

**Indian Family Preservation Act Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero**

---

---

**LONG TITLE****Committee Note:**

The Native American Legislative Liaison Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 7 voting for 0 voting against 4 absent

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the preservation of Indian families.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ enacts the Indian Family Preservation Act (state act), including:
  - defining terms;
  - addressing effective date and severability;
  - requiring inquiry into Indian status;
  - providing for what constitutes best interests of an Indian child;
  - addressing jurisdiction over child custody proceedings;
  - providing for actions related to pending court proceedings;
  - stating parental rights;
  - providing for voluntary termination of rights;
  - establishing how consent or other actions are invalidated;
  - addressing placement of Indian children;
  - creating a process to return custody of an Indian child;
  - addressing information related to tribal affiliation and protection of rights;
  - authorizing agreements between the state and Indian tribes under certain circumstances;
  - addressing improper removal of an Indian child;
  - explaining the application of state or federal standards;
  - providing for emergency removal or placement of an Indian child; and
  - addressing recordkeeping and information availability;
- ▶ replaces cites to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act with cites to the state act;
- ▶ addresses right to counsel;

- 32 ‣ addresses sharing of information by agreement;
- 33 ‣ exempts certain time frame preferences under the state act; and
- 34 ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments.

35 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

36 None

37 **Other Special Clauses:**

38 None

39 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

40 AMENDS:

- 41 **26B-1-231**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 305
- 42 **26B-1-233**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 305
- 43 **26B-2-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 240, 267, 307, and 438
- 44 **26B-2-129**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 305
- 45 **78B-6-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 335
- 46 **78B-6-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 261
- 47 **78B-6-107**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 335
- 48 **78B-6-117**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 185, 430
- 49 **78B-13-104**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3
- 50 **78B-22-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 281
- 51 **78B-24-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 326
- 52 **78B-24-202**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 326
- 53 **80-1-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 256
- 54 **80-2-802**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 330
- 55 **80-2-1006**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 334
- 56 **80-2a-101**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 334 and last amended by
- 57 Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 334
- 58 **80-2a-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 287 and renumbered and
- 59 amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 334
- 60 **80-3-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 287, 334
- 61 **80-3-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 309, 330
- 62 **80-3-502**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 261
- 63 **80-4-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 287, 334

64 ENACTS:

- 65 **80-2b-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

66 **80-2b-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 67 **80-2b-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 68 **80-2b-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 69 **80-2b-105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 70 **80-2b-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 71 **80-2b-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 72 **80-2b-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 73 **80-2b-204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 74 **80-2b-205**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 75 **80-2b-206**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 76 **80-2b-207**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 77 **80-2b-208**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 78 **80-2b-209**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 79 **80-2b-210**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 80 **80-2b-211**, Utah Code Annotated 1953  
 81 **80-2b-301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

82

---

83 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

84 Section 1. Section **26B-1-231** is amended to read:

85 **26B-1-231 . Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health and Family**

86 **Services -- Creation -- Director -- Purpose -- Duties.**

87 (1)(a) "Director" means the director of the office appointed under Subsection (3).

88 (b) "Office" means the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health and Family  
 89 Services created in Subsection (2).

90 (2) There is created within the department the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native  
 91 Health and Family Services.

92 (3) The executive director shall appoint a director of the office who:

93 (a) has a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college;

94 (b) is experienced in administration; and

95 (c) is knowledgeable about the areas of American Indian-Alaska Native practices.

96 (4)(a) The director is the administrative head of the office and shall serve under the  
 97 supervision of the executive director.

98 (b) The executive director may hire staff as necessary to carry out the duties of the office  
 99 described in Subsection (5)(b).

- 100 (5)(a) The purpose of the office is to oversee and coordinate department services for  
 101 Utah's American Indian-Alaska Native populations.
- 102 (b) The office shall:
- 103 (i) oversee and coordinate department services for Utah's American Indian-Alaska  
 104 Native populations;
- 105 (ii) conduct regular and meaningful consultation with Indian tribes when there is a  
 106 proposed department action that has an impact on an Indian tribe as a sovereign  
 107 entity;
- 108 (iii) monitor agreements between the department and Utah's American Indian-Alaska  
 109 Native populations; and
- 110 (iv) oversee the health liaison appointed under Section 26B-1-232 and [ICWA] Indian  
 111 family preservation liaison appointed under Section 26B-1-233.

112 Section 2. Section **26B-1-233** is amended to read:

113 **26B-1-233 . Indian family preservation liaison -- Appointment -- Qualifications**

114 **-- Duties.**

- 115 (1) As used in this section:
- 116 (a) "Director" means the director of the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health  
 117 and Family Services appointed under Section 26B-1-231.
- 118 (b) "[ICWA] Indian family preservation liaison" means the [~~Indian Child Welfare Act~~  
 119 ~~Liaison~~] Indian family preservation liaison appointed under Subsection (2).
- 120 (2)(a) The executive director shall appoint an individual as the [~~Indian Child Welfare~~  
 121 ~~Act Liaison~~] Indian family preservation liaison who:
- 122 (i) has a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college; and
- 123 (ii) is knowledgeable about the areas of child and family services and Indian tribal  
 124 child rearing practices.
- 125 (b) The [ICWA] Indian family preservation liaison shall serve under the supervision of  
 126 the director.
- 127 (3) The [ICWA] Indian family preservation liaison shall:
- 128 (a) act as a liaison between the department and Utah's American Indian populations  
 129 regarding child and family services;
- 130 (b) provide training to department employees regarding the requirements and  
 131 implementation of[~~the~~] ;
- 132 (i) Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Secs. 1901-1963; and
- 133 (ii) Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act;

- 134 (c) develop and facilitate education and technical assistance programs for Utah's  
 135 American Indian populations regarding available child and family services;  
 136 (d) promote and coordinate collaborative efforts between the department and Utah's  
 137 American Indian population to improve the availability and accessibility of quality  
 138 child and family services for Utah's American Indian populations; and  
 139 (e) interact with the following to improve delivery and accessibility of child and family  
 140 services for Utah's American Indian populations:  
 141 (i) state agencies and officials; and  
 142 (ii) providers of child and family services in the public and private sector.
- 143 (4) The [ICWA] Indian family preservation liaison shall annually report the liaison's  
 144 activities and accomplishments to the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee  
 145 created in Section 36-22-1.

146 Section 3. Section **26B-2-101** is amended to read:

147 **26B-2-101 . Definitions.**

148 As used in this part:

- 149 (1) "Adoption services" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-801.  
 150 (2) "Adult day care" means nonresidential care and supervision:  
 151 (a) for three or more adults for at least four but less than 24 hours a day; and  
 152 (b) that meets the needs of functionally impaired adults through a comprehensive  
 153 program that provides a variety of health, social, recreational, and related support  
 154 services in a protective setting.  
 155 (3) "Applicant" means a person that applies for an initial license or a license renewal under  
 156 this part.  
 157 (4)(a) "Associated with the licensee" means that an individual is:  
 158 (i) affiliated with a licensee as an owner, director, member of the governing body,  
 159 employee, agent, provider of care, department contractor, or volunteer; or  
 160 (ii) applying to become affiliated with a licensee in a capacity described in  
 161 Subsection (4)(a)(i).  
 162 (b) "Associated with the licensee" does not include:  
 163 (i) service on the following bodies, unless that service includes direct access to a  
 164 child or a vulnerable adult:  
 165 (A) a local mental health authority described in Section 17-43-301;  
 166 (B) a local substance abuse authority described in Section 17-43-201; or  
 167 (C) a board of an organization operating under a contract to provide mental health

168 or substance use programs, or services for the local mental health authority or  
169 substance abuse authority; or

170 (ii) a guest or visitor whose access to a child or a vulnerable adult is directly  
171 supervised at all times.

172 (5)(a) "Boarding school" means a private school that:

173 (i) uses a regionally accredited education program;

174 (ii) provides a residence to the school's students:

175 (A) for the purpose of enabling the school's students to attend classes at the  
176 school; and

177 (B) as an ancillary service to educating the students at the school;

178 (iii) has the primary purpose of providing the school's students with an education, as  
179 defined in Subsection (5)(b)(i); and

180 (iv)(A) does not provide the treatment or services described in Subsection (40)(a);

181 or

182 (B) provides the treatment or services described in Subsection (40)(a) on a limited  
183 basis, as described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii).

184 (b)(i) For purposes of Subsection (5)(a)(iii), "education" means a course of study for  
185 one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 12.

186 (ii) For purposes of Subsection (5)(a)(iv)(B), a private school provides the treatment  
187 or services described in Subsection (40)(a) on a limited basis if:

188 (A) the treatment or services described in Subsection (40)(a) are provided only as  
189 an incidental service to a student; and

190 (B) the school does not:

191 (I) specifically solicit a student for the purpose of providing the treatment or  
192 services described in Subsection (40)(a); or

193 (II) have a primary purpose of providing the treatment or services described in  
194 Subsection (40)(a).

195 (c) "Boarding school" does not include a therapeutic school.

196 (6) "Certification" means a less restrictive level of licensure issued by the department.

197 (7) "Child" means an individual under 18 years old.

198 (8) "Child placing" means receiving, accepting, or providing custody or care for any child,  
199 temporarily or permanently, for the purpose of:

200 (a) finding a person to adopt the child;

201 (b) placing the child in a home for adoption; or

- 202 (c) foster home placement.
- 203 (9) "Child-placing agency" means a person that engages in child placing.
- 204 (10) "Client" means an individual who receives or has received services from a licensee.
- 205 (11)(a) "Congregate care program" means any of the following that provide services to  
206 a child:
- 207 (i) an outdoor youth program;
  - 208 (ii) a residential support program;
  - 209 (iii) a residential treatment program; or
  - 210 (iv) a therapeutic school.
- 211 (b) "Congregate care program" does not include a human services program that:
- 212 (i) is licensed to serve adults; and
  - 213 (ii) is approved by the office to service a child for a limited time.
- 214 (12) "Day treatment" means specialized treatment that is provided to:
- 215 (a) a client less than 24 hours a day; and
  - 216 (b) four or more persons who:
    - 217 (i) are unrelated to the owner or provider; and
    - 218 (ii) have emotional, psychological, developmental, physical, or behavioral  
219 dysfunctions, impairments, or chemical dependencies.
- 220 (13) "Department contractor" means an individual who:
- 221 (a) provides services under a contract with the department; and
  - 222 (b) due to the contract with the department, has or will likely have direct access to a  
223 child or vulnerable adult.
- 224 (14) "Direct access" means that an individual has, or likely will have:
- 225 (a) contact with or access to a child or vulnerable adult that provides the individual with  
226 an opportunity for personal communication or touch; or
  - 227 (b) an opportunity to view medical, financial, or other confidential personal identifying  
228 information of the child, the child's parents or legal guardians, or the vulnerable adult.
- 229 (15) "Directly supervised" means that an individual is being supervised under the  
230 uninterrupted visual and auditory surveillance of another individual who has a current  
231 background check approval issued by the office.
- 232 (16) "Director" means the director of the office.
- 233 (17) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.
- 234 (18) "Domestic violence treatment program" means a nonresidential program designed to  
235 provide psychological treatment and educational services to perpetrators and victims of

- 236 domestic violence.
- 237 (19) "Elder adult" means a person 65 years old or older.
- 238 (20) "Emergency safety intervention" means a tactic used to protect staff or a client from  
239 being physically injured, utilized by an appropriately trained direct care staff and only  
240 performed in accordance with a nationally or regionally recognized curriculum in the  
241 least restrictive manner to restore staff or client safety.
- 242 (21) "Foster home" means a residence that is licensed or certified by the office for the  
243 full-time substitute care of a child.
- 244 (22) "Health benefit plan" means the same as that term is defined in Section 31A-22-634.
- 245 (23) "Health care provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78B-3-403.
- 246 (24) "Health insurer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 31A-22-615.5.
- 247 (25)(a) "Human services program" means:
- 248 (i) a foster home;
- 249 (ii) a therapeutic school;
- 250 (iii) a youth program;
- 251 (iv) an outdoor youth program;
- 252 (v) a residential treatment program;
- 253 (vi) a residential support program;
- 254 (vii) a resource family home;
- 255 (viii) a recovery residence; or
- 256 (ix) a facility or program that provides:
- 257 (A) adult day care;
- 258 (B) day treatment;
- 259 (C) outpatient treatment;
- 260 (D) domestic violence treatment;
- 261 (E) child-placing services;
- 262 (F) social detoxification; or
- 263 (G) any other human services that are required by contract with the department to  
264 be licensed with the department.
- 265 (b) "Human services program" does not include:
- 266 (i) a boarding school;
- 267 (ii) a residential, vocational and life skills program, as defined in Section 13-53-102;
- 268 or
- 269 (iii) a short-term relief care provider.



- 270 (26) "Indian child" means the same as that term is defined in [25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903] Section  
271 80-2b-101.
- 272 (27) "Indian country" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.
- 273 (28) "Indian tribe" means the same as that term is defined in [25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903] Section  
274 80-2b-101.
- 275 (29) "Intermediate secure treatment" means 24-hour specialized residential treatment or  
276 care for an individual who:
- 277 (a) cannot live independently or in a less restrictive environment; and
- 278 (b) requires, without the individual's consent or control, the use of locked doors to care  
279 for the individual.
- 280 (30) "Licensee" means an individual or a human services program licensed by the office.
- 281 (31) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.
- 282 (32) "Minor" means child.
- 283 (33) "Office" means the Office of Licensing within the department.
- 284 (34) "Outdoor youth program" means a program that provides:
- 285 (a) services to a child that has:
- 286 (i) a chemical dependency; or
- 287 (ii) a dysfunction or impairment that is emotional, psychological, developmental,  
288 physical, or behavioral;
- 289 (b) a 24-hour outdoor group living environment; and
- 290 (c)(i) regular therapy, including group, individual, or supportive family therapy; or
- 291 (ii) informal therapy or similar services, including wilderness therapy, adventure  
292 therapy, or outdoor behavioral healthcare.
- 293 (35) "Outpatient treatment" means individual, family, or group therapy or counseling  
294 designed to improve and enhance social or psychological functioning for those whose  
295 physical and emotional status allows them to continue functioning in their usual living  
296 environment.
- 297 (36) "Practice group" or "group practice" means two or more health care providers legally  
298 organized as a partnership, professional corporation, or similar association, for which:
- 299 (a) substantially all of the services of the health care providers who are members of the  
300 group are provided through the group and are billed in the name of the group and  
301 amounts received are treated as receipts of the group; and
- 302 (b) the overhead expenses of and the income from the practice are distributed in  
303 accordance with methods previously determined by members of the group.

