

## CHAPTER 2017-151

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1121

An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 395.1055, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to establish a technical advisory panel to develop procedures and standards for measuring outcomes of pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and pediatric open-heart surgery programs; providing for the membership of the technical advisory panel; requiring the agency to develop and adopt rules for pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and pediatric open-heart surgery programs based on recommendations of the technical advisory panel; providing for future repeal of the advisory panel; amending s. 39.01, F.S.; defining the term “legal father”; redefining the terms “parent” and “permanency goal”; amending s. 39.013, F.S.; extending court jurisdiction to 22 years of age for young adults with disabilities in foster care; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; providing that confidential records held by the Department of Children and Families concerning reports of child abandonment, abuse, or neglect, including reports made to the central abuse hotline and all records generated as a result of such reports, may be accessed for employment screening of residential group home caregivers; changing the time period for the release of records to certain individuals; amending s. 39.301, F.S.; requiring a safety plan to be issued for a perpetrator of domestic violence only if the perpetrator can be located; specifying what constitutes reasonable efforts; requiring that a child new to a family under investigation be added to the investigation and assessed for safety; amending s. 39.302, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing that central abuse hotline information may be used for certain employment screenings; amending s. 39.402, F.S.; requiring a court to inquire as to the identity and location of a child’s legal father at the shelter hearing; specifying the types of information that fall within the scope of such inquiry; amending s. 39.503, F.S.; requiring a court to conduct under oath the inquiry to determine the identity or location of an unknown parent; requiring a court to seek additional information relating to a father’s identity in such inquiry; requiring the diligent search to determine a parent’s or prospective parent’s location to include a search of the Florida Putative Father Registry; amending s. 39.504, F.S.; requiring that, if there is a pending dependency proceeding regarding a child for whom an injunction is sought to protect, the same judge must hear both proceedings; providing that the court may enter an injunction based on specified evidence; amending s. 39.507, F.S.; requiring a court to consider maltreatment allegations against a parent in an evidentiary hearing relating to a dependency petition; amending s. 39.5085, F.S.; revising eligibility guidelines for the Relative Caregiver Program with respect to relative and nonrelative caregivers; prohibiting a relative or nonrelative caregiver from receiving payments under the Relative Caregiver Program under certain circumstances; amending s. 39.521,

F.S.; providing new time guidelines for filing with the court and providing copies of case plans and family functioning assessments; providing for assessment and program compliance for a parent who caused harm to a child by exposing the child to a controlled substance; providing in-home safety plan requirements; providing requirements for family functioning assessments; providing supervision requirements after reunification; amending s. 39.522, F.S.; providing conditions for returning a child to the home with an in-home safety plan; amending s. 39.523, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; requiring children placed in out-of-home care to be assessed to determine the least restrictive placement that meets the needs of the child; requiring specified entities to document the placement assessments and decisions; requiring a court to review and approve placements; requiring the department to post specified information relating to assessment and placement on its website and update that information annually on specified dates; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 39.6011, F.S.; providing requirements for confidential information in a case planning conference; providing restrictions; amending s. 39.6012, F.S.; requiring that, if a parent caused harm to a child by exposing the child to a controlled substance, the case plan include as a required task that the parent submit to a certain assessment and comply with any treatment and services identified as necessary; amending s. 39.6035, F.S.; requiring a transition plan to be approved before a child reaches 18 years of age; amending s. 39.621, F.S.; specifying the circumstances under which the permanency goal of maintaining and strengthening the placement with a parent may be used; amending s. 39.6221, F.S.; providing that relocation requirements for parents in dissolution proceedings do not apply to certain permanent guardianships; amending s. 39.701, F.S.; providing safety assessment requirements for children coming into a home under court jurisdiction; amending s. 39.801, F.S.; providing an exception to the notice requirement regarding the advisory hearing for a petition to terminate parental rights; amending s. 39.803, F.S.; requiring a court to conduct under oath the inquiry to determine the identity or location of an unknown parent after the filing of a termination of parental rights petition; requiring a court to seek additional information relating to a legal father's identity in such inquiry; revising minimum requirements for the diligent search to determine the location of a parent or prospective parent; authorizing a court to schedule an adjudicatory hearing regarding a petition for termination of parental rights if a diligent search fails to identify and locate a prospective parent; amending s. 39.806, F.S.; revising circumstances under which grounds for the termination of parental rights may be established; amending s. 39.811, F.S.; revising circumstances under which the rights of one parent may be terminated without terminating the rights of the other parent; amending s. 125.901, F.S.; creating an exception to the requirement that, for an independent special district in existence on a certain date and serving a population of a specified size, the governing body of the county submit the question of the district's retention or dissolution to the electorate in a specified general election; amending s. 394.463, F.S.; requiring a facility to initiate an involuntary examination of a minor within 12 hours after his or

her arrival; creating a task force within the Department of Children and Families; providing the purpose and membership of the task force; requiring the task force to analyze certain data and make recommendations in a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing for expiration of the task force; amending s. 395.3025, F.S.; revising requirements for access to patient records; amending s. 402.40, F.S.; defining the term “child welfare trainer”; providing rulemaking authority; creating s. 409.16742, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; establishing a shared family care residential services pilot program for substance-exposed newborns; amending s. 409.992, F.S.; limiting compensation from state-appropriated funds for administrative employees of community-based care agencies; amending s. 409.996, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to develop, in collaboration with specified entities, a statewide accountability system for residential group care providers; specifying requirements for the accountability system; requiring the department and the lead agencies to use the collected information to promote enhanced quality in residential group care; requiring the department to submit an annual report, beginning on a specified date, to the Governor and the Legislature; specifying report requirements; requiring implementation of the accountability system by a certain date; providing construction; authorizing the department to adopt rules; requiring the department, in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, to convene a workgroup on foster home quality; specifying requirements for the workgroup; providing for membership of the workgroup; requiring the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to provide the workgroup with specified research; requiring the workgroup to submit a report by a specified date to the Governor and the Legislature; specifying requirements for the report; amending s. 456.057, F.S.; revising requirements for access to patient records; repealing s. 409.141, F.S., relating to equitable reimbursement methodology; repealing s. 409.1677, F.S., relating to model comprehensive residential services programs; amending s. 743.067, F.S.; revising the term “unaccompanied homeless youth”; requiring the State Office on Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families to develop a standardized form to be used in the certification of unaccompanied homeless youth; providing information that must be included in the certification form; authorizing a certified unaccompanied homeless youth to apply to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for an identification card; conforming terminology; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; revising the exemption from the payment of tuition and fees for homeless students; amending ss. 39.524, 394.495, 409.1678, and 960.065, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending ss. 409.1679 and 1002.3305, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; reenacting s. 483.181(2), F.S., relating to acceptance, collection, identification, and examination of specimens, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 456.057, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an appropriation; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Present subsection (9) of section 395.1055, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (10), and a new subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

395.1055 Rules and enforcement.—

(9) The agency shall establish a technical advisory panel to develop procedures and standards for measuring outcomes of pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and pediatric open-heart surgery programs.

