspected child abuse or neglect or who interferes with the
9 prompt reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect may be reported
10 to local law enforcement for criminal investigation and, upon
11 conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person
12 with prolonged knowledge of ongoing child abuse or neglect who
13 knowingly and willfully fails to promptly report such knowledge may
14 be reported to local law enforcement for criminal investigation and,
15 upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a felony. For the
16 purposes of this paragraph, "prolonged knowledge" shall mean
17 knowledge of at least six (6) months of child abuse or neglect.

18 D. 1. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false
19 report pursuant to the provisions of this section or a report that
20 the person knows lacks factual foundation may be reported to local
21 law enforcement for criminal investigation and, upon conviction
22 thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

23 2. If a court determines that an accusation of child abuse or
24 neglect made during a child custody proceeding is false and the

1 person making the accusation knew it to be false at the time the
2 accusation was made, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed Five
3 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) and reasonable attorney fees incurred
4 in recovering the sanctions, against the person making the
5 accusation. The remedy provided by this paragraph is in addition to
6 paragraph 1 of this subsection or to any other remedy provided by
7 law.

8 E. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to
9 exempt or prohibit any person from reporting any suspected child
10 abuse or neglect pursuant to subsection B of this section.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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