- 304 (37) "Private-placement child" means a child whose parent or guardian enters into a  
305 contract with a congregate care program for the child to receive services.
- 306 (38)(a) "Recovery residence" means a home, residence, or facility that meets at least  
307 two of the following requirements:
- 308 (i) provides a supervised living environment for individuals recovering from a  
309 substance use disorder;
  - 310 (ii) provides a living environment in which more than half of the individuals in the  
311 residence are recovering from a substance use disorder;
  - 312 (iii) provides or arranges for residents to receive services related to the resident's  
313 recovery from a substance use disorder, either on or off site;
  - 314 (iv) is held out as a living environment in which individuals recovering from  
315 substance abuse disorders live together to encourage continued sobriety; or
  - 316 (v)(A) receives public funding; or  
317 (B) is run as a business venture, either for-profit or not-for-profit.
- 318 (b) "Recovery residence" does not mean:
- 319 (i) a residential treatment program;
  - 320 (ii) residential support program; or
  - 321 (iii) a home, residence, or facility, in which:
    - 322 (A) residents, by a majority vote of the residents, establish, implement, and  
323 enforce policies governing the living environment, including the manner in  
324 which applications for residence are approved and the manner in which  
325 residents are expelled;
    - 326 (B) residents equitably share rent and housing-related expenses; and
    - 327 (C) a landlord, owner, or operator does not receive compensation, other than fair  
328 market rental income, for establishing, implementing, or enforcing policies  
329 governing the living environment.
- 330 (39) "Regular business hours" means:
- 331 (a) the hours during which services of any kind are provided to a client; or
  - 332 (b) the hours during which a client is present at the facility of a licensee.
- 333 (40)(a) "Residential support program" means a program that arranges for or provides  
334 the necessities of life as a protective service to individuals or families who have a  
335 disability or who are experiencing a dislocation or emergency that prevents them  
336 from providing these services for themselves or their families.
- 337 (b) "Residential support program" includes a program that provides a supervised living

- 338 environment for individuals with dysfunctions or impairments that are:
- 339 (i) emotional;
- 340 (ii) psychological;
- 341 (iii) developmental; or
- 342 (iv) behavioral.
- 343 (c) Treatment is not a necessary component of a residential support program.
- 344 (d) "Residential support program" does not include:
- 345 (i) a recovery residence; or
- 346 (ii) a program that provides residential services that are performed:
- 347 (A) exclusively under contract with the department and provided to individuals
- 348 through the Division of Services for People with Disabilities; or
- 349 (B) in a facility that serves fewer than four individuals.
- 350 (41)(a) "Residential treatment" means a 24-hour group living environment for four or
- 351 more individuals unrelated to the owner or provider that offers room or board and
- 352 specialized treatment, behavior modification, rehabilitation, discipline, emotional
- 353 growth, or habilitation services for persons with emotional, psychological,
- 354 developmental, or behavioral dysfunctions, impairments, or chemical dependencies.
- 355 (b) "Residential treatment" does not include a:
- 356 (i) boarding school;
- 357 (ii) foster home; or
- 358 (iii) recovery residence.
- 359 (42) "Residential treatment program" means a program or facility that provides:
- 360 (a) residential treatment; or
- 361 (b) intermediate secure treatment.
- 362 (43) "Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of an individual in a room or an area:
- 363 (a) away from the individual's peers; and
- 364 (b) in a manner that physically prevents the individual from leaving the room or area.
- 365 (44) "Short-term relief care provider" means an individual who:
- 366 (a) provides short-term and temporary relief care to a foster parent:
- 367 (i) for less than six consecutive nights; and
- 368 (ii) in the short-term relief care provider's home;
- 369 (b) is an immediate family member or relative, as those terms are defined in Section
- 370 80-3-102, of the foster parent;
- 371 (c) is direct access qualified, as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-120;

- 372 (d) has been approved to provide short-term relief care by the department;  
373 (e) is not reimbursed by the department for the temporary relief care provided; and  
374 (f) is not an immediate family member or relative, as those terms are defined in Section  
375 80-3-102, of the foster child.
- 376 (45) "Social detoxification" means short-term residential services for persons who are  
377 experiencing or have recently experienced drug or alcohol intoxication, that are provided  
378 outside of a health care facility licensed under Part 2, Health Care Facility Licensing and  
379 Inspection, and that include:
- 380 (a) room and board for persons who are unrelated to the owner or manager of the facility;  
381 (b) specialized rehabilitation to acquire sobriety; and  
382 (c) aftercare services.
- 383 (46) "Substance abuse disorder" or "substance use disorder" mean the same as "substance  
384 use disorder" is defined in Section 26B-5-501.
- 385 (47) "Substance abuse treatment program" or "substance use disorder treatment program"  
386 means a program:
- 387 (a) designed to provide:
- 388 (i) specialized drug or alcohol treatment;  
389 (ii) rehabilitation; or  
390 (iii) habilitation services; and
- 391 (b) that provides the treatment or services described in Subsection (47)(a) to persons  
392 with:
- 393 (i) a diagnosed substance use disorder; or  
394 (ii) chemical dependency disorder.
- 395 (48) "Therapeutic school" means a residential group living facility:
- 396 (a) for four or more individuals that are not related to:
- 397 (i) the owner of the facility; or  
398 (ii) the primary service provider of the facility;
- 399 (b) that serves students who have a history of failing to function:
- 400 (i) at home;  
401 (ii) in a public school; or  
402 (iii) in a nonresidential private school; and
- 403 (c) that offers:
- 404 (i) room and board; and  
405 (ii) an academic education integrated with:

- 406 (A) specialized structure and supervision; or  
407 (B) services or treatment related to:  
408 (I) a disability;  
409 (II) emotional development;  
410 (III) behavioral development;  
411 (IV) familial development; or  
412 (V) social development.
- 413 (49) "Unrelated persons" means persons other than parents, legal guardians, grandparents,  
414 brothers, sisters, uncles, or aunts.
- 415 (50) "Vulnerable adult" means an elder adult or an adult who has a temporary or permanent  
416 mental or physical impairment that substantially affects the person's ability to:  
417 (a) provide personal protection;  
418 (b) provide necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, or mental or other health care;  
419 (c) obtain services necessary for health, safety, or welfare;  
420 (d) carry out the activities of daily living;  
421 (e) manage the adult's own resources; or  
422 (f) comprehend the nature and consequences of remaining in a situation of abuse,  
423 neglect, or exploitation.
- 424 (51)(a) "Youth program" means a program designed to provide behavioral, substance  
425 use, or mental health services to minors that:  
426 (i) serves adjudicated or nonadjudicated youth;  
427 (ii) charges a fee for the program's services;  
428 (iii) may provide host homes or other arrangements for overnight accommodation of  
429 the youth;  
430 (iv) may provide all or part of the program's services in the outdoors;  
431 (v) may limit or censor access to parents or guardians; and  
432 (vi) prohibits or restricts a minor's ability to leave the program at any time of the  
433 minor's own free will.
- 434 (b) "Youth program" does not include recreational programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl  
435 Scouts, 4-H, and other such organizations.
- 436 (52)(a) "Youth transportation company" means any person that transports a child for  
437 payment to or from a congregate care program in Utah.
- 438 (b) "Youth transportation company" does not include:  
439 (i) a relative of the child;

- 440 (ii) a state agency; or  
 441 (iii) a congregate care program's employee who transports the child from the  
 442 congregate care program that employs the employee and returns the child to the  
 443 same congregate care program.

444 Section 4. Section **26B-2-129** is amended to read:

445 **26B-2-129 . Licensure of tribal foster homes.**

- 446 (1) [~~The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Secs. 1901-1963,~~] Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian  
 447 Family Preservation Act, provides that Indian tribes may develop and implement tribal  
 448 foster home standards.  
 449 (2) The office shall give full faith and credit to an Indian tribe's certification or licensure of  
 450 a tribal foster home for an Indian child and siblings of that Indian child, both on and off  
 451 Indian country, according to standards developed and approved by the Indian tribe,  
 452 pursuant to [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Secs. 1901-1963~~] Title 80, Chapter  
 453 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.  
 454 (3) If the Indian tribe has not developed standards, the office shall license tribal foster  
 455 homes pursuant to this part.

456 Section 5. Section **78B-6-102** is amended to read:

457 **78B-6-102 . Legislative intent and findings -- Best interest of child -- Interests of**  
 458 **each party.**

- 459 (1) It is the intent and desire of the Legislature that in every adoption the best interest of the  
 460 child should govern and be of foremost concern in the court's determination.  
 461 (2) The court shall make a specific finding regarding the best interest of the child, taking  
 462 into consideration information provided to the court pursuant to the requirements of this  
 463 chapter relating to the health, safety, and welfare of the child and the moral climate of  
 464 the potential adoptive placement.  
 465 (3) The Legislature finds that the rights and interests of all parties affected by an adoption  
 466 proceeding must be considered and balanced in determining what constitutional  
 467 protections and processes are necessary and appropriate.  
 468 (4) The Legislature specifically finds that it is not in a child's best interest to be adopted by  
 469 a person or persons who are cohabiting in a relationship that is not a legally valid and  
 470 binding marriage under the laws of this state. Nothing in this section limits or prohibits  
 471 the court's placement of a child with a single adult who is not cohabiting or a person  
 472 who is a relative of the child or a recognized placement under [~~the Indian Child Welfare~~  
 473 ~~Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq]~~ Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.

- 474 (5) The Legislature also finds that:
- 475 (a) the state has a compelling interest in providing stable and permanent homes for  
476 adoptive children in a prompt manner, in preventing the disruption of adoptive  
477 placements, and in holding parents accountable for meeting the needs of children;
- 478 (b) an unmarried mother, faced with the responsibility of making crucial decisions about  
479 the future of a newborn child, is entitled to privacy, and has the right to make timely  
480 and appropriate decisions regarding her future and the future of the child, and is  
481 entitled to assurance regarding the permanence of an adoptive placement;
- 482 (c) adoptive children have a right to permanence and stability in adoptive placements;
- 483 (d) adoptive parents have a constitutionally protected liberty and privacy interest in  
484 retaining custody of an adopted child;
- 485 (e) an unmarried biological father has an inchoate interest that acquires constitutional  
486 protection only when he demonstrates a timely and full commitment to the  
487 responsibilities of parenthood, both during pregnancy and upon the child's birth; and
- 488 (f) the state has a compelling interest in requiring unmarried biological fathers to  
489 demonstrate commitment by providing appropriate medical care and financial  
490 support and by establishing legal paternity, in accordance with the requirements of  
491 this chapter.
- 492 (6)(a) In enacting this chapter, the Legislature has prescribed the conditions for  
493 determining whether an unmarried biological father's action is sufficiently prompt  
494 and substantial to require constitutional protection.
- 495 (b) If an unmarried biological father fails to grasp the opportunities to establish a  
496 relationship with his child that are available to him, his biological parental interest  
497 may be lost entirely, or greatly diminished in constitutional significance by his failure  
498 to timely exercise it, or by his failure to strictly comply with the available legal steps  
499 to substantiate it.
- 500 (c) A certain degree of finality is necessary in order to facilitate the state's compelling  
501 interest. The Legislature finds that the interests of the state, the mother, the child,  
502 and the adoptive parents described in this section outweigh the interest of an  
503 unmarried biological father who does not timely grasp the opportunity to establish  
504 and demonstrate a relationship with his child in accordance with the requirements of  
505 this chapter.
- 506 (d) The Legislature finds no practical way to remove all risk of fraud or  
507 misrepresentation in adoption proceedings, and has provided a method for absolute

508 protection of an unmarried biological father's rights by compliance with the  
509 provisions of this chapter. In balancing the rights and interests of the state, and of all  
510 parties affected by fraud, specifically the child, the adoptive parents, and the  
511 unmarried biological father, the Legislature has determined that the unmarried  
512 biological father is in the best position to prevent or ameliorate the effects of fraud  
513 and that, therefore, the burden of fraud shall be borne by him.

514 (e) An unmarried biological father has the primary responsibility to protect his rights.

515 (f) An unmarried biological father is presumed to know that the child may be adopted  
516 without his consent unless he strictly complies with the provisions of this chapter,  
517 manifests a prompt and full commitment to his parental responsibilities, and  
518 establishes paternity.

519 (7) The Legislature finds that an unmarried mother has a right of privacy with regard to her  
520 pregnancy and adoption plan, and therefore has no legal obligation to disclose the  
521 identity of an unmarried biological father prior to or during an adoption proceeding, and  
522 has no obligation to volunteer information to the court with respect to the father.

523 Section 6. Section **78B-6-103** is amended to read:

524 **78B-6-103 . Definitions.**

525 As used in this part:

526 (1) "Adoptee" means a person who:

527 (a) is the subject of an adoption proceeding; or

528 (b) has been legally adopted.

529 (2) "Adoption" means the judicial act that:

530 (a) creates the relationship of parent and child where it did not previously exist; and

531 (b) except as provided in Subsections 78B-6-138(2) and (4), terminates the parental  
532 rights of any other person with respect to the child.

533 (3) "Adoption document" means an adoption-related document filed with the office, a  
534 petition for adoption, a decree of adoption, an original birth certificate, or evidence  
535 submitted in support of a supplementary birth certificate.

536 (4) "Adoption proceeding" means any proceeding under this part.

537 (5) "Adoption service provider" means:

538 (a) a child-placing agency;

539 (b) a licensed counselor who has at least one year of experience providing professional  
540 social work services to:

541 (i) adoptive parents;



- 542 (ii) prospective adoptive parents; or  
543 (iii) birth parents; or  
544 (c) the Office of Licensing within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 545 (6) "Adoptive parent" means an individual who has legally adopted an adoptee.  
546 (7) "Adult" means an individual who is 18 years old or older.  
547 (8) "Adult adoptee" means an adoptee who is 18 years old or older and was adopted as a  
548 minor.  
549 (9) "Adult sibling" means an adoptee's brother or sister, who is 18 years old or older and  
550 whose birth mother or father is the same as that of the adoptee.  
551 (10) "Birth mother" means the biological mother of a child.  
552 (11) "Birth parent" means:  
553 (a) a birth mother;  
554 (b) a man whose paternity of a child is established;  
555 (c) a man who:  
556 (i) has been identified as the father of a child by the child's birth mother; and  
557 (ii) has not denied paternity; or  
558 (d) an unmarried biological father.  
559 (12) "Child-placing agency" means an agency licensed to place children for adoption under  
560 Title 26B, Chapter 2, Part 1, Human Services Programs and Facilities.  
561 (13) "Cohabiting" means residing with another person and being involved in a sexual  
562 relationship with that person.  
563 (14) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services, within the Department of  
564 Health and Human Services, created in Section 80-2-201.  
565 (15) "Extra-jurisdictional child-placing agency" means an agency licensed to place children  
566 for adoption by a district, territory, or state of the United States, other than Utah.  
567 (16) "Genetic and social history" means a comprehensive report, when obtainable, that  
568 contains the following information on an adoptee's birth parents, aunts, uncles, and  
569 grandparents:  
570 (a) medical history;  
571 (b) health status;  
572 (c) cause of and age at death;  
573 (d) height, weight, and eye and hair color;  
574 (e) ethnic origins;  
575 (f) where appropriate, levels of education and professional achievement; and

- 576 (g) religion, if any.
- 577 (17) "Health history" means a comprehensive report of the adoptee's health status at the  
578 time of placement for adoption, and medical history, including neonatal, psychological,  
579 physiological, and medical care history.
- 580 (18) "Identifying information" means information that is in the possession of the office and  
581 that contains the name and address of a pre-existing parent or an adult adoptee, or other  
582 specific information that by itself or in reasonable conjunction with other information  
583 may be used to identify a pre-existing parent or an adult adoptee, including information  
584 on a birth certificate or in an adoption document.
- 585 (19) "Licensed counselor" means an individual who is licensed by the state, or another  
586 state, district, or territory of the United States as a:
- 587 (a) certified social worker;
- 588 (b) clinical social worker;
- 589 (c) psychologist;
- 590 (d) marriage and family therapist;
- 591 (e) clinical mental health counselor; or
- 592 (f) an equivalent licensed professional of another state, district, or territory of the United  
593 States.
- 594 (20) "Man" means a male individual, regardless of age.
- 595 (21) "Mature adoptee" means an adoptee who is adopted when the adoptee is an adult.
- 596 (22) "Office" means the Office of Vital Records and Statistics within the Department of  
597 Health and Human Services operating under Title 26B, Chapter 8, Part 1, Vital Statistics.
- 598 (23) "Parent," for purposes of Subsection 78B-6-112(6) and Section 78B-6-119, means any  
599 person described in Subsections 78B-6-120(1)(b) through (f) from whom consent for  
600 adoption or relinquishment for adoption is required under Sections 78B-6-120 through  
601 78B-6-122.
- 602 (24) "Potential birth father" means a man who:
- 603 (a) is identified by a birth mother as a potential biological father of the birth mother's  
604 child, but whose genetic paternity has not been established; and
- 605 (b) was not married to the biological mother of the child described in Subsection (24)(a)  
606 at the time of the child's conception or birth.
- 607 (25) "Pre-existing parent" means:
- 608 (a) a birth parent; or
- 609 (b) an individual who, before an adoption decree is entered, is, due to an earlier adoption

610 decree, legally the parent of the child being adopted.

611 (26) "Prospective adoptive parent" means an individual who seeks to adopt an adoptee.