(a) The panel must be composed of 3 at-large members, including 1 cardiologist who is board certified in caring for adults with congenital heart disease and 2 board-certified pediatric cardiologists, neither of whom may be employed by any of the hospitals specified in subparagraphs 1.-10. or their affiliates, each of whom is appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration, and 10 members, each of whom is a pediatric cardiologist or a pediatric cardiovascular surgeon, each appointed by the chief executive officer of one of the following hospitals:

1. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg.
2. Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando.
3. Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood.
4. Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami.
5. St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa.
6. University of Florida Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville.
7. University of Miami Holtz Children's Hospital in Miami.
8. Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville.
9. Florida Hospital for Children in Orlando.
10. Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the panel, the agency shall develop and adopt rules for pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and pediatric open-heart surgery programs which include at least the following:

1. A risk adjustment procedure that accounts for the variations in severity and case mix found in hospitals in this state;
2. Outcome standards specifying expected levels of performance in pediatric cardiac programs. Such standards may include, but are not limited to, in-hospital mortality, infection rates, nonfatal myocardial infarctions, length of postoperative bleeds, and returns to surgery; and

3. Specific steps to be taken by the agency and licensed facilities that do not meet the outcome standards within a specified time, including time required for detailed case reviews and development and implementation of corrective action plans.

(c) This subsection is repealed on July 1, 2022.

Section 2. Present subsections (35) through (80) of section 39.01, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (36) through (81), respectively, a new subsection (35) is added to that section, and subsections (10) and (32) and present subsections (49) and (52) of that section are amended, to read:

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

(10) “Caregiver” means the parent, legal custodian, permanent guardian, adult household member, or other person responsible for a child’s welfare as defined in subsection (48) ~~(47)~~.

(32) “Institutional child abuse or neglect” means situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect in which the person allegedly perpetrating the child abuse or neglect is an employee of a private school, public or private day care center, residential home, institution, facility, or agency or any other person at such institution responsible for the child’s care as defined in subsection (48) ~~(47)~~.

(35) “Legal father” means a man married to the mother at the time of conception or birth of their child, unless paternity has been otherwise determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the mother was not married to a man at the time of birth or conception of the child, the term means a man named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2), a man determined by a court order to be the father of the child, or a man determined to be the father of the child by the Department of Revenue as provided in s. 409.256.

~~(50)(49)~~ “Parent” means a woman who gives birth to a child and a man whose consent to the adoption of the child would be required under s. 63.062(1). The term “parent” also means legal father as defined in this section. If a child has been legally adopted, the term “parent” means the adoptive mother or father of the child. For purposes of this chapter only, when the phrase “parent or legal custodian” is used, it refers to rights or responsibilities of the parent and, only if there is no living parent with intact parental rights, to the rights or responsibilities of the legal custodian who has assumed the role of the parent. The term does not include an individual whose parental relationship to the child has been legally terminated, or an alleged or prospective parent, unless:

(a) The parental status falls within the terms of s. 39.503(1) or s. 63.062(1); or

(b) Parental status is applied for the purpose of determining whether the child has been abandoned.

~~(53)(52)~~ “Permanency goal” means the living arrangement identified for the child to return to or identified as the permanent living arrangement of the child. ~~Permanency goals applicable under this chapter, listed in order of preference, are:~~

~~(a) Reunification;~~

~~(b) Adoption when a petition for termination of parental rights has been or will be filed;~~

~~(c) Permanent guardianship of a dependent child under s. 39.6221;~~

~~(d) Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative under s. 39.6231; or~~

~~(e) Placement in another planned permanent living arrangement under s. 39.6241.~~

The permanency goal is also the case plan goal. If concurrent case planning is being used, reunification may be pursued at the same time that another permanency goal is pursued.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 39.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.—

(2) The circuit court has exclusive original jurisdiction of all proceedings under this chapter, of a child voluntarily placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a licensed child-placing agency, or the department, and of the adoption of children whose parental rights have been terminated under this chapter. Jurisdiction attaches when the initial shelter petition, dependency petition, or termination of parental rights petition, or a petition for an injunction to prevent child abuse issued pursuant to s. 39.504, is filed or when a child is taken into the custody of the department. The circuit court may assume jurisdiction over any such proceeding regardless of whether the child was in the physical custody of both parents, was in the sole legal or physical custody of only one parent, caregiver, or some other person, or was not in the physical or legal custody of any person when the event or condition occurred that brought the child to the attention of the court. When the court obtains jurisdiction of any child who has been found to be dependent, the court shall retain jurisdiction, unless relinquished by its order, until the child reaches 21 years of age, or 22 years of age if the child has a disability, with the following exceptions:

(a) If a young adult chooses to leave foster care upon reaching 18 years of age.

(b) If a young adult does not meet the eligibility requirements to remain in foster care under s. 39.6251 or chooses to leave care under that section.

(c) If a young adult petitions the court at any time before his or her 19th birthday requesting the court's continued jurisdiction, the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction under this chapter for a period not to exceed 1 year following the young adult's 18th birthday for the purpose of determining whether appropriate services that were required to be provided to the young adult before reaching 18 years of age have been provided.

(d) If a petition for special immigrant juvenile status and an application for adjustment of status have been filed on behalf of a foster child and the petition and application have not been granted by the time the child reaches 18 years of age, the court may retain jurisdiction over the dependency case solely for the purpose of allowing the continued consideration of the petition and application by federal authorities. Review hearings for the child shall be set solely for the purpose of determining the status of the petition and application. The court's jurisdiction terminates upon the final decision of the federal authorities. Retention of jurisdiction in this instance does not affect the services available to a young adult under s. 409.1451. The court may not retain jurisdiction of the case after the immigrant child's 22nd birthday.

Section 4. Paragraphs (a), (d), and (e) of subsection (2) of section 39.202, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of child abuse or neglect.—

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such records, excluding the name of the reporter which shall be released only as provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the following persons, officials, and agencies:

(a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Office of Early Learning, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

1. Child or adult protective investigations;
2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
3. Early intervention and prevention services;
4. Healthy Start services;
5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes, child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393, family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children; or
6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential group homes; or

~~7.6.~~ Services for victims of domestic violence when provided by certified domestic violence centers working at the department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant to chapters 984 and 985.

(d) The parent or legal custodian of any child who is alleged to have been abused, abandoned, or neglected, and the child, and their attorneys, including any attorney representing a child in civil or criminal proceedings. This access shall be made available no later than ~~60~~ 30 days after the department receives the initial report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. However, any information otherwise made confidential or exempt by law shall not be released pursuant to this paragraph.

(e) Any person alleged in the report as having caused the abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child. This access shall be made available no later than ~~60~~ 30 days after the department receives the initial report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect and, when the alleged perpetrator is not a parent, shall be limited to information involving the protective investigation only and shall not include any information relating to subsequent dependency proceedings. However, any information otherwise made confidential or exempt by law shall not be released pursuant to this paragraph.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section 39.301, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (23) is added to that section, to read:

39.301 Initiation of protective investigations.—

(9)(a) For each report received from the central abuse hotline and accepted for investigation, the department or the sheriff providing child protective investigative services under s. 39.3065, shall perform the following child protective investigation activities to determine child safety:

1. Conduct a review of all relevant, available information specific to the child and family and alleged maltreatment; family child welfare history; local, state, and federal criminal records checks; and requests for law enforcement assistance provided by the abuse hotline. Based on a review of available information, including the allegations in the current report, a determination shall be made as to whether immediate consultation should occur with law enforcement, the child protection team, a domestic violence shelter or advocate, or a substance abuse or mental health professional. Such consultations should include discussion as to whether a joint response is necessary and feasible. A determination shall be made as to whether the person making the report should be contacted before the face-to-face interviews with the child and family members.

2. Conduct face-to-face interviews with the child; other siblings, if any; and the parents, legal custodians, or caregivers.



3. Assess the child's residence, including a determination of the composition of the family and household, including the name, address, date of birth, social security number, sex, and race of each child named in the report; any siblings or other children in the same household or in the care of the same adults; the parents, legal custodians, or caregivers; and any other adults in the same household.

4. Determine whether there is any indication that any child in the family or household has been abused, abandoned, or neglected; the nature and extent of present or prior injuries, abuse, or neglect, and any evidence thereof; and a determination as to the person or persons apparently responsible for the abuse, abandonment, or neglect, including the name, address, date of birth, social security number, sex, and race of each such person.

5. Complete assessment of immediate child safety for each child based on available records, interviews, and observations with all persons named in subparagraph 2. and appropriate collateral contacts, which may include other professionals. The department's child protection investigators are hereby designated a criminal justice agency for the purpose of accessing criminal justice information to be used for enforcing this state's laws concerning the crimes of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. This information shall be used solely for purposes supporting the detection, apprehension, prosecution, pretrial release, posttrial release, or rehabilitation of criminal offenders or persons accused of the crimes of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and may not be further disseminated or used for any other purpose.

6. Document the present and impending dangers to each child based on the identification of inadequate protective capacity through utilization of a standardized safety assessment instrument. If present or impending danger is identified, the child protective investigator must implement a safety plan or take the child into custody. If present danger is identified and the child is not removed, the child protective investigator shall create and implement a safety plan before leaving the home or the location where there is present danger. If impending danger is identified, the child protective investigator shall create and implement a safety plan as soon as necessary to protect the safety of the child. The child protective investigator may modify the safety plan if he or she identifies additional impending danger.

a. If the child protective investigator implements a safety plan, the plan must be specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable in response to the realities of the present or impending danger. A safety plan may be an in-home plan or an out-of-home plan, or a combination of both. A safety plan may include tasks or responsibilities for a parent, caregiver, or legal custodian. However, a safety plan may not rely on promissory commitments by the parent, caregiver, or legal custodian who is currently not able to protect the child or on services that are not available or will not result in the safety of the child. A safety plan may not be implemented if for any reason the parents, guardian, or legal custodian lacks the capacity or ability to

comply with the plan. If the department is not able to develop a plan that is specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable, the department shall file a shelter petition. A child protective investigator shall implement separate safety plans for the perpetrator of domestic violence, if the investigator, using reasonable efforts, can locate the perpetrator to implement a safety plan, and for the parent who is a victim of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28. Reasonable efforts to locate a perpetrator include, but are not limited to, a diligent search pursuant to the same requirements as in s. 39.503. If the perpetrator of domestic violence is not the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of any child in the home and if the department does not intend to file a shelter petition or dependency petition that will assert allegations against the perpetrator as a parent of a the child in the home, the child protective investigator shall seek issuance of an injunction authorized by s. 39.504 to implement a safety plan for the perpetrator and impose any other conditions to protect the child. The safety plan for the parent who is a victim of domestic violence may not be shared with the perpetrator. If any party to a safety plan fails to comply with the safety plan resulting in the child being unsafe, the department shall file a shelter petition.

b. The child protective investigator shall collaborate with the community-based care lead agency in the development of the safety plan as necessary to ensure that the safety plan is specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable. The child protective investigator shall identify services necessary for the successful implementation of the safety plan. The child protective investigator and the community-based care lead agency shall mobilize service resources to assist all parties in complying with the safety plan. The community-based care lead agency shall prioritize safety plan services to families who have multiple risk factors, including, but not limited to, two or more of the following:

(I) The parent or legal custodian is of young age;

(II) The parent or legal custodian, or an adult currently living in or frequently visiting the home, has a history of substance abuse, mental illness, or domestic violence;

(III) The parent or legal custodian, or an adult currently living in or frequently visiting the home, has been previously found to have physically or sexually abused a child;

(IV) The parent or legal custodian or an adult currently living in or frequently visiting the home has been the subject of multiple allegations by reputable reports of abuse or neglect;

(V) The child is physically or developmentally disabled; or

(VI) The child is 3 years of age or younger.

c. The child protective investigator shall monitor the implementation of the plan to ensure the child's safety until the case is transferred to the lead agency at which time the lead agency shall monitor the implementation.

(23) If, at any time during a child protective investigation, a child is born into a family under investigation or a child moves into the home under investigation, the child protective investigator shall add the child to the investigation and assess the child's safety pursuant to subsection (7) and paragraph (9)(a).

Section 6. Subsections (1) and (7) of section 39.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(1) The department shall conduct a child protective investigation of each report of institutional child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Upon receipt of a report that alleges that an employee or agent of the department, or any other entity or person covered by s. 39.01(32) or ~~(48)~~ (47), acting in an official capacity, has committed an act of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, the department shall initiate a child protective investigation within the time-frame established under s. 39.201(5) and notify the appropriate state attorney, law enforcement agency, and licensing agency, which shall immediately conduct a joint investigation, unless independent investigations are more feasible. When conducting investigations or having face-to-face interviews with the child, investigation visits shall be unannounced unless it is determined by the department or its agent that unannounced visits threaten the safety of the child. If a facility is exempt from licensing, the department shall inform the owner or operator of the facility of the report. Each agency conducting a joint investigation is entitled to full access to the information gathered by the department in the course of the investigation. A protective investigation must include an interview with the child's parent or legal guardian. The department shall make a full written report to the state attorney within 3 working days after making the oral report. A criminal investigation shall be coordinated, whenever possible, with the child protective investigation of the department. Any interested person who has information regarding the offenses described in this subsection may forward a statement to the state attorney as to whether prosecution is warranted and appropriate. Within 15 days after the completion of the investigation, the state attorney shall report the findings to the department and shall include in the report a determination of whether or not prosecution is justified and appropriate in view of the circumstances of the specific case.