612 (27) "Relative" means:

613 (a) an adult who is a grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle,  
614 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepparent, first cousin, stepsibling, sibling of a child, or  
615 first cousin of a child's parent; and

616 (b) in the case of a child defined as an "Indian child" under [~~the Indian Child Welfare~~  
617 ~~Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903~~] Section 80-2b-101, an "extended family member" as  
618 defined by [~~that statute~~] Section 80-2b-101.

619 (28) "Unmarried biological father" means a man who:

620 (a) is the biological father of a child; and

621 (b) was not married to the biological mother of the child described in Subsection (28)(a)  
622 at the time of the child's conception or birth.

623 Section 7. Section **78B-6-107** is amended to read:

624 **78B-6-107 . Compliance with the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children --**  
625 **Compliance with state law.**

626 (1)(a) Subject to Subsection (1)(b), in any adoption proceeding the petition for adoption  
627 shall state whether the child was born in another state and, if so, both the petition and  
628 the court's final decree of adoption shall state that the requirements of Title 80,  
629 Chapter 2, Part 9, Interstate Compact on Placement of Children, have been complied  
630 with.

631 (b) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply if the prospective adoptive parent is not required to  
632 complete a preplacement adoptive evaluation under Section 78B-6-128.

633 (2) In any adoption proceeding involving an "Indian child," as defined in [~~25 U.S.C. Sec.~~  
634 ~~1903~~] Section 80-2b-101, a child-placing agency and the petitioners shall comply with [  
635 ~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, Title 25, Chapter 21, of the United States Code~~] Title 80,  
636 Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.

637 Section 8. Section **78B-6-117** is amended to read:

638 **78B-6-117 . Who may adopt -- Adoption of minor.**

639 (1) A minor child may be adopted by an adult individual, in accordance with this section  
640 and this part.

641 (2) A child may be adopted by:

642 (a) adults who are legally married to each other in accordance with the laws of this state,  
643 including adoption by a stepparent; or

- 644 (b) subject to Subsections (3) and (4), a single adult.
- 645 (3) A child may not be adopted by an individual who is cohabiting in a relationship that is  
646 not a legally valid and binding marriage under the laws of this state unless the individual  
647 is a relative of the child or a recognized placement under [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act,~~  
648 ~~25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq]~~ Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.
- 649 (4) To provide a child who is in the custody of the division with the most beneficial family  
650 structure, when a child in the custody of the division is placed for adoption, the division  
651 or child-placing agency shall place the child with a married couple, unless:
- 652 (a) there are no qualified married couples who:
- 653 (i) have applied to adopt a child;
- 654 (ii) are willing to adopt the child; and
- 655 (iii) are an appropriate placement for the child;
- 656 (b) the child is placed with a relative of the child;
- 657 (c) the child is placed with an individual who has already developed a substantial  
658 relationship with the child;
- 659 (d) the child is placed with an individual who:
- 660 (i) is selected by a parent or former parent of the child, if the parent or former parent  
661 consented to the adoption of the child; and
- 662 (ii) the parent or former parent described in Subsection (4)(d)(i):
- 663 (A) knew the individual with whom the child is placed before the parent  
664 consented to the adoption; or
- 665 (B) became aware of the individual with whom the child is placed through a  
666 source other than the division or the child-placing agency that assists with the  
667 adoption of the child; or
- 668 (e) it is in the best interests of the child to place the child with a single adult.
- 669 (5) Except as provided in Subsection (6), an adult may not adopt a child if, before adoption  
670 is finalized, the adult has been convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or pleaded no contest to a  
671 felony or attempted felony involving conduct that constitutes any of the following:
- 672 (a) child abuse, as described in Section 76-5-109;
- 673 (b) child abuse homicide, as described in Section 76-5-208;
- 674 (c) child kidnapping, as described in Section 76-5-301.1;
- 675 (d) human trafficking of a child, as described in Section 76-5-308.5;
- 676 (e) sexual abuse of a minor, as described in Section 76-5-401.1;
- 677 (f) rape of a child, as described in Section 76-5-402.1;

- 678 (g) object rape of a child, as described in Section 76-5-402.3;
- 679 (h) sodomy on a child, as described in Section 76-5-403.1;
- 680 (i) sexual abuse of a child, as described in Section 76-5-404.1, or aggravated sexual  
681 abuse of a child, as described in Section 76-5-404.3;
- 682 (j) sexual exploitation of a minor, as described in Section 76-5b-201;
- 683 (k) aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, as described in Section 76-5b-201.1;
- 684 (l) aggravated child abuse, as described in Section 76-5-109.2;
- 685 (m) child abandonment, as described in Section 76-5-109.3;
- 686 (n) commission of domestic violence in the presence of a child, as described in Section  
687 76-5-114; or
- 688 (o) an offense in another state that, if committed in this state, would constitute an  
689 offense described in this Subsection (5).
- 690 (6)(a) For purpose of this Subsection (6), "disqualifying offense" means an offense  
691 listed in Subsection (5) that prevents a court from considering an individual for  
692 adoption of a child except as provided in this Subsection (6).
- 693 (b) An individual described in Subsection (5) may only be considered for adoption of a  
694 child if the following criteria are met by clear and convincing evidence:
- 695 (i) at least 10 years have elapsed from the day on which the individual is successfully  
696 released from prison, jail, parole, or probation related to a disqualifying offense;
- 697 (ii) during the 10 years before the day on which the individual files a petition with the  
698 court seeking adoption, the individual has not been convicted, pleaded guilty, or  
699 pleaded no contest to an offense greater than an infraction or traffic violation that  
700 would likely impact the health, safety, or well-being of the child;
- 701 (iii) the individual can provide evidence of successful treatment or rehabilitation  
702 directly related to the disqualifying offense;
- 703 (iv) the court determines that the risk related to the disqualifying offense is unlikely  
704 to cause harm, as defined in Section 80-1-102, or potential harm to the child  
705 currently or at any time in the future when considering all of the following:
- 706 (A) the child's age;
- 707 (B) the child's gender;
- 708 (C) the child's development;
- 709 (D) the nature and seriousness of the disqualifying offense;
- 710 (E) the preferences of a child 12 years old or older;
- 711 (F) any available assessments, including custody evaluations, home studies,

- 712 pre-placement adoptive evaluations, parenting assessments, psychological or  
 713 mental health assessments, and bonding assessments; and  
 714 (G) any other relevant information;
- 715 (v) the individual can provide evidence of all of the following:
- 716 (A) the relationship with the child is of long duration;
- 717 (B) that an emotional bond exists with the child; and
- 718 (C) that adoption by the individual who has committed the disqualifying offense  
 719 ensures the best interests of the child are met; and
- 720 (vi) the adoption is by:
- 721 (A) a stepparent whose spouse is the adoptee's parent and consents to the  
 722 adoption; or
- 723 (B) subject to Subsection (6)(d), a relative of the child as defined in Section  
 724 80-3-102 and there is not another relative without a disqualifying offense filing  
 725 an adoption petition.
- 726 (c) The individual with the disqualifying offense bears the burden of proof regarding  
 727 why adoption with that individual is in the best interest of the child over another  
 728 responsible relative or equally situated individual who does not have a disqualifying  
 729 offense.
- 730 (d) If there is an alternative responsible relative who does not have a disqualifying  
 731 offense filing an adoption petition, the following applies:
- 732 (i) preference for adoption shall be given to a relative who does not have a  
 733 disqualifying offense; and
- 734 (ii) before the court may grant adoption to the individual who has the disqualifying  
 735 offense over another responsible, willing, and able relative:
- 736 (A) an impartial custody evaluation shall be completed; and
- 737 (B) a guardian ad litem shall be assigned.
- 738 (7) Subsections (5) and (6) apply to a case pending on March 25, 2017, for which a final  
 739 decision on adoption has not been made and to a case filed on or after March 25, 2017.
- 740 Section 9. Section **78B-13-104** is amended to read:
- 741 **78B-13-104 . Application to Indian tribes.**
- 742 (1) A child custody proceeding that pertains to an Indian child as defined in [~~the Indian~~  
 743 ~~Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.~~] Section 80-2b-101, is not subject to this  
 744 chapter to the extent that it is governed by [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act~~] Title 80,  
 745 Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.

746 (2) A court of this state shall treat a tribe as a state of the United States for purposes of Part  
747 1, General Provisions, and Part 2, Jurisdiction.

748 (3) A child custody determination made by a tribe under factual circumstances in  
749 substantial conformity with the jurisdictional standards of this chapter shall be  
750 recognized and enforced under ~~[the provisions of]~~ Part 3, Enforcement.

751 Section 10. Section **78B-22-201** is amended to read:

752 **78B-22-201 . Right to counsel.**

753 (1) A court shall advise the following of the individual's right to counsel no later than the  
754 individual's first court appearance:

755 (a) an adult charged with a criminal offense the penalty for which includes the  
756 possibility of incarceration regardless of whether actually imposed;

757 (b) a parent or legal guardian facing an action initiated by the state under:

758 (i) Title 78A, Chapter 6, Part 4a, Adult Criminal Proceedings;

759 (ii) Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act, to the extent provided for in  
760 that chapter;

761 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) Title 80, Chapter 3, Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings; or

762 ~~[(iii)]~~ (iv) Title 80, Chapter 4, Termination and Restoration of Parental Rights;

763 (c) a parent or legal guardian facing an action initiated by any party under:

764 (i) Section 78B-6-112; ~~[or]~~

765 (ii) Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act, to the extent provided for in  
766 that chapter; or

767 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) Title 80, Chapter 4, Termination and Restoration of Parental Rights; or

768 (d) an individual described in this Subsection (1), who is appealing a conviction or other  
769 final court action.

770 (2) If an individual described in Subsection (1) does not knowingly and voluntarily waive  
771 the right to counsel, the court shall determine whether the individual is indigent under  
772 Section 78B-22-202.

773 Section 11. Section **78B-24-102** is amended to read:

774 **78B-24-102 . Limitations on applicability.**

775 This chapter does not apply to custody of an Indian child, as defined in ~~[the Indian~~  
776 ~~Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903]~~ Section 80-2b-101, to the extent governed by ~~[the~~  
777 ~~Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 through 1963]~~ Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian  
778 Family Preservation Act.

779 Section 12. Section **78B-24-202** is amended to read:

780 **78B-24-202 . Applicability.**

781 This part does not apply to a transfer of custody of a child by a parent or guardian  
782 of the child to:

- 783 (1) a parent of the child;
- 784 (2) a stepparent of the child;
- 785 (3) an adult who is related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- 786 (4) an adult who, at the time of the transfer, had a close relationship with the child or the  
787 parent or guardian of the child for a substantial period, and whom the parent or guardian  
788 reasonably believed, at the time of the transfer, to be a fit custodian of the child;
- 789 (5) an Indian custodian, as defined in [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903]~~  
790 Section 80-2b-101, of the child; or
- 791 (6) a member of the child's customary family unit recognized by the child's indigenous  
792 group.

793 Section 13. Section **80-1-102** is amended to read:

794 **80-1-102 . Juvenile Code definitions.**

795 Except as provided in Section 80-6-1103, as used in this title:

796 (1)(a) "Abuse" means:

- 797 (i)(A) nonaccidental harm of a child;
- 798 (B) threatened harm of a child;
- 799 (C) sexual exploitation;
- 800 (D) sexual abuse; or
- 801 (E) human trafficking of a child in violation of Section 76-5-308.5; or
- 802 (ii) that a child's natural parent:
- 803 (A) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes the death of another parent of  
804 the child;
- 805 (B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as the primary suspect in an  
806 investigation for intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing the death of  
807 another parent of the child; or
- 808 (C) is being prosecuted for or has been convicted of intentionally, knowingly, or  
809 recklessly causing the death of another parent of the child.

810 (b) "Abuse" does not include:

- 811 (i) reasonable discipline or management of a child, including withholding privileges;
- 812 (ii) conduct described in Section 76-2-401; or
- 813 (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint or force on a child:



- 814 (A) in self-defense;
- 815 (B) in defense of others;
- 816 (C) to protect the child; or
- 817 (D) to remove a weapon in the possession of a child for any of the reasons
- 818 described in Subsections (1)(b)(iii)(A) through (C).
- 819 (2) "Abused child" means a child who has been subjected to abuse.
- 820 (3)(a) "Adjudication" means, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b):
- 821 (i) for a delinquency petition or criminal information under Chapter 6, Juvenile
- 822 Justice:
- 823 (A) a finding by the juvenile court that the facts alleged in a delinquency petition
- 824 or criminal information alleging that a minor committed an offense have been
- 825 proved;
- 826 (B) an admission by a minor in the juvenile court as described in Section 80-6-306;
- 826a
- 827 or
- 828 (C) a plea of no contest by minor in the juvenile court; or
- 829 (ii) for all other proceedings under this title, a finding by the juvenile court that the
- 830 facts alleged in the petition have been proved.
- 831 (b) "Adjudication" does not include:
- 832 (i) an admission by a minor described in Section 80-6-306 until the juvenile court
- 833 enters the minor's admission; or
- 834 (ii) a finding of not competent to proceed in accordance with Section 80-6-402.
- 835 (4)(a) "Adult" means an individual who is 18 years old or older.
- 836 (b) "Adult" does not include an individual:
- 837 (i) who is 18 years old or older; and
- 838 (ii) who is a minor.
- 839 (5) "Attorney guardian ad litem" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 840 78A-2-801.
- 841 (6) "Board" means the Board of Juvenile Court Judges.
- 842 (7) "Child" means, except as provided in Section 80-2-905, an individual who is under 18
- 843 years old.
- 844 (8) "Child and family plan" means a written agreement between a child's parents or
- 845 guardian and the Division of Child and Family Services as described in Section 80-3-307.
- 846 (9) "Child placing" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-101.

- 847 (10) "Child-placing agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-101.
- 848 (11) "Child protection team" means a team consisting of:
- 849 (a) the child welfare caseworker assigned to the case;
- 850 (b) if applicable, the child welfare caseworker who made the decision to remove the
- 851 child;
- 852 (c) a representative of the school or school district where the child attends school;
- 853 (d) if applicable, the law enforcement officer who removed the child from the home;
- 854 (e) a representative of the appropriate Children's Justice Center, if one is established
- 855 within the county where the child resides;
- 856 (f) if appropriate, and known to the division, a therapist or counselor who is familiar
- 857 with the child's circumstances;
- 858 (g) if appropriate, a representative of law enforcement selected by the chief of police or
- 859 sheriff in the city or county where the child resides; and
- 860 (h) any other individuals determined appropriate and necessary by the team coordinator
- 861 and chair.
- 862 (12)(a) "Chronic abuse" means repeated or patterned abuse.
- 863 (b) "Chronic abuse" does not mean an isolated incident of abuse.
- 864 (13)(a) "Chronic neglect" means repeated or patterned neglect.
- 865 (b) "Chronic neglect" does not mean an isolated incident of neglect.
- 866 (14) "Clandestine laboratory operation" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 867 58-37d-3.
- 868 (15) "Commit" or "committed" means, unless specified otherwise:
- 869 (a) with respect to a child, to transfer legal custody; and
- 870 (b) with respect to a minor who is at least 18 years old, to transfer custody.
- 871 (16) "Community-based program" means a nonsecure residential or nonresidential program,
- 872 designated to supervise and rehabilitate juvenile offenders, that prioritizes the least
- 873 restrictive setting, consistent with public safety, and operated by or under contract with
- 874 the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services.
- 875 (17) "Community placement" means placement of a minor in a community-based program
- 876 described in Section 80-5-402.
- 877 (18) "Correctional facility" means:
- 878 (a) a county jail; or
- 879 (b) a secure correctional facility as defined in Section 64-13-1.
- 880 (19) "Criminogenic risk factors" means evidence-based factors that are associated with a

- 881 minor's likelihood of reoffending.
- 882 (20) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services created in Section  
883 26B-1-201.
- 884 (21) "Dependent child" or "dependency" means a child who is without proper care through  
885 no fault of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- 886 (22) "Deprivation of custody" means transfer of legal custody by the juvenile court from a  
887 parent or a previous custodian to another person, agency, or institution.
- 888 (23) "Detention" means home detention or secure detention.
- 889 (24) "Detention facility" means a facility, established by the Division of Juvenile Justice  
890 and Youth Services in accordance with Section 80-5-501, for minors held in detention.
- 891 (25) "Detention risk assessment tool" means an evidence-based tool established under  
892 Section 80-5-203 that:
- 893 (a) assesses a minor's risk of failing to appear in court or reoffending before  
894 adjudication; and
- 895 (b) is designed to assist in making a determination of whether a minor shall be held in  
896 detention.
- 897 (26) "Developmental immaturity" means incomplete development in one or more domains  
898 that manifests as a functional limitation in the minor's present ability to:
- 899 (a) consult with counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding; and  
900 (b) have a rational as well as factual understanding of the proceedings.
- 901 (27) "Disposition" means an order by a juvenile court, after the adjudication of a minor,  
902 under Section 80-3-405 or 80-4-305 or Chapter 6, Part 7, Adjudication and Disposition.
- 903 (28) "Educational neglect" means that, after receiving a notice of compulsory education  
904 violation under Section 53G-6-202, the parent or guardian fails to make a good faith  
905 effort to ensure that the child receives an appropriate education.
- 906 (29) "Educational series" means an evidence-based instructional series:
- 907 (a) obtained at a substance abuse program that is approved by the Division of Integrated  
908 Healthcare in accordance with Section 26B-5-104; and
- 909 (b) designed to prevent substance use or the onset of a mental health disorder.
- 910 (30) "Emancipated" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-7-102.
- 911 (31) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that has had multiple randomized  
912 control studies or a meta-analysis demonstrating that the program or practice is effective  
913 for a specific population or has been rated as effective by a standardized program  
914 evaluation tool.