(7) When an investigation of institutional abuse, neglect, or abandonment is closed and a person is not identified as a caregiver responsible for the abuse, neglect, or abandonment alleged in the report, the fact that the person is named in some capacity in the report may not be used in any way to adversely affect the interests of that person. This prohibition applies to any

use of the information in employment screening, licensing, child placement, adoption, or any other decisions by a private adoption agency or a state agency or its contracted providers.

(a) However, if such a person is a licensee of the department and is named in any capacity in three or more reports within a 5-year period, the department may review those reports and determine whether the information contained in the reports is relevant for purposes of determining whether the person's license should be renewed or revoked. If the information is relevant to the decision to renew or revoke the license, the department may rely on the information contained in the report in making that decision.

(b) Likewise, if a person is employed as a caregiver in a residential group home licensed pursuant to s. 409.175 and is named in any capacity in three or more reports within a 5-year period, the department may review all reports for the purposes of the employment screening required pursuant to s. 409.145(2)(e).

Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 39.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.402 Placement in a shelter.—

(8)

(c) At the shelter hearing, the court shall:

1. Appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the best interest of the child, unless the court finds that such representation is unnecessary;

2. Inform the parents or legal custodians of their right to counsel to represent them at the shelter hearing and at each subsequent hearing or proceeding, and the right of the parents to appointed counsel, pursuant to the procedures set forth in s. 39.013; and

3. Give the parents or legal custodians an opportunity to be heard and to present evidence; and

4. Inquire of those present at the shelter hearing as to the identity and location of the legal father. In determining who the legal father of the child may be, the court shall inquire under oath of those present at the shelter hearing whether they have any of the following information:

a. Whether the mother of the child was married at the probable time of conception of the child or at the time of birth of the child.

b. Whether the mother was cohabiting with a male at the probable time of conception of the child.

c. Whether the mother has received payments or promises of support with respect to the child or because of her pregnancy from a man who claims to be the father.

d. Whether the mother has named any man as the father on the birth certificate of the child or in connection with applying for or receiving public assistance.

e. Whether any man has acknowledged or claimed paternity of the child in a jurisdiction in which the mother resided at the time of or since conception of the child or in which the child has resided or resides.

f. Whether a man is named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2).

g. Whether a man has been determined by a court order to be the father of the child.

h. Whether a man has been determined to be the father of the child by the Department of Revenue as provided in s. 409.256.

Section 8. Subsections (1), (6), and (8) of section 39.503, Florida Statutes, are amended, subsection (9) is added to that section, and subsection (7) of that section is republished, to read:

39.503 Identity or location of parent unknown; special procedures.—

(1) If the identity or location of a parent is unknown and a petition for dependency or shelter is filed, the court shall conduct under oath the following inquiry of the parent or legal custodian who is available, or, if no parent or legal custodian is available, of any relative or custodian of the child who is present at the hearing and likely to have any of the following information:

(a) Whether the mother of the child was married at the probable time of conception of the child or at the time of birth of the child.

(b) Whether the mother was cohabiting with a male at the probable time of conception of the child.

(c) Whether the mother has received payments or promises of support with respect to the child or because of her pregnancy from a man who claims to be the father.

(d) Whether the mother has named any man as the father on the birth certificate of the child or in connection with applying for or receiving public assistance.

(e) Whether any man has acknowledged or claimed paternity of the child in a jurisdiction in which the mother resided at the time of or since conception of the child, or in which the child has resided or resides.

(f) Whether a man is named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2).

(g) Whether a man has been determined by a court order to be the father of the child.

(h) Whether a man has been determined to be the father of the child by the Department of Revenue as provided in s. 409.256.

(6) The diligent search required by subsection (5) must include, at a minimum, inquiries of all relatives of the parent or prospective parent made known to the petitioner, inquiries of all offices of program areas of the department likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of other state and federal agencies likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of appropriate utility and postal providers, a thorough search of at least one electronic database specifically designed for locating persons, a search of the Florida Putative Father Registry, and inquiries of appropriate law enforcement agencies. Pursuant to s. 453 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 653(c)(4), the department, as the state agency administering Titles IV-B and IV-E of the act, shall be provided access to the federal and state parent locator service for diligent search activities.

(7) Any agency contacted by a petitioner with a request for information pursuant to subsection (6) shall release the requested information to the petitioner without the necessity of a subpoena or court order.

(8) If the inquiry and diligent search identifies a prospective parent, that person must be given the opportunity to become a party to the proceedings by completing a sworn affidavit of parenthood and filing it with the court or the department. A prospective parent who files a sworn affidavit of parenthood while the child is a dependent child but no later than at the time of or ~~before~~ prior to the adjudicatory hearing in any termination of parental rights proceeding for the child shall be considered a parent for all purposes under this section unless the other parent contests the determination of parenthood. If the known parent contests the recognition of the prospective parent as a parent, the prospective parent may ~~shall~~ not be recognized as a parent until proceedings to determine maternity or paternity under chapter 742 have been concluded. However, the prospective parent shall continue to receive notice of hearings as a participant pending results of the chapter 742 proceedings to determine maternity or paternity.

(9) If the diligent search under subsection (5) fails to identify and locate a parent or prospective parent, the court shall so find and may proceed without further notice.

Section 9. Section 39.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.504 Injunction ~~pending disposition of petition~~; penalty.—

(1) At any time after a protective investigation has been initiated pursuant to part III of this chapter, the court, upon the request of the department, a law enforcement officer, the state attorney, or other responsible person, or upon its own motion, may, if there is reasonable cause, issue an injunction to prevent any act of child abuse. Reasonable cause for the issuance of an injunction exists if there is evidence of child abuse or if there is a reasonable likelihood of such abuse occurring based upon a recent overt act or failure to act. If there is a pending dependency proceeding regarding the child whom the injunction is sought to protect, the judge hearing the dependency proceeding must also hear the injunction proceeding regarding the child.

(2) The petitioner seeking the injunction shall file a verified petition, or a petition along with an affidavit, setting forth the specific actions by the alleged offender from which the child must be protected and all remedies sought. Upon filing the petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. Pending the hearing, the court may issue a temporary ex parte injunction, with verified pleadings or affidavits as evidence. The temporary ex parte injunction pending a hearing is effective for up to 15 days and the hearing must be held within that period unless continued for good cause shown, which may include obtaining service of process, in which case the temporary ex parte injunction shall be extended for the continuance period. The hearing may be held sooner if the alleged offender has received reasonable notice.