- 915 (32) "Forensic evaluator" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-15-2.
- 916 (33) "Formal probation" means a minor is:
- 917 (a) supervised in the community by, and reports to, a juvenile probation officer or an
- 918 agency designated by the juvenile court; and
- 919 (b) subject to return to the juvenile court in accordance with Section 80-6-607.
- 920 (34) "Group rehabilitation therapy" means psychological and social counseling of one or
- 921 more individuals in the group, depending upon the recommendation of the therapist.
- 922 (35) "Guardian" means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding a minor,
- 923 including the authority to consent to:
- 924 (a) marriage;
- 925 (b) enlistment in the armed forces;
- 926 (c) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment; or
- 927 (d) legal custody, if legal custody is not vested in another individual, agency, or
- 928 institution.
- 929 (36) "Guardian ad litem" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-2-801.
- 930 (37) "Harm" means:
- 931 (a) physical or developmental injury or damage;
- 932 (b) emotional damage that results in a serious impairment in the child's growth,
- 933 development, behavior, or psychological functioning;
- 934 (c) sexual abuse; or
- 935 (d) sexual exploitation.
- 936 (38) "Home detention" means placement of a minor:
- 937 (a) if prior to a disposition, in the minor's home, or in a surrogate home with the consent
- 938 of the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian, under terms and conditions established
- 939 by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or the juvenile court; or
- 940 (b) if after a disposition, and in accordance with Section 78A-6-353 or 80-6-704, in the
- 941 minor's home, or in a surrogate home with the consent of the minor's parent,
- 942 guardian, or custodian, under terms and conditions established by the Division of
- 943 Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or the juvenile court.
- 944 (39)(a) "Incest" means engaging in sexual intercourse with an individual whom the
- 945 perpetrator knows to be the perpetrator's ancestor, descendant, brother, sister, uncle,
- 946 aunt, nephew, niece, or first cousin.
- 947 (b) "Incest" includes:
- 948 (i) blood relationships of the whole or half blood, regardless of whether the

- 949 relationship is legally recognized;
- 950 (ii) relationships of parent and child by adoption; and
- 951 (iii) relationships of stepparent and stepchild while the marriage creating the
- 952 relationship of a stepparent and stepchild exists.
- 953 (40) "Indian child" means the same as that term is defined in [25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903] Section
- 954 80-2b-101.
- 955 (41) "Indian tribe" means the same as that term is defined in [25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903] Section
- 956 80-2b-101.
- 957 (42) "Indigent defense service provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 958 78B-22-102.
- 959 (43) "Indigent defense services" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 960 78B-22-102.
- 961 (44) "Indigent individual" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78B-22-102.
- 962 (45)(a) "Intake probation" means a minor is:
- 963 (i) monitored by a juvenile probation officer; and
- 964 (ii) subject to return to the juvenile court in accordance with Section 80-6-607.
- 965 (b) "Intake probation" does not include formal probation.
- 966 (46) "Intellectual disability" means a significant subaverage general intellectual functioning
- 967 existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior that constitutes a substantial
- 968 limitation to the individual's ability to function in society.
- 969 (47) "Juvenile offender" means:
- 970 (a) a serious youth offender; or
- 971 (b) a youth offender.
- 972 (48) "Juvenile probation officer" means a probation officer appointed under Section
- 973 78A-6-205.
- 974 (49) "Juvenile receiving center" means a nonsecure, nonresidential program established by
- 975 the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, or under contract with the Division
- 976 of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, that is responsible for minors taken into
- 977 temporary custody under Section 80-6-201.
- 978 (50) "Legal custody" means a relationship embodying:
- 979 (a) the right to physical custody of the minor;
- 980 (b) the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the minor;
- 981 (c) the duty to provide the minor with food, clothing, shelter, education, and ordinary
- 982 medical care;

- 983 (d) the right to determine where and with whom the minor shall live; and  
984 (e) the right, in an emergency, to authorize surgery or other extraordinary care.
- 985 (51) "Licensing Information System" means the Licensing Information System maintained  
986 by the Division of Child and Family Services under Section 80-2-1002.
- 987 (52) "Management Information System" means the Management Information System  
988 developed by the Division of Child and Family Services under Section 80-2-1001.
- 989 (53) "Mental illness" means:
- 990 (a) a psychiatric disorder that substantially impairs an individual's mental, emotional,  
991 behavioral, or related functioning; or
- 992 (b) the same as that term is defined in:
- 993 (i) the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders  
994 published by the American Psychiatric Association; or
- 995 (ii) the current edition of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and  
996 Related Health Problems.
- 997 (54) "Minor" means, except as provided in Sections 80-6-501, 80-6-901, and 80-7-102:
- 998 (a) a child; or
- 999 (b) an individual:
- 1000 (i)(A) who is at least 18 years old and younger than 21 years old; and
- 1001 (B) for whom the Division of Child and Family Services has been specifically  
1002 ordered by the juvenile court to provide services because the individual was an  
1003 abused, neglected, or dependent child or because the individual was  
1004 adjudicated for an offense;
- 1005 (ii)(A) who is at least 18 years old and younger than 25 years old; and
- 1006 (B) whose case is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in accordance with  
1007 Subsection 78A-6-103(1)(b); or
- 1008 (iii)(A) who is at least 18 years old and younger than 21 years old; and
- 1009 (B) whose case is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in accordance with  
1010 Subsection 78A-6-103(1)(c).
- 1011 (55) "Mobile crisis outreach team" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
1012 26B-5-101.
- 1013 (56) "Molestation" means that an individual, with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual  
1014 desire of any individual, touches the anus, buttocks, pubic area, or genitalia of any child,  
1015 or the breast of a female child, or takes indecent liberties with a child as defined in  
1016 Section 76-5-401.1.

- 1017 (57)(a) "Natural parent" means, except as provided in Section 80-3-302, a minor's  
1018 biological or adoptive parent.
- 1019 (b) "Natural parent" includes the minor's noncustodial parent.
- 1020 (58)(a) "Neglect" means action or inaction causing:
- 1021 (i) abandonment of a child, except as provided in Chapter 4, Part 5, Safe  
1022 Relinquishment of a Newborn Child;
- 1023 (ii) lack of proper parental care of a child by reason of the fault or habits of the  
1024 parent, guardian, or custodian;
- 1025 (iii) failure or refusal of a parent, guardian, or custodian to provide proper or  
1026 necessary subsistence or medical care, or any other care necessary for the child's  
1027 health, safety, morals, or well-being;
- 1028 (iv) a child to be at risk of being neglected or abused because another child in the  
1029 same home is neglected or abused;
- 1030 (v) abandonment of a child through an unregulated child custody transfer under  
1031 Section 78B-24-203; or
- 1032 (vi) educational neglect.
- 1033 (b) "Neglect" does not include:
- 1034 (i) a parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs and who, for that  
1035 reason, does not provide specified medical treatment for a child;
- 1036 (ii) a health care decision made for a child by the child's parent or guardian, unless  
1037 the state or other party to a proceeding shows, by clear and convincing evidence,  
1038 that the health care decision is not reasonable and informed;
- 1039 (iii) a parent or guardian exercising the right described in Section 80-3-304; or
- 1040 (iv) permitting a child, whose basic needs are met and who is of sufficient age and  
1041 maturity to avoid harm or unreasonable risk of harm, to engage in independent  
1042 activities, including:
- 1043 (A) traveling to and from school, including by walking, running, or bicycling;  
1044 (B) traveling to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities;  
1045 (C) engaging in outdoor play;  
1046 (D) remaining in a vehicle unattended, except under the conditions described in  
1047 Subsection 76-10-2202(2);  
1048 (E) remaining at home unattended; or  
1049 (F) engaging in a similar independent activity.
- 1050 (59) "Neglected child" means a child who has been subjected to neglect.

- 1051 (60) "Nonjudicial adjustment" means closure of the case by the assigned juvenile probation  
1052 officer, without an adjudication of the minor's case under Section 80-6-701, upon the  
1053 consent in writing of:
- 1054 (a) the assigned juvenile probation officer; and
  - 1055 (b)(i) the minor; or
  - 1056 (ii) the minor and the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- 1057 (61) "Not competent to proceed" means that a minor, due to a mental illness, intellectual  
1058 disability or related condition, or developmental immaturity, lacks the ability to:
- 1059 (a) understand the nature of the proceedings against the minor or of the potential  
1060 disposition for the offense charged; or
  - 1061 (b) consult with counsel and participate in the proceedings against the minor with a  
1062 reasonable degree of rational understanding.
- 1063 (62) "Parole" means a conditional release of a juvenile offender from residency in secure  
1064 care to live outside of secure care under the supervision of the Division of Juvenile  
1065 Justice and Youth Services, or another person designated by the Division of Juvenile  
1066 Justice and Youth Services.
- 1067 (63) "Physical abuse" means abuse that results in physical injury or damage to a child.
- 1068 (64)(a) "Probation" means a legal status created by court order, following an  
1069 adjudication under Section 80-6-701, whereby the minor is permitted to remain in the  
1070 minor's home under prescribed conditions.
- 1071 (b) "Probation" includes intake probation or formal probation.
- 1072 (65) "Prosecuting attorney" means:
- 1073 (a) the attorney general and any assistant attorney general;
  - 1074 (b) any district attorney or deputy district attorney;
  - 1075 (c) any county attorney or assistant county attorney; and
  - 1076 (d) any other attorney authorized to commence an action on behalf of the state.
- 1077 (66) "Protective custody" means the shelter of a child by the Division of Child and Family  
1078 Services from the time the child is removed from the home until the earlier of:
- 1079 (a) the day on which the shelter hearing is held under Section 80-3-301; or
  - 1080 (b) the day on which the child is returned home.
- 1081 (67) "Protective services" means expedited services that are provided:
- 1082 (a) in response to evidence of neglect, abuse, or dependency of a child;
  - 1083 (b) to a cohabitant who is neglecting or abusing a child, in order to:
    - 1084 (i) help the cohabitant develop recognition of the cohabitant's duty of care and of the



- 1085 causes of neglect or abuse; and
- 1086 (ii) strengthen the cohabitant's ability to provide safe and acceptable care; and
- 1087 (c) in cases where the child's welfare is endangered:
- 1088 (i) to bring the situation to the attention of the appropriate juvenile court and law
- 1089 enforcement agency;
- 1090 (ii) to cause a protective order to be issued for the protection of the child, when
- 1091 appropriate; and
- 1092 (iii) to protect the child from the circumstances that endanger the child's welfare
- 1093 including, when appropriate:
- 1094 (A) removal from the child's home;
- 1095 (B) placement in substitute care; and
- 1096 (C) petitioning the court for termination of parental rights.
- 1097 (68) "Protective supervision" means a legal status created by court order, following an
- 1098 adjudication on the ground of abuse, neglect, or dependency, whereby:
- 1099 (a) the minor is permitted to remain in the minor's home; and
- 1100 (b) supervision and assistance to correct the abuse, neglect, or dependency is provided
- 1101 by an agency designated by the juvenile court.
- 1102 (69)(a) "Related condition" means a condition that:
- 1103 (i) is found to be closely related to intellectual disability;
- 1104 (ii) results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior
- 1105 similar to that of an intellectually disabled individual;
- 1106 (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely; and
- 1107 (iv) constitutes a substantial limitation to the individual's ability to function in society.
- 1108 (b) "Related condition" does not include mental illness, psychiatric impairment, or
- 1109 serious emotional or behavioral disturbance.
- 1110 (70)(a) "Residual parental rights and duties" means the rights and duties remaining with
- 1111 a parent after legal custody or guardianship, or both, have been vested in another
- 1112 person or agency, including:
- 1113 (i) the responsibility for support;
- 1114 (ii) the right to consent to adoption;
- 1115 (iii) the right to determine the child's religious affiliation; and
- 1116 (iv) the right to reasonable parent-time unless restricted by the court.
- 1117 (b) If no guardian has been appointed, "residual parental rights and duties" includes the
- 1118 right to consent to:

- 1119 (i) marriage;
- 1120 (ii) enlistment; and
- 1121 (iii) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment.
- 1122 (71) "Runaway" means a child, other than an emancipated child, who willfully leaves the
- 1123 home of the child's parent or guardian, or the lawfully prescribed residence of the child,
- 1124 without permission.
- 1125 (72) "Secure care" means placement of a minor, who is committed to the Division of
- 1126 Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for rehabilitation, in a facility operated by, or under
- 1127 contract with, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, that provides 24-hour
- 1128 supervision and confinement of the minor.
- 1129 (73) "Secure care facility" means a facility, established in accordance with Section 80-5-503,
- 1129a
- 1130 for juvenile offenders in secure care.
- 1131 (74) "Secure detention" means temporary care of a minor who requires secure custody in a
- 1132 physically restricting facility operated by, or under contract with, the Division of
- 1133 Juvenile Justice and Youth Services:
- 1134 (a) before disposition of an offense that is alleged to have been committed by the minor;
- 1135 or
- 1136 (b) under Section 80-6-704.
- 1137 (75) "Serious youth offender" means an individual who:
- 1138 (a) is at least 14 years old, but under 25 years old;
- 1139 (b) committed a felony listed in Subsection 80-6-503(1) and the continuing jurisdiction
- 1140 of the juvenile court was extended over the individual's case until the individual was
- 1141 25 years old in accordance with Section 80-6-605; and
- 1142 (c) is committed by the juvenile court to the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth
- 1143 Services for secure care under Sections 80-6-703 and 80-6-705.
- 1144 (76) "Severe abuse" means abuse that causes or threatens to cause serious harm to a child.
- 1145 (77) "Severe neglect" means neglect that causes or threatens to cause serious harm to a
- 1146 child.
- 1147 (78)(a) "Severe type of child abuse or neglect" means, except as provided in Subsection
- 1148 (78)(b):
- 1149 (i) if committed by an individual who is 18 years old or older:
- 1150 (A) chronic abuse;
- 1151 (B) severe abuse;