(3) Before the hearing, the alleged offender must be personally served with a copy of the petition, all other pleadings related to the petition, a notice of hearing, and, if one has been entered, the temporary injunction. If the petitioner cannot locate the alleged offender for service after a diligent search pursuant to the same requirements as in s. 39.503 and the filing of an affidavit of diligent search, the court may enter the injunction based on the sworn petition and any affidavits. At the hearing, the court may base its determination on a sworn petition, testimony, or an affidavit and may hear all relevant and material evidence, including oral and written reports, to the extent of its probative value even though it would not be competent evidence at an adjudicatory hearing. Following the hearing, the court may enter a final injunction. The court may grant a continuance of the hearing at any time for good cause shown by any party. If a temporary injunction has been entered, it shall be continued during the continuance.

(4) If an injunction is issued under this section, the primary purpose of the injunction must be to protect and promote the best interests of the child, taking the preservation of the child's immediate family into consideration.

(a) The injunction applies to the alleged or actual offender in a case of child abuse or acts of domestic violence. The conditions of the injunction shall be determined by the court, which may include ordering the alleged or actual offender to:

1. Refrain from further abuse or acts of domestic violence.

- 2. Participate in a specialized treatment program.
- 3. Limit contact or communication with the child victim, other children in the home, or any other child.
- 4. Refrain from contacting the child at home, school, work, or wherever the child may be found.
- 5. Have limited or supervised visitation with the child.
- 6. Vacate the home in which the child resides.
- 7. Comply with the terms of a safety plan implemented in the injunction pursuant to s. 39.301.

(b) Upon proper pleading, the court may award the following relief in a temporary ex parte or final injunction:

- 1. Exclusive use and possession of the dwelling to the caregiver or exclusion of the alleged or actual offender from the residence of the caregiver.
- 2. Temporary support for the child or other family members.
- 3. The costs of medical, psychiatric, and psychological treatment for the child incurred due to the abuse, and similar costs for other family members.

This paragraph does not preclude an adult victim of domestic violence from seeking protection for himself or herself under s. 741.30.

(c) The terms of the final injunction shall remain in effect until modified or dissolved by the court. The petitioner, respondent, or caregiver may move at any time to modify or dissolve the injunction. Notice of hearing on the motion to modify or dissolve the injunction must be provided to all parties, including the department. The injunction is valid and enforceable in all counties in the state.

(5) Service of process on the respondent shall be carried out pursuant to s. 741.30. The department shall deliver a copy of any injunction issued pursuant to this section to the protected party or to a parent, caregiver, or individual acting in the place of a parent who is not the respondent. Law enforcement officers may exercise their arrest powers as provided in s. 901.15(6) to enforce the terms of the injunction.

(6) Any person who fails to comply with an injunction issued pursuant to this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(7) The person against whom an injunction is entered under this section does not automatically become a party to a subsequent dependency action concerning the same child.



Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 39.507, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.507 Adjudicatory hearings; orders of adjudication.—

(7)

(b) However, the court must determine whether each parent or legal custodian identified in the case abused, abandoned, or neglected the child or engaged in conduct that placed the child at substantial risk of imminent abuse, abandonment, or neglect in a subsequent evidentiary hearing. If a second parent is served and brought into the proceeding after the adjudication and if an the evidentiary hearing for the second parent is conducted subsequent to the adjudication of the child, the court shall supplement the adjudicatory order, disposition order, and the case plan, as necessary. The petitioner is not required to prove actual harm or actual abuse by the second parent in order for the court to make supplemental findings regarding the conduct of the second parent. The court is not required to conduct an evidentiary hearing for the second parent in order to supplement the adjudicatory order, the disposition order, and the case plan if the requirements of s. 39.506(3) or (5) are satisfied. With the exception of proceedings pursuant to s. 39.811, the child's dependency status may not be retried or readjudicated.

Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—

(2)(a) The Department of Children and Families shall establish, and operate, and implement the Relative Caregiver Program ~~pursuant to eligibility guidelines established in this section as further implemented by rule of the department.~~ The Relative Caregiver Program shall, within the limits of available funding, provide financial assistance to:

1. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are caring full-time for that dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the relative under this chapter.

2. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are caring full-time for that dependent child, and a dependent half-brother or half-sister of that dependent child, in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the relative under this chapter.

3. Nonrelatives who are willing to assume custody and care of a dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent

placement with the nonrelative caregiver under this chapter. The court must find that a proposed placement under this subparagraph is in the best interest of the child.

4. A relative or nonrelative caregiver, but the relative or nonrelative caregiver may not receive a Relative Caregiver Program payment if the parent or stepparent of the child resides in the home. However, a relative or nonrelative may receive the Relative Caregiver Program payment for a minor parent who is in his or her care, as well as for the minor parent's child, if both children have been adjudicated dependent and meet all other eligibility requirements. If the caregiver is currently receiving the payment, the Relative Caregiver Program payment must be terminated no later than the first of the following month after the parent or stepparent moves into the home, allowing for 10-day notice of adverse action.

The placement may be court-ordered temporary legal custody to the relative or nonrelative under protective supervision of the department pursuant to s. 39.521(1)(c)3, ~~s. 39.521(1)(b)3~~, or court-ordered placement in the home of a relative or nonrelative as a permanency option under s. 39.6221 or s. 39.6231 or under former s. 39.622 if the placement was made before July 1, 2006. The Relative Caregiver Program shall offer financial assistance to caregivers who would be unable to serve in that capacity without the caregiver payment because of financial burden, thus exposing the child to the trauma of placement in a shelter or in foster care.

Section 12. Subsections (1), (2), (6), and (7) of section 39.521, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

39.521 Disposition hearings; powers of disposition.—

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

(a) ~~A written case plan and a family functioning assessment predisposition study prepared by an authorized agent of the department must be approved by filed with the court. The department must file the case plan and the family functioning assessment with the court, serve a copy of the case plan on, served upon the parents of the child, and provide a copy of the case plan provided to the representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the program has been appointed, and a copy provided to all other parties:~~

1. Not less than 72 hours before the disposition hearing, if the disposition hearing occurs on or after the 60th day after the date the child was placed in out-of-home care. All such case plans must be approved by the court.

2. Not less than 72 hours before the case plan acceptance hearing, if the disposition hearing occurs before the 60th day after the date the child was placed in out-of-home care and a case plan has not been submitted pursuant to this paragraph, or if the court does not approve the case plan at the disposition hearing. The case plan acceptance hearing must occur, the court must set a hearing within 30 days after the disposition hearing to review and approve the case plan.

(b) The court may grant an exception to the requirement for a family functioning assessment predisposition study by separate order or within the judge's order of disposition upon finding that all the family and child information required by subsection (2) is available in other documents filed with the court.

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

1. Require the parent and, when appropriate, the legal custodian and the child to participate in treatment and services identified as necessary. The court may require the person who has custody or who is requesting custody of the child to submit to a mental health or substance abuse disorder assessment or evaluation. The order may be made only upon good cause shown and pursuant to notice and procedural requirements provided under the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure. The mental health assessment or evaluation must be administered by a qualified professional as defined in s. 39.01, and the substance abuse assessment or evaluation must be administered by a qualified professional as defined in s. 397.311. The court may also require such person to participate in and comply with treatment and services identified as necessary, including, when appropriate and available, participation in and compliance with a mental health court program established under chapter 394 or a treatment-based drug court program established under s. 397.334. Adjudication of a child as dependent based upon evidence of harm as defined in s. 39.01(30)(g) demonstrates good cause, and the court shall require the parent whose actions caused the harm to submit to a substance abuse disorder assessment or evaluation and to participate and comply with treatment and services identified in the assessment or evaluation as being necessary. In addition to supervision by the department, the court, including the mental health court program or the treatment-based drug court program, may oversee the progress and compliance with treatment by a person who has custody or is requesting custody of the child. The court may impose appropriate available sanctions for noncompliance upon a person who has custody or is requesting custody of the child or make a finding of noncompliance for consideration in determining whether an alternative placement of the child is in the child's best interests. Any order entered under this subparagraph may be made only upon good cause shown. This subparagraph does not authorize placement of a child with a person seeking custody of the child, other than the child's parent or legal custodian, who requires mental health or substance abuse disorder treatment.

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

3. Require placement of the child either under the protective supervision of an authorized agent of the department in the home of one or both of the child's parents or in the home of a relative of the child or another adult approved by the court, or in the custody of the department. Protective supervision continues until the court terminates it or until the child reaches the age of 18, whichever date is first. Protective supervision shall be terminated by the court whenever the court determines that permanency has been achieved for the child, whether with a parent, another relative, or a legal custodian, and that protective supervision is no longer needed. The termination of supervision may be with or without retaining jurisdiction, at the court's discretion, and shall in either case be considered a permanency option for the child. The order terminating supervision by the department must set forth the powers of the custodian of the child and include the powers ordinarily granted to a guardian of the person of a minor unless otherwise specified. Upon the court's termination of supervision by the department, further judicial reviews are not required if permanency has been established for the child.

~~(d)~~<sup>(e)</sup> At the conclusion of the disposition hearing, the court shall schedule the initial judicial review hearing which must be held no later than 90 days after the date of the disposition hearing or after the date of the hearing at which the court approves the case plan, whichever occurs earlier, but in no event shall the review hearing be held later than 6 months after the date of the child's removal from the home.

~~(e)~~<sup>(d)</sup> The court shall, in its written order of disposition, include all of the following:

1. The placement or custody of the child.
2. Special conditions of placement and visitation.
3. Evaluation, counseling, treatment activities, and other actions to be taken by the parties, if ordered.
4. The persons or entities responsible for supervising or monitoring services to the child and parent.
5. Continuation or discharge of the guardian ad litem, as appropriate.
6. The date, time, and location of the next scheduled review hearing, which must occur within the earlier of:
  - a. Ninety days after the disposition hearing;
  - b. Ninety days after the court accepts the case plan;
  - c. Six months after the date of the last review hearing; or

d. Six months after the date of the child's removal from his or her home, if no review hearing has been held since the child's removal from the home.

7. If the child is in an out-of-home placement, child support to be paid by the parents, or the guardian of the child's estate if possessed of assets which under law may be disbursed for the care, support, and maintenance of the child. The court may exercise jurisdiction over all child support matters, shall adjudicate the financial obligation, including health insurance, of the child's parents or guardian, and shall enforce the financial obligation as provided in chapter 61. The state's child support enforcement agency shall enforce child support orders under this section in the same manner as child support orders under chapter 61. Placement of the child shall not be contingent upon issuance of a support order.

8.a. If the court does not commit the child to the temporary legal custody of an adult relative, legal custodian, or other adult approved by the court, the disposition order shall include the reasons for such a decision and shall include a determination as to whether diligent efforts were made by the department to locate an adult relative, legal custodian, or other adult willing to care for the child in order to present that placement option to the court instead of placement with the department.

b. If no suitable relative is found and the child is placed with the department or a legal custodian or other adult approved by the court, both the department and the court shall consider transferring temporary legal custody to an adult relative approved by the court at a later date, but neither the department nor the court is obligated to so place the child if it is in the child's best interest to remain in the current placement.

For the purposes of this section, "diligent efforts to locate an adult relative" means a search similar to the diligent search for a parent, but without the continuing obligation to search after an initial adequate search is completed.

9. Other requirements necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the child, to preserve the stability of the child's educational placement, and to promote family preservation or reunification whenever possible.

~~(f)(e)~~ If the court finds that an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department ~~the prevention or reunification efforts of the department will allow the child to remain safely at home or~~ that conditions for return have been met and an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department will allow the child to be safely returned to the home, the court shall allow the child to remain in or return to the home after making a specific finding of fact that ~~the reasons for removal have been remedied to the extent that~~ the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health will not be endangered.

~~(g)(f)~~ If the court places the child in an out-of-home placement, the disposition order must include a written determination that the child cannot

safely remain at home with an in-home safety plan ~~reunification or family preservation services~~ and that removal of the child is necessary to protect the child. If the child is removed before the disposition hearing, the order must also include a written determination as to whether, after removal, the department made a reasonable effort to reunify the parent and child. Reasonable efforts to reunify are not required if the court finds that any of the acts listed in s. 39.806(1)(f)-(l) have occurred. The department has the burden of demonstrating that it made reasonable efforts.

1. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “reasonable effort” means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the department to provide the services ordered by the court or delineated in the case plan.

2. In support of its determination as to whether reasonable efforts have been made, the court shall:

a. Enter written findings as to whether an in-home safety plan could have prevented removal ~~prevention or reunification efforts were indicated.~~

b. If an in-home safety plan was ~~prevention or reunification efforts were~~ indicated, include a brief written description of what appropriate and available safety management services ~~prevention and reunification efforts~~ were initiated ~~made~~.

c. Indicate in writing why further efforts could or could not have prevented or shortened the separation of the parent and child.

3. A court may find that the department made a reasonable effort to prevent or eliminate the need for removal if:

a. The first contact of the department with the family occurs during an emergency;

b. The department’s assessment ~~appraisal by the department~~ of the home situation indicates a substantial and immediate danger to the child’s safety or physical, mental, or emotional health which cannot be mitigated by the provision of safety management ~~preventive~~ services;

c. The child cannot safely remain at home, because there are no safety management ~~preventive~~ services that can ensure the health and safety of the child or, even with appropriate and available services being provided, the health and safety of the child cannot be ensured; or

d. The parent is alleged to have committed any of the acts listed as grounds for expedited termination of parental rights under s. 39.806(1)(f)-(l).