- 1152 (C) sexual abuse;
- 1153 (D) sexual exploitation;
- 1154 (E) abandonment;
- 1155 (F) chronic neglect; or
- 1156 (G) severe neglect; or
- 1157 (ii) if committed by an individual who is under 18 years old:
- 1158 (A) causing serious physical injury, as defined in Subsection 76-5-109(1), to
- 1159 another child that indicates a significant risk to other children; or
- 1160 (B) sexual behavior with or upon another child that indicates a significant risk to
- 1161 other children.
- 1162 (b) "Severe type of child abuse or neglect" does not include:
- 1163 (i) the use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint by an educator in
- 1164 accordance with Subsection 53G-8-302(2) or Section 76-2-401;
- 1165 (ii) an individual's conduct that is justified under Section 76-2-401 or constitutes the
- 1166 use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint or force in self-defense or
- 1167 otherwise appropriate to the circumstances to obtain possession of a weapon or
- 1168 other dangerous object in the possession or under the control of a child or to
- 1169 protect the child or another individual from physical injury; or
- 1170 (iii) a health care decision made for a child by a child's parent or guardian, unless,
- 1171 subject to Subsection (78)(c), the state or other party to the proceeding shows, by
- 1172 clear and convincing evidence, that the health care decision is not reasonable and
- 1173 informed.
- 1174 (c) Subsection (78)(b)(iii) does not prohibit a parent or guardian from exercising the
- 1175 right to obtain a second health care opinion.
- 1176 (79) "Sexual abuse" means:
- 1177 (a) an act or attempted act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, incest, or molestation by an
- 1178 adult directed towards a child;
- 1179 (b) an act or attempted act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, incest, or molestation
- 1180 committed by a child towards another child if:
- 1181 (i) there is an indication of force or coercion;
- 1182 (ii) the children are related, as described in Subsection (39), including siblings by
- 1183 marriage while the marriage exists or by adoption;
- 1184 (iii) there have been repeated incidents of sexual contact between the two children,
- 1185 unless the children are 14 years old or older; or

- 1186 (iv) there is a disparity in chronological age of four or more years between the two  
1187 children;
- 1188 (c) engaging in any conduct with a child that would constitute an offense under any of  
1189 the following, regardless of whether the individual who engages in the conduct is  
1190 actually charged with, or convicted of, the offense:
- 1191 (i) Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses, except for Section 76-5-401, if the  
1192 alleged perpetrator of an offense described in Section 76-5-401 is a minor;
- 1193 (ii) child bigamy, Section 76-7-101.5;
- 1194 (iii) incest, Section 76-7-102;
- 1195 (iv) lewdness, Section 76-9-702;
- 1196 (v) sexual battery, Section 76-9-702.1;
- 1197 (vi) lewdness involving a child, Section 76-9-702.5; or
- 1198 (vii) voyeurism, Section 76-9-702.7; or
- 1199 (d) subjecting a child to participate in or threatening to subject a child to participate in a  
1200 sexual relationship, regardless of whether that sexual relationship is part of a legal or  
1201 cultural marriage.
- 1202 (80) "Sexual exploitation" means knowingly:
- 1203 (a) employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any child to:
- 1204 (i) pose in the nude for the purpose of sexual arousal of any individual; or
- 1205 (ii) engage in any sexual or simulated sexual conduct for the purpose of  
1206 photographing, filming, recording, or displaying in any way the sexual or  
1207 simulated sexual conduct;
- 1208 (b) displaying, distributing, possessing for the purpose of distribution, or selling material  
1209 depicting a child:
- 1210 (i) in the nude, for the purpose of sexual arousal of any individual; or
- 1211 (ii) engaging in sexual or simulated sexual conduct; or
- 1212 (c) engaging in any conduct that would constitute an offense under Section 76-5b-201,  
1213 sexual exploitation of a minor, or Section 76-5b-201.1, aggravated sexual  
1214 exploitation of a minor, regardless of whether the individual who engages in the  
1215 conduct is actually charged with, or convicted of, the offense.
- 1216 (81) "Shelter" means the temporary care of a child in a physically unrestricted facility  
1217 pending a disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction.
- 1218 (82) "Shelter facility" means a nonsecure facility that provides shelter for a minor.
- 1219 (83) "Significant risk" means a risk of harm that is determined to be significant in

- 1220 accordance with risk assessment tools and rules established by the Division of Child and  
 1221 Family Services in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
 1222 Rulemaking Act, that focus on:
- 1223 (a) age;
  - 1224 (b) social factors;
  - 1225 (c) emotional factors;
  - 1226 (d) sexual factors;
  - 1227 (e) intellectual factors;
  - 1228 (f) family risk factors; and
  - 1229 (g) other related considerations.
- 1230 (84) "Single criminal episode" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-1-401.
- 1231 (85) "Status offense" means an offense that would not be an offense but for the age of the  
 1232 offender.
- 1233 (86) "Substance abuse" means, except as provided in Section 80-2-603, the misuse or  
 1234 excessive use of alcohol or other drugs or substances.
- 1235 (87) "Substantiated" or "substantiation" means a judicial finding based on a preponderance  
 1236 of the evidence, and separate consideration of each allegation made or identified in the  
 1237 case, that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred .
- 1238 (88) "Substitute care" means:
- 1239 (a) the placement of a minor in a family home, group care facility, or other placement  
 1240 outside the minor's own home, either at the request of a parent or other responsible  
 1241 relative, or upon court order, when it is determined that continuation of care in the  
 1242 minor's own home would be contrary to the minor's welfare;
  - 1243 (b) services provided for a minor in the protective custody of the Division of Child and  
 1244 Family Services, or a minor in the temporary custody or custody of the Division of  
 1245 Child and Family Services, as those terms are defined in Section 80-2-102; or
  - 1246 (c) the licensing and supervision of a substitute care facility.
- 1247 (89) "Supported" means a finding by the Division of Child and Family Services based on  
 1248 the evidence available at the completion of an investigation, and separate consideration  
 1249 of each allegation made or identified during the investigation, that there is a reasonable  
 1250 basis to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred.
- 1251 (90) "Termination of parental rights" means the permanent elimination of all parental rights  
 1252 and duties, including residual parental rights and duties, by court order.
- 1253 (91) "Therapist" means:

- 1254 (a) an individual employed by a state division or agency for the purpose of conducting  
 1255 psychological treatment and counseling of a minor in the division's or agency's  
 1256 custody; or
- 1257 (b) any other individual licensed or approved by the state for the purpose of conducting  
 1258 psychological treatment and counseling.
- 1259 (92) "Threatened harm" means actions, inactions, or credible verbal threats, indicating that  
 1260 the child is at an unreasonable risk of harm or neglect.
- 1261 (93) "Ungovernable" means a child in conflict with a parent or guardian, and the conflict:  
 1262 (a) results in behavior that is beyond the control or ability of the child, or the parent or  
 1263 guardian, to manage effectively;
- 1264 (b) poses a threat to the safety or well-being of the child, the child's family, or others; or  
 1265 (c) results in the situations described in Subsections (93)(a) and (b).
- 1266 (94) "Unsubstantiated" means a judicial finding that there is insufficient evidence to  
 1267 conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred.
- 1268 (95) "Unsupported" means a finding by the Division of Child and Family Services at the  
 1269 completion of an investigation, after the day on which the Division of Child and Family  
 1270 Services concludes the alleged abuse, neglect, or dependency is not without merit, that  
 1271 there is insufficient evidence to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred.
- 1272 (96) "Validated risk and needs assessment" means an evidence-based tool that assesses a  
 1273 minor's risk of reoffending and a minor's criminogenic needs.
- 1274 (97) "Without merit" means a finding at the completion of an investigation by the Division  
 1275 of Child and Family Services, or a judicial finding, that the alleged abuse, neglect, or  
 1276 dependency did not occur, or that the alleged perpetrator was not responsible for the  
 1277 abuse, neglect, or dependency.
- 1278 (98) "Youth offender" means an individual who is:  
 1279 (a) at least 12 years old, but under 21 years old; and  
 1280 (b) committed by the juvenile court to the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth  
 1281 Services for secure care under Sections 80-6-703 and 80-6-705.
- 1282 Section 14. Section **80-2-802** is amended to read:  
 1283 **80-2-802 . Division child placing and adoption services -- Restrictions on**  
 1284 **placement of a child.**
- 1285 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the division may provide adoption services and,  
 1286 as a licensed child-placing agency under Title 26B, Chapter 2, Part 1, Human Services  
 1287 Programs and Facilities, engage in child placing in accordance with this chapter, Chapter

1288 2a, Removal and Protective Custody of a Child, Chapter 3, Abuse, Neglect, and  
 1289 Dependency Proceedings, and Chapter 4, Termination and Restoration of Parental Rights.

1290 (2) The division shall base the division's decision for placement of an adoptable child for  
 1291 adoption on the best interest of the adoptable child.

1292 (3) The division may not:

1293 (a) in accordance with Subsection 26B-2-127(6), place a child for adoption, either  
 1294 temporarily or permanently, with an individual who does not qualify for adoptive  
 1295 placement under Sections 78B-6-102, 78B-6-117, and 78B-6-137;

1296 (b) consider a potential adoptive parent's willingness or unwillingness to enter a  
 1297 postadoption contact agreement under Section 78B-6-146 as a condition of placing a  
 1298 child with a potential adoptive parent; or

1299 (c) except as required under [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sees. 1901~~  
 1300 ~~through 1963~~] Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act, base the  
 1301 division's decision for placement of an adoptable child on the race, color, ethnicity, or  
 1302 national origin of either the child or the potential adoptive parent.

1303 (4) The division shall establish a rule in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
 1304 Administrative Rulemaking Act, providing that, subject to Subsection (3) and Section  
 1305 78B-6-117, priority of placement shall be provided to a family in which a couple is  
 1306 legally married under the laws of the state.

1307 (5) Subsections (3) and (4) do not limit the placement of a child with the child's biological  
 1308 or adoptive parent, a relative, or in accordance with [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25~~  
 1309 ~~U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq~~] Title 80, Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.

1310 Section 15. Section **80-2-1006** is amended to read:

1311 **80-2-1006 . Sharing of records with Indian tribe under agreement.**

1312 [~~H~~] Subject to Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act, if the division has a  
 1313 privacy agreement with an Indian tribe to protect the confidentiality of division records  
 1314 regarding an Indian child to the same extent that the division is required to protect other  
 1315 division records, the division shall cooperate with and share all appropriate information in the  
 1316 division's possession regarding an Indian child, the Indian child's parent[~~or~~] , Indian custodian,  
 1317 or guardian, or a proposed placement for the Indian child with the Indian tribe that is affiliated  
 1318 with the Indian child.

1319 Section 16. Section **80-2a-101** is amended to read:

1320 **80-2a-101 . Definitions.**

1321 (1) "Custody" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.

- 1322 (2) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services created in Section 80-2-201.
- 1323 (3) "Friend" means an adult who:
- 1324 (a) has an established relationship with the child or a family member of the child; and
- 1325 (b) is not the natural parent of the child.
- 1326 (4) "Nonrelative" means an individual who is not a noncustodial parent or relative.
- 1327 (5) "Relative" means an adult who:
- 1328 (a) is the child's grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle,
- 1329 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepparent, first cousin, stepsibling, or sibling;
- 1330 (b) is the first cousin of the child's parent;
- 1331 (c) is a permanent guardian or natural parent of the child's sibling; or
- 1332 (d) in the case of a child who is an Indian child, is an extended family member as
- 1333 defined in [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903~~] Section 80-2b-101.
- 1334 (6) "Sibling" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.
- 1335 (7) "Temporary custody" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.
- 1336 Section 17. Section **80-2a-304** is amended to read:
- 1337 **80-2a-304 . Removal of a child from foster family placement -- Procedural due**
- 1338 **process.**
- 1339 (1)(a) The Legislature finds that, except with regard to a child's natural parent or
- 1340 guardian, a foster family has a very limited but recognized interest in the foster
- 1341 family's familial relationship with a foster child who has been in the care and custody
- 1342 of the foster family and in making determinations regarding removal of a child from
- 1343 a foster home, the division may not dismiss the foster family as a mere collection of
- 1344 unrelated individuals.
- 1345 (b) The Legislature finds that children in the temporary custody and custody of the
- 1346 division are experiencing multiple changes in foster care placements with little or no
- 1347 documentation, and that numerous studies of child growth and development
- 1348 emphasize the importance of stability in foster care living arrangements.
- 1349 (c) For the reasons described in Subsections (1)(a) and (b), the division shall provide
- 1350 procedural due process for a foster family before removal of a foster child from the
- 1351 foster family's home, regardless of the length of time the child has been in the foster
- 1352 family's home, unless removal is for the purpose of:
- 1353 (i) returning the child to the child's natural parent or guardian;
- 1354 (ii) immediately placing the child in an approved adoptive home;
- 1355 (iii) placing the child with a relative who obtained custody or asserted an interest in



- 1356 the child within the preference period described in Subsection 80-3-302(7); or  
 1357 (iv) placing an Indian child in accordance with placement preferences and other  
 1358 requirements described in [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915]~~  
 1359 Section 80-2b-205.
- 1360 (2)(a) The division shall maintain and utilize due process procedures for removal of a  
 1361 foster child from a foster home, in accordance with the procedures and requirements  
 1362 of Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act.
- 1363 (b) The procedures described in Subsection (2)(a) shall include requirements for:
- 1364 (i) personal communication with, and a written explanation of the reasons for the  
 1365 removal to, the foster parents before removal of the child; and
- 1366 (ii) an opportunity for foster parents to:
- 1367 (A) present the foster parents' information and concerns to the division; and  
 1368 (B) request a review, to be held before removal of the child, by a third party  
 1369 neutral fact finder or if the child is placed with the foster parents for a period of  
 1370 at least two years, request a review, to be held before removal of the child, by  
 1371 the juvenile court judge currently assigned to the child's case or, if the juvenile  
 1372 court judge currently assigned to the child's case is not available, another  
 1373 juvenile court judge.
- 1374 (c) If the division determines that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the child is in  
 1375 danger or that there is a substantial threat of danger to the health or welfare of the  
 1376 child, the division shall place the child in emergency foster care during the pendency  
 1377 of the procedures described in this Subsection (2), instead of making another foster  
 1378 care placement.
- 1379 (3)(a) If the division removes a child from a foster home based on the child's statement  
 1380 alone, the division shall initiate and expedite the processes described in Subsection (2).
- 1381 (b) The division may not take formal action with regard to the foster parent's license  
 1382 until after the processes described in Subsection (2), in addition to any other  
 1383 procedure or hearing required by law, are completed.
- 1384 (4) If a complaint is made to the division by a foster child against a foster parent, the  
 1385 division shall, within 30 business days after the day on which the complaint is received,  
 1386 provide the foster parent with information regarding the specific nature of the complaint,  
 1387 the time and place of the alleged incident, and who was alleged to have been involved.
- 1388 (5) If the division places a child in a foster home, the division shall provide the foster  
 1389 parents with:

- 1390 (a) notification of the requirements of this section;
- 1391 (b) a written description of the procedures enacted by the division under Subsection (2)
- 1392 and how to access the procedures; and
- 1393 (c) written notification of the foster parents' ability to petition the juvenile court directly
- 1394 for review of a decision to remove a foster child who, subject to Section 80-3-502,
- 1395 has been in the foster parents' custody for 12 months or longer.
- 1396 (6) This section does not apply to the removal of a child based on a foster parent's request
- 1397 for the removal.
- 1398 (7) It is unlawful for a person, with the intent to avoid compliance with the requirements of
- 1399 this section, to:
- 1400 (a) take action, or encourage another to take action, against the license of a foster parent;
- 1401 or
- 1402 (b) remove a child from a foster home before the child is placed with the foster parents
- 1403 for two years.
- 1404 (8) The division may not remove a foster child from a foster parent who is a relative of the
- 1405 child on the basis of the age or health of the foster parent without determining:
- 1406 (a) by clear and convincing evidence that the foster parent is incapable of caring for the
- 1407 foster child, if the alternative foster parent would not be another relative of the child;
- 1408 or
- 1409 (b) by a preponderance of the evidence that the foster parent is incapable of caring for
- 1410 the foster child, if the alternative foster parent would be another relative of the child.
- 1411 Section 18. Section **80-2b-101** is enacted to read:

1412 **CHAPTER 2b. INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT**

1413 **Part 1. General Provisions**

1414 **80-2b-101 . Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, except as may be specifically provided otherwise:

- 1416 (1) "Active efforts" means, consistent with Subsection 80-2b-202(7), affirmative, active,
- 1417 thorough, and timely efforts intended primarily to maintain or reunite an Indian child
- 1418 with the Indian child's family.
- 1419 (2) "Adoptive placement" means the permanent placement of an Indian child for adoption,
- 1420 including an action resulting in a final decree of adoption.
- 1421 (3)(a) "Child custody proceeding" means the following:
- 1422 (i) adoptive placement;

- 1423           (ii) foster care placement;  
 1424           (iii) preadoptive placement; and  
 1425           (iv) termination of parental rights.
- 1426       (b) "Child custody proceeding" does not include a placement based upon:  
 1427           (i) an act that, if committed by an adult, would be considered a crime; or  
 1428           (ii) an award, in a divorce proceeding, of custody to one of the parents.
- 1429       (4) "Extended family member":  
 1430           (a) is defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe; or  
 1431           (b) in the absence of a law or custom of the Indian child's tribe, is a person who is:  
 1432           (i) 18 years old or older; and  
 1433           (ii) the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or  
 1434                 sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or stepparent.
- 1435       (5) "Foster care placement" means an action removing an Indian child from the Indian  
 1436           child's parent or Indian custodian for temporary placement in a foster home or institution  
 1437           or the home of a guardian or conservator when the parent or Indian custodian cannot  
 1438           have the Indian child returned upon demand, but when parental rights have not been  
 1439           terminated.
- 1440       (6) "Indian" means a person who is a member of an Indian tribe, or who is an Alaska Native  
 1441           and a member of a Regional Corporation as defined in 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1606.
- 1442       (7) "Indian child" means an unmarried person who is less than 18 years old and is either:  
 1443           (a) a member of an Indian tribe; or  
 1444           (b)(i) eligible for membership in an Indian tribe; and  
 1445                 (ii) the biological child of a member of an Indian tribe.
- 1446       (8) "Indian child's tribe" means:  
 1447           (a) the Indian tribe in which an Indian child is a member or eligible for membership; or  
 1448           (b) in the case of an Indian child who is a member of or eligible for membership in more  
 1449                 than one Indian tribe, the Indian tribe with which the Indian child has the more  
 1450                 significant contacts.
- 1451       (9) "Indian custodian" means any Indian person:  
 1452           (a) who has legal custody of an Indian child under tribal law or custom or under state  
 1453                 law; or  
 1454           (b) to whom temporary physical care, custody, and control has been transferred by the  
 1455                 parent of the Indian child.
- 1456       (10) "Indian organization" means a group, association, partnership, corporation, or other

1457 legal entity owned or controlled by Indians, or a majority of whose members are Indians.

1458 (11) "Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or  
 1459 community of Indians recognized as eligible for the services provided to Indians by the  
 1460 Secretary of the Interior because of their status as Indians, including any Alaska Native  
 1461 village as defined in 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1602(c).

1462 (12)(a) "Parent" means a biological parent or parents of an Indian child or any Indian  
 1463 person who has lawfully adopted an Indian child, including adoptions under tribal  
 1464 law or custom.

1465 (b) "Parent" does not include the unwed father when paternity has not been established.

1466 (13) "Preadoptive placement" means the temporary placement of an Indian child in a foster  
 1467 home or institution after the termination of parental rights, but before or in lieu of  
 1468 adoptive placement.

1469 (14) "Reservation" means Indian country as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151 and any land,  
 1470 not covered under Indian country, title to which is either held by:

1471 (a) the United States in trust for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or

1472 (b) any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against  
 1473 alienation.

1474 (15) "Termination of parental rights" means an action resulting in the termination of the  
 1475 parent-child relationship.

1476 (16) "Tribal court" means a court:

1477 (a) with jurisdiction over a child custody proceeding; and

1478 (b) that is:

1479 (i) a Court of Indian Offenses;

1480 (ii) a court established and operated under the code or custom of an Indian tribe; or

1481 (iii) another administrative body of an Indian tribe that is vested with authority over a  
 1482 child custody proceeding.

1483 Section 19. Section **80-2b-102** is enacted to read:

1484 **80-2b-102 . Effective date implementation.**

1485 This chapter, except Section 80-2b-202, may not affect a proceeding under state  
 1486 law for foster care placement, termination of parental rights, preadoptive placement, or  
 1487 adoptive placement that was initiated or completed before November 1, 2025, but shall apply  
 1488 to any subsequent proceeding in the same matter or subsequent proceedings affecting the  
 1489 custody or placement of the same Indian child.

1490 Section 20. Section **80-2b-103** is enacted to read:

1491 **80-2b-103 . Severability.**

1492 If a provision of this chapter or the application of the provision to any person or  
 1493 circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of  
 1494 the chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end  
 1495 the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

1496 Section 21. Section **80-2b-104** is enacted to read:

1497 **80-2b-104 . Inquiry into Indian status.**

1498 (1) As used in this section, "child placing agency" means a public, private, or nonprofit  
 1499 legal entity:

1500 (a) providing assistance to a child and the child's parents or custodian; or

1501 (b) placing a child in foster care or for adoption on a voluntary or involuntary basis.

1502 (2) A child placing agency or an individual petitioner shall inquire of the child, the child's  
 1503 parents and custodians, and other appropriate persons whether there is a reason to  
 1504 believe that a child brought to the attention of the child placing agency or individual  
 1505 petitioner may have lineage to an Indian tribe.

1506 (3) The inquiry required under this section shall occur at the time the child comes to the  
 1507 attention of the child placing agency or individual petitioner and shall continue  
 1508 throughout the involvement of the child placing agency or individual petitioner.

1509 Section 22. Section **80-2b-105** is enacted to read:

1510 **80-2b-105 . Best interests of an Indian child.**

1511 Best interests of an Indian child means the use of practices in accordance with the  
 1512 Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Secs. 1901-1963, federal regulations, and other  
 1513 applicable law that are designed to accomplish the following:

1514 (1) protect the safety, well-being, development, and stability of the Indian child;

1515 (2) prevent the unnecessary out-of-home placement of the Indian child;

1516 (3) acknowledge the right of the Indian tribe to maintain the Indian tribe's existence and  
 1517 integrity as a sovereign tribal nation that has an inherent sovereign right to promote the  
 1518 stability and security of the Indian tribe's children and families;

1519 (4) recognize the value to the Indian child of establishing, developing, or maintaining a  
 1520 political, cultural, social, and spiritual relationship with the the Indian child's tribe and  
 1521 tribal community;

1522 (5) in a child-welfare proceeding involving an Indian child when out-of-home placement is  
 1523 necessary, prioritize placement of the Indian child in accordance with the placement  
 1524 preferences of the Indian tribe and as provided in this chapter; and

1525 (6) recognize the importance to the Indian tribe's ability to maintain the Indian tribe's  
 1526 existence and integrity in promotion of the stability and security of the Indian children  
 1527 and families.

1528 Section 23. Section **80-2b-201** is enacted to read:

1529

### **Part 2. Child Custody Proceeding**

1530

#### **80-2b-201 . Indian tribe jurisdiction over child custody proceedings.**

1531

(1)(a) An Indian tribe has exclusive jurisdiction over a child custody proceeding

1532

involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled within the reservation of the

1533

Indian tribe, except when jurisdiction is otherwise vested in the state by existing

1534

federal law.

1535

(b) When an Indian child is a ward of a tribal court, the Indian tribe retains exclusive

1536

jurisdiction, notwithstanding the residence or domicile of the Indian child.

1537

(2)(a) In a state court proceeding for the foster care placement of, or termination of

1538

parental rights to, an Indian child not domiciled or residing within the reservation of

1539

the Indian child's tribe, the court, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, shall

1540

transfer the state court proceeding to the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe:

1541

(i) absent objection by either parent; and

1542

(ii) upon the petition of:

1543

(A) either parent;

1544

(B) the Indian custodian; or

1545

(C) the Indian child's tribe.

1546

(b) A transfer under this Subsection (2) is subject to declination by the tribal court of the

1547

Indian child's tribe.

1548

(3) In a state court proceeding for the foster care placement of, or termination of parental

1549

rights to, an Indian child, the Indian custodian of the Indian child and the Indian child's

1550

tribe have a right to intervene at any point in the proceeding.

1551

(4) The state shall give full faith and credit to the public acts, records, and judicial

1552

proceedings of any Indian tribe applicable to Indian child custody proceedings to the

1553

same extent that the state gives full faith and credit to the public acts, records, and

1554

judicial proceedings of any other entity.

1555

Section 24. Section **80-2b-202** is enacted to read:

1556

#### **80-2b-202 . Pending court proceedings.**

1557

(1)(a) In an involuntary proceeding in a state court, when the court knows or has reason

- 1558 to know that an Indian child is involved, the party seeking the foster care placement  
1559 of, or termination of parental rights to, an Indian child shall notify the parent or  
1560 Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe, by registered mail with return receipt  
1561 requested, of the pending proceedings and of their right of intervention.
- 1562 (b) A state court may not hold a foster care placement or termination of parental rights  
1563 proceeding until at least 10 days after receipt of notice by the parent or Indian  
1564 custodian and the Indian tribe, except that the court shall, upon request grant up to 20  
1565 additional days to the parent, the Indian custodian, or the Indian tribe to prepare for  
1566 the proceeding.
- 1567 (2) If the court determines that a parent or Indian custodian is an indigent individual as  
1568 defined in Section 78B-22-102, the parent or Indian custodian has the right to  
1569 court-appointed counsel in a removal, placement, or termination proceeding. The court  
1570 may appoint counsel for the Indian child upon a finding that the appointment is in the  
1571 best interest of the Indian child.
- 1572 (3) A party to a foster care placement or termination of parental rights proceeding under  
1573 state law involving an Indian child has the right to examine a report or other document  
1574 filed with the court upon which a decision with respect to the action may be based.
- 1575 (4) A party seeking to effect a foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights to,  
1576 an Indian child under state law shall satisfy the court that active efforts have been made  
1577 to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup  
1578 of the Indian family and that these efforts have proved unsuccessful.
- 1579 (5) A court may not order a foster care placement in a foster care proceeding in the absence  
1580 of a determination, supported by clear and convincing evidence, including testimony of  
1581 qualified expert witnesses, that the continued custody of the Indian child by the parent or  
1582 Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the Indian  
1583 child.
- 1584 (6) A court may not order termination of parental rights in a termination of parental rights  
1585 proceeding in the absence of a determination, supported by evidence beyond a  
1586 reasonable doubt, including testimony of qualified expert witnesses, that the continued  
1587 custody of the Indian child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious  
1588 emotional or physical damage to the Indian child.
- 1589 (7) For purposes of active efforts described in Subsection (4), to the maximum extent  
1590 possible, active efforts shall be provided in a manner consistent with the prevailing  
1591 social and cultural conditions and way of life of the Indian child's tribe and shall be

- 1592 conducted in partnership with the Indian child and the Indian child's parents, extended  
1593 family members, Indian custodians, and tribe. Active efforts are to be tailored to the  
1594 facts and circumstances of the case and may include:
- 1595 (a) conducting a comprehensive assessment of the circumstances of the Indian child's  
1596 family, with a focus on safe reunification as the most desirable goal;
- 1597 (b) identifying appropriate services and helping the parents, Indian custodians, or  
1598 extended family members, as appropriate, to overcome barriers, including actively  
1599 assisting the parents, Indian custodians, or extended family members in obtaining  
1600 services beyond simply providing referrals to services;
- 1601 (c) identifying, notifying, and inviting representatives of the Indian child's tribe to  
1602 participate in providing support and services to the Indian child's family and in family  
1603 team meetings, permanency planning, and resolution of placement issues;
- 1604 (d) conducting or causing to be conducted a diligent search for the Indian child's  
1605 extended family members, and contacting and consulting with extended family  
1606 members to provide family structure and support for the Indian child and the Indian  
1607 child's parents or Indian custodian;
- 1608 (e) offering and employing available and culturally appropriate family preservation  
1609 strategies and facilitating the use of remedial and rehabilitative services provided by  
1610 the Indian child's tribe;
- 1611 (f) taking steps to keep siblings together when possible;
- 1612 (g) supporting and actively facilitating regular visits with parents or Indian custodians:  
1613 (i) in the most natural setting possible;  
1614 (ii) including when barriers exist or are discovered due to factors such as  
1615 transportation or travel time issues for a parent or Indian custodian and placement;  
1616 and  
1617 (iii) as well as trial home visits of the Indian child during any period of removal,  
1618 consistent with the need to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the Indian  
1619 child;
- 1620 (h) identifying community resources including housing, financial, transportation, mental  
1621 health, substance abuse, and peer support services and actively assisting the Indian  
1622 child's parents, Indian custodian, or, when appropriate, the Indian child's family, in  
1623 using and accessing those resources;
- 1624 (i) monitoring progress and participation in services;
- 1625 (j) considering alternative ways to address the needs of the Indian child's parents, Indian



1626 custodians, and, when appropriate, the Indian child's family, if the optimum services  
1627 do not exist or are not available;

1628 (k) providing post-reunification services and monitoring;

1629 (l) initiating and maintaining contact with the Indian tribe's social worker for ongoing  
1630 case management; and

1631 (m) when an Indian child's safety requires out-of-home placement, seeking, facilitating,  
1632 and monitoring the placement to assure the placement meets the Indian tribe's  
1633 preferred placement and supports reunification efforts.

1634 (8)(a) To be a qualified expert witness an individual shall be qualified to testify  
1635 regarding:

1636 (i) whether the Indian child's continued custody by the parent or Indian custodian is  
1637 likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the Indian child; and

1638 (ii) the prevailing social and cultural standards of the Indian child's tribe.

1639 (b) An Indian child's tribe may designate an individual as being qualified to testify to the  
1640 prevailing social and cultural standards of the Indian child's tribe.

1641 (c) The court or any party may request the assistance of the Indian child's tribe or the  
1642 Bureau of Indian Affairs office serving the Indian child's tribe in locating an  
1643 individual qualified to serve as an expert witness.

1644 (d) A social worker regularly assigned to the Indian child may not serve as a qualified  
1645 expert witness in a child custody proceeding concerning the Indian child.

1646 (e) The petitioning party shall pay for the cost of the qualified expert witness.

1647 Section 25. Section **80-2b-203** is enacted to read:

1648 **80-2b-203 . Parental rights -- Voluntary termination.**

1649 (1)(a) When a parent or Indian custodian voluntarily consents to a foster care placement  
1650 or to termination of parental rights, the consent is not valid unless the consent is:

1651 (i) executed in writing;

1652 (ii) recorded before a judge of a court with jurisdiction; and

1653 (iii) accompanied by the presiding judge's certificate that the terms and consequences  
1654 of the consent were fully explained in detail and were fully understood by the  
1655 parent or Indian custodian.

1656 (b) In addition to the certification under Subsection (1)(a), the court shall certify that  
1657 either the parent or Indian custodian fully understood the explanation in English or  
1658 that it was interpreted into a language that the parent or Indian custodian understood.

1659 (c) Consent given before, or within 10 days after, birth of the Indian child is not valid.

- 1660 (2) A parent or Indian custodian may withdraw consent to a foster care placement under  
1661 state law at any time and, upon the withdrawal, the Indian child shall be returned to the  
1662 parent or Indian custodian.
- 1663 (3) In a voluntary proceeding for termination of parental rights to, or adoptive placement of,  
1664 an Indian child, a parent may withdraw the consent of the parent for any reason at any  
1665 time before the entry of a final decree of termination or adoption, as the case may be,  
1666 and the Indian child shall be returned to the parent.
- 1667 (4)(a) After the entry of a final decree of adoption of an Indian child in a state court, the  
1668 parent may withdraw consent to the adoption upon the grounds that consent was  
1669 obtained through fraud or duress and may petition the court to vacate the final decree.
- 1670 (b) Upon a finding that consent to the adoption was obtained through fraud or duress, the  
1671 court shall vacate the decree and return the Indian child to the parent.
- 1672 (c) An adoption that has been effective for at least two years may not be invalidated  
1673 under this Subsection (4).