4. A reasonable effort by the department for reunification has been made if the appraisal of the home situation by the department indicates that the severity of the conditions of dependency is such that reunification efforts are inappropriate. The department has the burden of demonstrating to the court that reunification efforts were inappropriate.

5. If the court finds that the provision of safety management services by prevention or reunification effort of the department would not have permitted the child to remain safely at home, the court may commit the child to the temporary legal custody of the department or take any other action authorized by this chapter.

(2) The family functioning assessment predisposition study must provide the court with the following documented information:

(a) Evidence of maltreatment and the circumstances accompanying the maltreatment.

(b) Identification of all danger threats active in the home.

(c) An assessment of the adult functioning of the parents.

(d) An assessment of the parents' general parenting practices and the parents' disciplinary approach and behavior management methods.

(e) An assessment of the parents' behavioral, emotional, and cognitive protective capacities.

(f) An assessment of child functioning.

(g) A safety analysis describing the capacity for an in-home safety plan to control the conditions that result in the child being unsafe and the specific actions necessary to keep the child safe.

(h) Identification of the conditions for return which would allow the child to be placed safely back into the home with an in-home safety plan and any safety management services necessary to ensure the child's safety.

~~(a) The capacity and disposition of the parents to provide the child with food, clothing, medical care, or other remedial care recognized and permitted under the laws of this state in lieu of medical care, and other material needs.~~

~~(b) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining continuity.~~

~~(c) The mental and physical health of the parents.~~

~~(d) The home, school, and community record of the child.~~

~~(i)~~(e) The reasonable preference of the child, if the court deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence, understanding, and experience to express a preference.

~~(f) Evidence of domestic violence or child abuse.~~

~~(g) An assessment defining the dangers and risks of returning the child home, including a description of the changes in and resolutions to the initial risks.~~

~~(h)~~—A description of what risks are still present and what resources are available and will be provided for the protection and safety of the child.

~~(i)~~—A description of the benefits of returning the child home.

~~(j)~~—A description of all unresolved issues.

~~(j)(k)~~ Child welfare A Florida Abuse Hotline Information System (FAHIS) history from the department's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and criminal records check for all caregivers, family members, and individuals residing within the household from which the child was removed.

~~(k)(4)~~ The complete report and recommendation of the child protection team of the Department of Health or, if no report exists, a statement reflecting that no report has been made.

~~(l)(m)~~ All opinions or recommendations from other professionals or agencies that provide evaluative, social, reunification, or other services to the parent and child.

~~(m)(n)~~ A listing of appropriate and available safety management prevention and reunification services for the parent and child to prevent the removal of the child from the home or to reunify the child with the parent after removal, including the availability of family preservation services and an explanation of the following:

1. If the services were or were not provided.
2. If the services were provided, the outcome of the services.
3. If the services were not provided, why they were not provided.
4. If the services are currently being provided and if they need to be continued.

~~(o)~~—A listing of other prevention and reunification services that were available but determined to be inappropriate and why.

~~(p)~~—Whether dependency mediation was provided.

~~(n)(q)~~ If the child has been removed from the home and there is a parent who may be considered for custody pursuant to this section, a recommendation as to whether placement of the child with that parent would be detrimental to the child.

~~(o)(r)~~ If the child has been removed from the home and will be remaining with a relative, parent, or other adult approved by the court, a home study report concerning the proposed placement shall be provided to the court included in the predisposition report. Before recommending to the court any out-of-home placement for a child other than placement in a licensed shelter



or foster home, the department shall conduct a study of the home of the proposed legal custodians, which must include, at a minimum:

1. An interview with the proposed legal custodians to assess their ongoing commitment and ability to care for the child.

2. Records checks through the State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), and local and statewide criminal and juvenile records checks through the Department of Law Enforcement, on all household members 12 years of age or older. In addition, the fingerprints of any household members who are 18 years of age or older may be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for processing and forwarding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and national criminal history information. The department has the discretion to request State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and local, statewide, and national criminal history checks and fingerprinting of any other visitor to the home who is made known to the department. Out-of-state criminal records checks must be initiated for any individual who has resided in a state other than Florida if that state's laws allow the release of these records. The out-of-state criminal records must be filed with the court within 5 days after receipt by the department or its agent.

3. An assessment of the physical environment of the home.

4. A determination of the financial security of the proposed legal custodians.

5. A determination of suitable child care arrangements if the proposed legal custodians are employed outside of the home.

6. Documentation of counseling and information provided to the proposed legal custodians regarding the dependency process and possible outcomes.

7. Documentation that information regarding support services available in the community has been provided to the proposed legal custodians.

8. The reasonable preference of the child, if the court deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence, understanding, and experience to express a preference.

The department may not place the child or continue the placement of the child in a home under shelter or postdisposition placement if the results of the home study are unfavorable, unless the court finds that this placement is in the child's best interest.

(p)(s) If the child has been removed from the home, a determination of the amount of child support each parent will be required to pay pursuant to s. 61.30.

~~(t) If placement of the child with anyone other than the child's parent is being considered, the predisposition study shall include the designation of a specific length of time as to when custody by the parent will be reconsidered.~~

Any other relevant and material evidence, including other written or oral reports, may be received by the court in its effort to determine the action to be taken with regard to the child and may be relied upon to the extent of its probative value, even though not competent in an adjudicatory hearing. Except as otherwise specifically provided, nothing in this section prohibits the publication of proceedings in a hearing.

(6) With respect to a child who is the subject in proceedings under this chapter, the court may issue to the department an order to show cause why it should not return the child to the custody of the parents upon the presentation of evidence that the conditions for return of the child have been met ~~expiration of the case plan, or sooner if the parents have substantially complied with the case plan.~~

(7) The court may enter an order ending its jurisdiction over a child when a child has been returned to the parents, provided the court shall not terminate its jurisdiction or the department's supervision over the child until 6 months after the child's return. The department shall supervise the placement of the child after reunification for at least 6 months with each parent or legal custodian from whom the child was removed. The court shall determine whether its jurisdiction should be continued or terminated in such a case based on a report of the department or agency or the child's guardian ad litem, and any other relevant factors; if its jurisdiction is to be terminated, the court shall enter an order to that effect.

Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 39.522, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

39.522 Postdisposition change of custody.—The court may change the temporary legal custody or the conditions of protective supervision at a postdisposition hearing, without the necessity of another adjudicatory hearing.