1674 Section 26. Section **80-2b-204** is enacted to read:

1675 **80-2b-204 . Petition to court with jurisdiction to invalidate action upon showing**  
1676 **of certain violations.**

1677 An Indian child who is the subject of an action for foster care placement or  
1678 termination of parental rights under state law, any parent or Indian custodian from whose  
1679 custody the Indian child was removed, and the Indian child's tribe may petition a court with  
1680 jurisdiction to invalidate the action upon a showing that the action violated Section 80-2b-201,  
1681 80-2b-202, or 80-2b-203.

1682 Section 27. Section **80-2b-205** is enacted to read:

1683 **80-2b-205 . Placement of Indian children.**

- 1684 (1) In an adoptive placement of an Indian child under state law, the court or agency  
1685 effecting the placement shall give a preference, in the absence of good cause to the  
1686 contrary, to a placement with:
- 1687 (a) a member of the Indian child's extended family;  
1688 (b) other members of the Indian child's tribe; or  
1689 (c) other Indian families.
- 1690 (2)(a) A court or agency effecting the placement shall place an Indian child accepted for  
1691 foster care or preadoptive placement in the least restrictive setting:
- 1692 (i) that most approximates a family;  
1693 (ii) in which the Indian child's special needs, if any, may be met; and

1694 (iii) within reasonable proximity to the Indian child's home, taking into account any  
 1695 special needs of the Indian child.

1696 (b) In a foster care or preadoptive placement, a court or agency effecting the placement  
 1697 shall prefer, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, a placement with:

1698 (i) a member of the Indian child's extended family;

1699 (ii) a foster home licensed, approved, or specified by the Indian child's tribe;

1700 (iii) an Indian foster home licensed or approved by an authorized non-Indian  
 1701 licensing authority; or

1702 (iv) an institution for children approved by an Indian tribe or operated by an Indian  
 1703 organization that has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs.

1704 (3)(a) In the case of a placement under Subsection (1) or (2), if the Indian child's tribe  
 1705 establishes a different order of preference by resolution, the court or agency effecting  
 1706 the placement shall follow the order established by the Indian tribe so long as the  
 1707 placement is the least restrictive setting appropriate to the particular needs of the  
 1708 Indian child, as provided in Subsection (2).

1709 (b) When appropriate, the preference of the Indian child, parent, or Indian custodian  
 1710 shall be considered, except that when a consenting parent evidences a desire for  
 1711 anonymity, the court or agency shall give weight to the desire in applying the  
 1712 preferences.

1713 (c) The standards to be applied in meeting the preference requirements of this section are  
 1714 the prevailing social and cultural standards of the Indian community in which the  
 1715 parent, Indian custodian, or extended family resides or with which the parent, Indian  
 1716 custodian, or extended family members maintain social and cultural ties.

1717 Section 28. Section **80-2b-206** is enacted to read:

1718 **80-2b-206 . Return to custody.**

1719 (1) When a final decree of adoption of an Indian child is vacated or set aside or the adoptive  
 1720 parents voluntarily consent to the termination of their parental rights to the Indian child,  
 1721 a biological parent or prior Indian custodian may petition for return of custody and the  
 1722 court shall grant the petition unless there is a showing that the return of custody is not in  
 1723 the best interests of the Indian child.

1724 (2) Whenever an Indian child is removed from a foster care home or institution for the  
 1725 purpose of further foster care, preadoptive, or adoptive placement, the placement shall  
 1726 be in accordance with this chapter, except in the case when an Indian child is being  
 1727 returned to the parent or Indian custodian from whose custody the Indian child was

1728 originally removed.

1729 Section 29. Section **80-2b-207** is enacted to read:

1730 **80-2b-207 . Tribal affiliation information and other information for protection of**  
1731 **rights from tribal relationship -- Application of subject of adoptive placement --**  
1732 **Disclosure by court.**

1733 Upon application by an Indian individual who is 18 years old or older and who  
1734 was the subject of an adoptive placement, the court that entered the final decree shall inform  
1735 the individual of the tribal affiliation, if any, of the individual's biological parents and provide  
1736 such other information as may be necessary to protect any rights flowing from the individual's  
1737 tribal relationship.

1738 Section 30. Section **80-2b-208** is enacted to read:

1739 **80-2b-208 . Agreements between the state and Indian tribes.**

1740 (1) The state, through the state's executive branch, and Indian tribes are authorized to enter  
1741 into agreements with each other respecting care and custody of Indian children and  
1742 jurisdiction over child custody proceedings, including agreements that provide for:  
1743 (a) the orderly transfer of jurisdiction on a case-by-case basis; or  
1744 (b) concurrent jurisdiction between the state and Indian tribes.  
1745 (2) An agreement under this section may be revoked by either party upon 180 days written  
1746 notice to the other party. The revocation does not affect any action or proceeding over  
1747 which a court has already assumed jurisdiction, unless the agreement provides otherwise.

1748 Section 31. Section **80-2b-209** is enacted to read:

1749 **80-2b-209 . Improper removal of Indian child from custody -- Declination of**  
1750 **jurisdiction -- Forthwith return of Indian child -- Danger exception.**

1751 When a petitioner in an Indian child custody proceeding before a state court has  
1752 improperly removed the Indian child from custody of the parent or Indian custodian or has  
1753 improperly retained custody after a visit or other temporary relinquishment of custody, the  
1754 court shall decline jurisdiction over the petition, and forthwith return the Indian child to the  
1755 Indian child's parent or Indian custodian unless returning the Indian child to the Indian child's  
1756 parent or Indian custodian would subject the Indian child to a substantial and immediate  
1757 danger or threat of danger.

1758 Section 32. Section **80-2b-210** is enacted to read:

1759 **80-2b-210 . Higher state or federal standard applicable to protect rights of**  
1760 **parent or Indian custodian of Indian child.**

1761 (1) The state, the state's courts, and the state's agencies shall comply with a valid federal

1762 statute, rule, or regulations governing a child custody proceeding of Indian children.

1763 (2) If state or federal law applicable to a child custody proceeding provides a higher  
 1764 standard of protection to the rights of the parent or Indian custodian of an Indian child  
 1765 than the rights provided under this chapter, the court shall apply the higher state or  
 1766 federal standard.

1767 Section 33. Section **80-2b-211** is enacted to read:

1768 **80-2b-211 . Emergency removal or placement of Indian child -- Termination --**  
 1769 **Appropriate action.**

1770 (1) This chapter may not be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an Indian child  
 1771 who is a resident of or is domiciled on a reservation, but temporarily located off the  
 1772 reservation, from the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian or the emergency  
 1773 placement of the Indian child in a foster home or institution, under applicable state law,  
 1774 to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the Indian child.

1775 (2) A state authority, official, or agency involved in an emergency action under this section  
 1776 shall:

1777 (a) ensure that the emergency removal or placement terminates immediately when the  
 1778 removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or  
 1779 harm to the Indian child; and

1780 (b) expeditiously initiate a child custody proceeding, subject to this part, to transfer the  
 1781 Indian child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian tribe, or restore the Indian  
 1782 child to the parent or Indian custodian, as may be appropriate.

1783 Section 34. Section **80-2b-301** is enacted to read:

1784

### **Part 3. Recordkeeping and Information Availability**

1785 **80-2b-301 . Information maintenance and availability.**

1786 (1) A state court entering a final decree or order in an Indian child adoptive placement after  
 1787 November 1, 2025, shall maintain a copy of the decree or order together with other  
 1788 information as may be necessary to show:

1789 (a) the name and tribal affiliation of the Indian child;

1790 (b) the names and addresses of the biological parents;

1791 (c) the names and addresses of the adoptive parents; and

1792 (d) the identity of any agency having files or information relating to the adoptive  
 1793 placement.

1794 (2)(a) When the court records contain an affidavit of the biological parent or parents

- 1795 that their identity remain confidential, the court shall include the affidavit with the  
 1796 information listed in Subsection (1).
- 1797 (b) The courts shall ensure that the confidentiality of the information described in  
 1798 Subsection (2)(a) is maintained.
- 1799 (3)(a) Upon the request of the adopted Indian individual who is 18 years old or older,  
 1800 the adoptive or foster parents of the Indian individual, or an Indian tribe, the state  
 1801 shall disclose information as may be necessary for:
- 1802 (i) the enrollment of the Indian individual in the Indian tribe in which the Indian  
 1803 individual may be eligible for enrollment; or
- 1804 (ii) determining any rights or benefits associated with that membership.
- 1805 (b) A state court, an agency, or individual participating in the adoption or placement  
 1806 shall provide to an Indian tribe information about the Indian child's parentage:
- 1807 (i) upon a request from the Indian tribe who is seeking to determine enrollment  
 1808 eligibility; and
- 1809 (ii) when the documents relating to an Indian child contain an affidavit from the  
 1810 biological parent or parents requesting anonymity.
- 1811 (4) An entity or individual who provides confidential information under this section shall  
 1812 inform the individual or group receiving the information that the information received is  
 1813 to remain confidential.
- 1814 Section 35. Section **80-3-102** is amended to read:
- 1815 **80-3-102 . Definitions.**
- 1816 As used in this chapter:
- 1817 (1) "Abuse, neglect, or dependency petition" means a petition filed in accordance with this  
 1818 chapter to commence proceedings in a juvenile court alleging that a child is:
- 1819 (a) abused;
- 1820 (b) neglected; or
- 1821 (c) dependent.
- 1822 (2) "Custody" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.
- 1823 (3) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services created in Section 80-2-201.
- 1824 (4) "Friend" means an adult who:
- 1825 (a) has an established relationship with the child or a family member of the child; and
- 1826 (b) is not the natural parent of the child.
- 1827 (5) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, or  
 1828 grandchild.

- 1829 (6) "Relative" means an adult who:
- 1830 (a) is the child's grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle,
- 1831 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepparent, first cousin, stepsibling, or sibling;
- 1832 (b) is a first cousin of the child's parent;
- 1833 (c) is a permanent guardian or natural parent of the child's sibling; or
- 1834 (d) in the case of a child who is an Indian child, is an extended family member as
- 1835 defined in [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903~~] Section 80-2b-101.
- 1836 (7) "Sibling" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.
- 1837 (8) "Sibling visitation" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.
- 1838 (9) "Temporary custody" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-102.
- 1839 Section 36. Section **80-3-302** is amended to read:
- 1840 **80-3-302 . Shelter hearing -- Placement of a child.**
- 1841 (1) As used in this section:
- 1842 (a) "Asserted an interest" means to communicate, verbally or in writing, to the division
- 1843 or the court, that the relative or friend is interested in becoming a placement for the
- 1844 child.
- 1845 (b)(i) "Natural parent," notwithstanding Section 80-1-102, means:
- 1846 (A) a biological or adoptive mother of the child;
- 1847 (B) an adoptive father of the child; or
- 1848 (C) a biological father of the child who:
- 1849 (I) was married to the child's biological mother at the time the child was
- 1850 conceived or born; or
- 1851 (II) has strictly complied with Sections 78B-6-120 through 78B-6-122, before
- 1852 removal of the child or voluntary surrender of the child by the custodial
- 1853 parent.
- 1854 (ii) "Natural parent" includes the individuals described in Subsection (1)(b)
- 1855 regardless of whether the child has been or will be placed with adoptive parents
- 1855a or
- 1856 whether adoption has been or will be considered as a long-term goal for the child.
- 1857 (2)(a) At the shelter hearing, if the juvenile court orders that a child be removed from
- 1858 the custody of the child's parent in accordance with Section 80-3-301, the juvenile
- 1859 court shall first determine whether there is another natural parent with whom the
- 1860 child was not residing at the time the events or conditions that brought the child
- 1861 within the juvenile court's jurisdiction occurred, who desires to assume custody of the

- 1862 child.
- 1863 (b) Subject to Subsection (7), if another natural parent requests custody under
- 1864 Subsection (2)(a), the juvenile court shall place the child with that parent unless the
- 1865 juvenile court finds that the placement would be unsafe or otherwise detrimental to
- 1866 the child.
- 1867 (c) The juvenile court:
- 1868 (i) shall make a specific finding regarding the fitness of the parent described in
- 1869 Subsection (2)(b) to assume custody, and the safety and appropriateness of the
- 1870 placement;
- 1871 (ii) shall, at a minimum, order the division to visit the parent's home, comply with the
- 1872 criminal background check provisions described in Section 80-3-305, and check
- 1873 the Management Information System for any previous reports of abuse or neglect
- 1874 received by the division regarding the parent at issue;
- 1875 (iii) may order the division to conduct any further investigation regarding the safety
- 1876 and appropriateness of the placement; and
- 1877 (iv) may place the child in the temporary custody of the division, pending the
- 1878 juvenile court's determination regarding the placement.
- 1879 (d) The division shall report the division's findings from an investigation under
- 1880 Subsection (2)(c), regarding the child in writing to the juvenile court.
- 1881 (3) If the juvenile court orders placement with a parent under Subsection (2):
- 1882 (a) the child and the parent are under the continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court;
- 1883 (b) the juvenile court may order:
- 1884 (i) that the parent take custody subject to the supervision of the juvenile court; and
- 1885 (ii) that services be provided to the parent from whose custody the child was
- 1886 removed, the parent who has assumed custody, or both; and
- 1887 (c) the juvenile court shall order reasonable parent-time with the parent from whose
- 1888 custody the child was removed, unless parent-time is not in the best interest of the
- 1889 child.
- 1890 (4) The juvenile court shall periodically review an order described in Subsection (3) to
- 1891 determine whether:
- 1892 (a) placement with the parent continues to be in the child's best interest;
- 1893 (b) the child should be returned to the original custodial parent;
- 1894 (c) the child should be placed with a relative under Subsections (6) through (9); or
- 1895 (d) the child should be placed in the temporary custody of the division.



- 1896 (5)(a) Legal custody of the child is not affected by an order entered under Subsection (2)  
 1897 or (3).
- 1898 (b) To affect a previous court order regarding legal custody, the party shall petition the  
 1899 court for modification of legal custody.
- 1900 (6) Subject to Subsection (7), if, at the time of the shelter hearing, a child is removed from  
 1901 the custody of the child's parent and is not placed in the custody of the child's other  
 1902 parent, the juvenile court:
- 1903 (a) shall, at that time, determine whether there is a relative or a friend who is able and  
 1904 willing to care for the child, which may include asking a child, who is of sufficient  
 1905 maturity to articulate the child's wishes in relation to a placement, if there is a relative  
 1906 or friend with whom the child would prefer to reside;
- 1907 (b) may order the division to conduct a reasonable search to determine whether there are  
 1908 relatives or friends who are willing and appropriate, in accordance with the  
 1909 requirements of this chapter, Chapter 2, Child Welfare Services, and Chapter 2a,  
 1910 Removal and Protective Custody of a Child, for placement of the child;
- 1911 (c) shall order the parents to cooperate with the division, within five working days, to  
 1912 provide information regarding relatives or friends who may be able and willing to  
 1913 care for the child; and
- 1914 (d) may order that the child be placed in the temporary custody of the division pending  
 1915 the determination under Subsection (6)(a).
- 1916 (7)(a)(i) Subject to Subsection (7)(b), and if the provisions of this section are  
 1917 satisfied, the division and the juvenile court shall give preferential consideration to  
 1918 a relative's or a friend's request for placement of the child, if the placement is in  
 1919 the best interest of the child.
- 1920 (ii) If a relative or friend verbally communicates to the division or court that the  
 1921 relative or friend is interested in becoming a placement for the child, the division  
 1922 or court shall make a written record of the communication and include that written  
 1923 record in the report the division submits at the initial dispositional hearing, a  
 1924 report the division submits under Section 80-3-408, or the court's legal file.
- 1925 (b)(i)(A) The preferential consideration that the juvenile court or division  
 1926 initially grants a friend under Subsection (7)(a)(i) expires 120 days after the  
 1927 day on which the shelter hearing occurs.
- 1928 (B) After the day on which the time period described in Subsection (7)(b)(i)(A)  
 1929 expires, the division or the juvenile court may not grant preferential

- 1930 consideration to a friend, who has not obtained custody or asserted an interest  
 1931 in the child.
- 1932 (ii)(A) Until eight months after the day on which the shelter hearing occurs, the  
 1933 preferential consideration that the juvenile court or division grants a relative  
 1934 under Subsection (7)(a)(i) is a rebuttable presumption that placement of the  
 1935 child with a relative is in the best interest of the child.
- 1936 (B) After the rebuttable presumption described in Subsection (7)(b)(ii)(A) expires,  
 1937 the juvenile court or division shall give preferential consideration to a relative's  
 1938 request for placement of the child, if the placement is in the best interest of the  
 1939 child considering the totality of the circumstances.
- 1940 (C) If a relative asserts an interest in becoming a placement for the child more  
 1941 than one year after the day on which the shelter hearing occurs, the juvenile  
 1942 court may not give the relative the preferential consideration described in  
 1943 Subsection (7)(b)(ii)(B).
- 1944 (iii) This Subsection (7)(b) does not apply to a preference made under Chapter 2b,  
 1945 Indian Family Preservation Act.
- 1946 (c) The following order of preference shall be applied when determining the individual  
 1947 with whom a child will be placed, provided that the individual is willing and able to  
 1948 care for the child:
- 1949 (i) a noncustodial parent of the child;  
 1950 (ii) a relative of the child;  
 1951 (iii) subject to Subsection (7)(d), a friend if the friend is a licensed foster parent; and  
 1952 (iv) other placements that are consistent with the requirements of law.
- 1953 (d) In determining whether a friend is a willing, able, and appropriate placement for a  
 1954 child, the juvenile court or the division:
- 1955 (i) subject to Subsections (7)(d)(ii) through (iv), shall consider the child's preferences  
 1956 or level of comfort with the friend;  
 1957 (ii) is required to consider no more than one friend designated by each parent of the  
 1958 child and one friend designated by the child if the child is of sufficient maturity to  
 1959 articulate the child's wishes in relation to a placement;  
 1960 (iii) may limit the number of designated friends to two, one of whom shall be a friend  
 1961 designated by the child if the child is of sufficient maturity to articulate the child's  
 1962 wishes in relation to a placement; and  
 1963 (iv) shall give preference to a friend designated by the child if:

- 1964 (A) the child is of sufficient maturity to articulate the child's wishes; and  
 1965 (B) the basis for removing the child under Section 80-3-301 is sexual abuse of the  
 1966 child.
- 1967 (e)(i) If a parent of the child or the child, if the child is of sufficient maturity to  
 1968 articulate the child's wishes in relation to a placement, is not able to designate a  
 1969 friend who is a licensed foster parent for placement of the child, but is able to  
 1970 identify a friend who is willing to become licensed as a foster parent, the  
 1971 department shall fully cooperate to expedite the licensing process for the friend.
- 1972 (ii) If the friend described in Subsection (7)(e)(i) becomes licensed as a foster parent  
 1973 within the time frame described in Subsection (7)(b)(i), the juvenile court shall  
 1974 determine whether it is in the best interest of the child to place the child with the  
 1975 friend.
- 1976 (8)(a) If a relative or friend who is willing to cooperate with the child's permanency  
 1977 goal is identified under Subsection (6)(a), the juvenile court:
- 1978 (i) shall make a specific finding regarding:
- 1979 (A) the fitness of that relative or friend as a placement for the child; and  
 1980 (B) the safety and appropriateness of placement with the relative or friend; and
- 1981 (ii) may not consider a request for guardianship or adoption of the child by an  
 1982 individual who is not a relative of the child, or prevent the division from placing  
 1983 the child in the custody of a relative of the child in accordance with this part, until  
 1984 after the day on which the juvenile court makes the findings under Subsection  
 1985 (8)(a)(i).
- 1986 (b) In making the finding described in Subsection (8)(a), the juvenile court shall, at a  
 1987 minimum, order the division to:
- 1988 (i) if the child may be placed with a relative, conduct a background check that  
 1989 includes:
- 1990 (A) completion of a nonfingerprint-based, Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification  
 1991 background check of the relative;
- 1992 (B) a completed search, relating to the relative, of the Management Information  
 1993 System; and
- 1994 (C) a background check that complies with the criminal background check  
 1995 provisions described in Section 80-3-305, of each nonrelative of the child who  
 1996 resides in the household where the child may be placed;
- 1997 (ii) if the child will be placed with a noncustodial parent, complete a background

- 1998 check that includes:
- 1999 (A) the background check requirements applicable to an emergency placement
- 2000 with a noncustodial parent that are described in Subsections 80-2a-301(4) and
- 2001 (6);
- 2002 (B) a completed search, relating to the noncustodial parent of the child, of the
- 2003 Management Information System; and
- 2004 (C) a background check that complies with the criminal background check
- 2005 provisions described in Section 80-3-305, of each nonrelative of the child who
- 2006 resides in the household where the child may be placed;
- 2007 (iii) if the child may be placed with an individual other than a noncustodial parent or
- 2008 a relative, conduct a criminal background check of the individual, and each adult
- 2009 that resides in the household where the child may be placed, that complies with
- 2010 the criminal background check provisions described in Section 80-3-305;
- 2011 (iv) visit the relative's or friend's home;
- 2012 (v) check the Management Information System for any previous reports of abuse or
- 2013 neglect regarding the relative or friend at issue;
- 2014 (vi) report the division's findings in writing to the juvenile court; and
- 2015 (vii) provide sufficient information so that the juvenile court may determine whether:
- 2016 (A) the relative or friend has any history of abusive or neglectful behavior toward
- 2017 other children that may indicate or present a danger to this child;
- 2018 (B) the child is comfortable with the relative or friend;
- 2019 (C) the relative or friend recognizes the parent's history of abuse and is committed
- 2020 to protect the child;
- 2021 (D) the relative or friend is strong enough to resist inappropriate requests by the
- 2022 parent for access to the child, in accordance with court orders;
- 2023 (E) the relative or friend is committed to caring for the child as long as necessary;
- 2024 and
- 2025 (F) the relative or friend can provide a secure and stable environment for the child.
- 2026 (c) The division may determine to conduct, or the juvenile court may order the division
- 2027 to conduct, any further investigation regarding the safety and appropriateness of the
- 2028 placement described in Subsection (8)(a).
- 2029 (d) The division shall complete and file the division's assessment regarding placement
- 2030 with a relative or friend under Subsections (8)(a) and (b) as soon as practicable, in an
- 2031 effort to facilitate placement of the child with a relative or friend.

- 2032 (9)(a) The juvenile court may place a child described in Subsection (2)(a) in the  
2033 temporary custody of the division, pending the division's investigation under  
2034 Subsection (8), and the juvenile court's determination regarding the appropriateness  
2035 of the placement.
- 2036 (b) The juvenile court shall ultimately base the juvenile court's determination regarding  
2037 the appropriateness of a placement with a relative or friend on the best interest of the  
2038 child.
- 2039 (10) If a juvenile court places a child described in Subsection (6) with the child's relative or  
2040 friend:
- 2041 (a) the juvenile court shall:
- 2042 (i) order the relative or friend take custody, subject to the continuing supervision of  
2043 the juvenile court;
- 2044 (ii) provide for reasonable parent-time with the parent or parents from whose custody  
2045 the child is removed, unless parent-time is not in the best interest of the child; and  
2046 (iii) conduct a periodic review no less often than every six months, to determine  
2047 whether:
- 2048 (A) placement with a relative or friend continues to be in the child's best interest;  
2049 (B) the child should be returned home; or  
2050 (C) the child should be placed in the custody of the division;
- 2051 (b) the juvenile court may enter an order:
- 2052 (i) requiring the division to provide necessary services to the child and the child's  
2053 relative or friend, including the monitoring of the child's safety and well-being; or  
2054 (ii) that the juvenile court considers necessary for the protection and best interest of  
2055 the child; and
- 2056 (c) the child and the relative or friend in whose custody the child is placed are under the  
2057 continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
- 2058 (11) No later than 12 months after the day on which the child is removed from the home,  
2059 the juvenile court shall schedule a hearing for the purpose of entering a permanent order  
2060 in accordance with the best interest of the child.
- 2061 (12) The time limitations described in Section 80-3-406, with regard to reunification  
2062 efforts, apply to a child placed with a previously noncustodial parent under Subsection  
2063 (2) or with a relative or friend under Subsection (6).
- 2064 (13)(a) If the juvenile court awards temporary custody of a child to the division, and the  
2065 division places the child with a relative, the division shall:

- 2066 (i) conduct a criminal background check of the relative that complies with the  
2067 criminal background check provisions described in Section 80-3-305; and  
2068 (ii) if the results of the criminal background check described in Subsection (13)(a)(i)  
2069 would prohibit the relative from having direct access to the child under Section  
2070 26B-2-120, the division shall:
- 2071 (A) take the child into physical custody; and  
2072 (B) within three days, excluding weekends and holidays, after the day on which  
2073 the child is taken into physical custody under Subsection (13)(a)(ii)(A), give  
2074 written notice to the juvenile court, and all parties to the proceedings, of the  
2075 division's action.
- 2076 (b) Subsection (13)(a) does not prohibit the division from placing a child with a relative,  
2077 pending the results of the background check described in Subsection (13)(a) on the  
2078 relative.
- 2079 (14) If the juvenile court orders that a child be removed from the custody of the child's  
2080 parent and does not award custody and guardianship to another parent, relative, or friend  
2081 under this section, the juvenile court shall order that the child be placed in the temporary  
2082 custody of the division, to proceed to adjudication and disposition and to be provided  
2083 with care and services in accordance with this chapter, Chapter 2, Child Welfare Services,  
2083a and Chapter 2a, Removal and Protective Custody of a Child.
- 2084 (15)(a) If a child reenters the temporary custody or the custody of the division and the  
2085 child is not placed with an individual who is a parent, relative, or friend, the division  
2086 shall:  
2087 (i) notify the child's former foster parents; and  
2088 (ii) upon a determination of the former foster parents' willingness and ability to safely  
2089 and appropriately care for the child, give the former foster parents preference for  
2090 placement of the child.
- 2091 (b) If, after the shelter hearing, the child is placed with an individual who is not a parent,  
2092 a relative, a friend, or a former foster parent of the child, priority shall be given to a  
2093 foster placement with a married couple, unless it is in the best interests of the child to  
2094 place the child with a single foster parent.
- 2095 (16) In determining the placement of a child, the juvenile court and the division may not  
2096 take into account, or discriminate against, the religion of an individual with whom the  
2097 child may be placed, unless the purpose of taking religion into account is to place the  
2098 child may be placed, unless the purpose of taking religion into account is to place the

- 2099 child with an individual or family of the same religion as the child.
- 2100 (17) If the juvenile court's decision differs from a child's express wishes if the child is of  
 2101 sufficient maturity to articulate the wishes in relation to the child's placement, the  
 2102 juvenile court shall make findings explaining why the juvenile court's decision differs  
 2103 from the child's wishes.
- 2104 (18) This section does not guarantee that an identified relative or friend will receive custody  
 2105 of the child.
- 2106 (19)(a) If, for a relative placement, an interstate placement requested under the  
 2107 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children has been initiated by the division or  
 2108 is ordered by or pending before the juvenile court, the court may not finalize a  
 2109 non-relative placement unless the court gives due weight to:
- 2110 (i) the preferential consideration granted to a relative in [~~Section 80-3-302~~] this section;  
 2111 (ii) the rebuttable presumption in [~~Section 80-3-302~~] this section; and  
 2112 (iii) the division's placement authority under Subsections 80-1-102(50) and  
 2113 80-3-303(1).
- 2114 (b) Nothing in this section affects the ability of a foster parent to petition the juvenile  
 2115 court under Subsection 80-3-502(3).
- 2116 Section 37. Section **80-3-502** is amended to read:
- 2117 **80-3-502 . Review of foster care removal -- Foster parent's standing.**
- 2118 (1) With regard to a minor in the custody of the division who is the subject of a petition  
 2119 alleging abuse, neglect, or dependency, and who has been placed in foster care with a  
 2120 foster family, the Legislature finds that:
- 2121 (a) except with regard to the minor's natural parents, a foster family has a very limited  
 2122 but recognized interest in its familial relationship with the minor; and
- 2123 (b) minors in the custody of the division are experiencing multiple changes in foster care  
 2124 placements with little or no documentation, and that numerous studies of child  
 2125 growth and development emphasize the importance of stability in foster care living  
 2126 arrangements.
- 2127 (2) For the reasons described in Subsection (1), the Legislature finds that, except with  
 2128 regard to the minor's natural parents, procedural due process protections must be  
 2129 provided to a foster family prior to removal of a foster minor from the foster home.
- 2130 (3)(a) A foster parent who has had a foster minor in the foster parent's home for 12  
 2131 months or longer may petition the juvenile court for a review and determination of  
 2132 the appropriateness of a decision by the division to remove the minor from the foster

- 2133 home, unless the removal was for the purpose of:
- 2134 (i) returning the minor to the minor's natural parent or legal guardian;
- 2135 (ii) immediately placing the minor in an approved adoptive home;
- 2136 (iii) placing the minor with a relative who obtained custody or asserted an interest in
- 2137 the minor within the preference period described in Subsection 80-3-302(8); or
- 2138 (iv) placing an Indian child in accordance with placement preferences and other
- 2139 requirements described in [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915]~~
- 2140 Chapter 2b, Indian Family Preservation Act.
- 2141 (b) The foster parent may petition the juvenile court under this section without
- 2142 exhausting administrative remedies within the division.
- 2143 (c) The juvenile court may order the division to place the minor in a specified home, and
- 2144 shall base the juvenile court's determination on the best interest of the minor.
- 2145 (4) The requirements of this section do not apply to the removal of a minor based on a
- 2146 foster parent's request for that removal.

2147 Section 38. Section **80-4-305** is amended to read:

2148 **80-4-305 . Court disposition of child upon termination of parental rights --**

2149 **Posttermination reunification.**

- 2150 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (7), as used in this section, "relative" means:
- 2151 (a) an adult who is a grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle,
- 2152 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepparent, first cousin, sibling, or stepsibling of a child;
- 2153 and
- 2154 (b) in the case of a child who is an Indian child, an extended family member as defined
- 2155 in [~~the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903]~~ Section 80-2b-101.
- 2156 (2) Upon entry of an order under this chapter, the juvenile court may:
- 2157 (a) place the child in the legal custody and guardianship of a child-placing agency or the
- 2158 division for adoption; or
- 2159 (b) make any other disposition of the child authorized under Section 80-3-405 .
- 2160 (3) Subject to Subsections (4) and (6), the division shall place all adoptable children placed
- 2161 in the custody of the division for adoption.
- 2162 (4) If the parental rights of all parents of an adoptable child placed in the custody of the
- 2163 division are terminated and a suitable adoptive placement is not already available, the
- 2164 juvenile court:
- 2165 (a) shall determine whether there is a relative who desires to adopt the child;
- 2166 (b) may order the division to conduct a reasonable search to determine whether there is a



- 2167 relative who is willing to adopt the child; and  
2168 (c) shall, if a relative desires to adopt the child:  
2169 (i) make a specific finding regarding the fitness of the relative to adopt the child; and  
2170 (ii) place the child for adoption with the relative unless the juvenile court finds that  
2171 adoption by the relative is not in the best interest of the child.
- 2172 (5) If an individual who is not a relative of the child desires to adopt the child, the juvenile  
2173 court shall, before entering an order for adoption of the child, determine whether due  
2174 weight was given to the relative's preferential consideration under Subsection  
2175 80-3-302(7)(a)(i).
- 2176 (6) This section does not guarantee that a relative will be permitted to adopt the child.
- 2177 (7) A parent whose rights are terminated under this chapter, or a relative of the child, as  
2178 defined by Section 80-3-102 , may petition for guardianship of the child if:  
2179 (a)(i) following an adoptive placement, the child's adoptive parent returns the child  
2180 to the custody of the division; or  
2181 (ii) the child is in the custody of the division for one year following the day on which  
2182 the parent's rights were terminated, and no permanent placement has been found  
2183 or is likely to be found; and  
2184 (b) reunification with the child's parent, or guardianship by the child's relative, is in the  
2185 best interest of the child.

2186 Section 39. **Effective Date.**

2187 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.