(2) In cases where the issue before the court is whether a child should be reunited with a parent, the court shall review the conditions for return and determine whether the circumstances that caused the out-of-home placement and issues subsequently identified have been remedied ~~parent has substantially complied with the terms of the case plan to the extent that the return of the child to the home with an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department will not be detrimental to the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health of the child is not endangered by the return of the child to the home.~~

(3) In cases where the issue before the court is whether a child who is placed in the custody of a parent should be reunited with the other parent upon a finding that the circumstances that caused the out-of-home

placement and issues subsequently identified have been remedied to the extent that the return of the child to the home of the other parent with an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department will not be detrimental to the child of substantial compliance with the terms of the case plan, the standard shall be that the safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health of the child would not be endangered by reunification and that reunification would be in the best interest of the child.

Section 14. Effective January 1, 2018, section 39.523, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 39.523, F.S., for present text.)

39.523 Placement in out-of-home care.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

(a) The Legislature finds that it is a basic tenet of child welfare practice and the law that a child be placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting available in close proximity to the home of his or her parents which meets the needs of the child, and that a child be placed in a permanent home in a timely manner.

(b) The Legislature also finds that there is an association between placements that do not meet the needs of the child and adverse outcomes for the child, that mismatching placements to children's needs has been identified as a factor that negatively impacts placement stability, and that identifying the right placement for each child requires effective assessment.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that whenever a child is unable to safely remain at home with a parent, the most appropriate available out-of-home placement shall be chosen after an assessment of the child's needs and the availability of caregivers qualified to meet the child's needs.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT.—When any child is removed from a home and placed into out-of-home care, a comprehensive placement assessment process shall be completed to determine the level of care needed by the child and match the child with the most appropriate placement.

(a) The community-based care lead agency or sub-contracted agency with the responsibility for assessment and placement must coordinate a multi-disciplinary team staffing with any available individual currently involved with the child including, but not limited to, a representative from the department and the case manager for the child; a therapist, attorney ad-litem, guardian ad litem, teachers, coaches, Children's Medical Services; and other community providers of services to the child or stakeholders as applicable. The team may also include clergy, relatives, and fictive kin if appropriate. Team participants must gather data and information on the child which is known at the time including, but not limited to:

1. Mental, medical, behavioral health, and medication history;
2. Community ties and school placement;
3. Current placement decisions relating to any siblings;
4. Alleged type of abuse or neglect including sexual abuse and trafficking history; and
5. The child's age, maturity, strengths, hobbies or activities, and the child's preference for placement.

(b) The comprehensive placement assessment process may also include the use of an assessment instrument or tool that is best suited for the individual child.

(c) The most appropriate available out-of-home placement shall be chosen after consideration by all members of the multi-disciplinary team of all of the information and data gathered, including the results and recommendations of any evaluations conducted.

(d) Placement decisions for each child in out-of-home placement shall be reviewed as often as necessary to ensure permanency for that child and address special issues related to this population of children.

(e) The department, a sheriff's office acting under s. 39.3065, a community-based care lead agency, or a case management organization must document all placement assessments and placement decisions in the Florida Safe Families Network.

(f) If it is determined during the comprehensive placement assessment process that residential treatment as defined in s. 39.407 would be suitable for the child, the procedures in that section must be followed.

(3) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—At each judicial review, the court shall consider the results of the assessment, the placement decision made for the child, and services provided to the child as required under s. 39.701.

(4) DATA COLLECTION.—The department shall collect the following information by community-based care lead agencies and post it on the Department of Children and Families' website. The information is to be updated on January 1 and July 1 of each year.

(a) The number of children placed with relatives and nonrelatives, in family foster homes, and in residential group care.

(b) An inventory of available services that are necessary to maintain children in the least restrictive setting that meets the needs of the child and a plan for filling any identified gap in those services.

(c) The number of children who were placed based upon the assessment.

(d) An inventory of existing placements for children by type and by community-based care lead agency.

(e) The strategies being used by community-based care lead agencies to recruit, train, and support an adequate number of families to provide home-based family care.

(5) RULEMAKING.—The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 39.6011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.6011 Case plan development.—

(1) The department shall prepare a draft of the case plan for each child receiving services under this chapter. A parent of a child may not be threatened or coerced with the loss of custody or parental rights for failing to admit in the case plan of abusing, neglecting, or abandoning a child. Participating in the development of a case plan is not an admission to any allegation of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and it is not a consent to a finding of dependency or termination of parental rights. The case plan shall be developed subject to the following requirements:

(a) The case plan must be developed in a face-to-face conference with the parent of the child, any court-appointed guardian ad litem, and, if appropriate, the child and the temporary custodian of the child.

(b) Notwithstanding s. 39.202, the department may discuss confidential information during the case planning conference in the presence of individuals who participate in the conference. All individuals who participate in the conference shall maintain the confidentiality of all information shared during the case planning conference.

~~(c)(b)~~ The parent may receive assistance from any person or social service agency in preparing the case plan. The social service agency, the department, and the court, when applicable, shall inform the parent of the right to receive such assistance, including the right to assistance of counsel.

~~(d)(e)~~ If a parent is unwilling or unable to participate in developing a case plan, the department shall document that unwillingness or inability to participate. The documentation must be provided in writing to the parent when available for the court record, and the department shall prepare a case plan conforming as nearly as possible with the requirements set forth in this section. The unwillingness or inability of the parent to participate in developing a case plan does not preclude the filing of a petition for dependency or for termination of parental rights. The parent, if available, must be provided a copy of the case plan and be advised that he or she may, at any time before the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights, enter into a case plan and that he or she may request judicial review of any

provision of the case plan with which he or she disagrees at any court hearing set for the child.

Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 39.6012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.6012 Case plan tasks; services.—

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

(a) The services described in the case plan must be designed to improve the conditions in the home and aid in maintaining the child in the home, facilitate the child's safe return to the home, ensure proper care of the child, or facilitate the child's permanent placement. The services offered must be the least intrusive possible into the life of the parent and child, must focus on clearly defined objectives, and must provide the most efficient path to quick reunification or permanent placement given the circumstances of the case and the child's need for safe and proper care.

(b) The case plan must describe each of the tasks with which the parent must comply and the services to be provided to the parent, specifically addressing the identified problem, including:

1. The type of services or treatment.
2. The date the department will provide each service or referral for the service if the service is being provided by the department or its agent.
3. The date by which the parent must complete each task.
4. The frequency of services or treatment provided. The frequency of the delivery of services or treatment provided shall be determined by the professionals providing the services or treatment on a case-by-case basis and adjusted according to their best professional judgment.
5. The location of the delivery of the services.
6. The staff of the department or service provider accountable for the services or treatment.
7. A description of the measurable objectives, including the timeframes specified for achieving the objectives of the case plan and addressing the identified problem.

(c) If there is evidence of harm as defined in s. 39.01(30)(g), the case plan must include as a required task for the parent whose actions caused the harm that the parent submit to a substance abuse disorder assessment or evaluation and participate and comply with treatment and services identified in the assessment or evaluation as being necessary.

Section 17. Subsection (4) of section 39.6035, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.6035 Transition plan.—

~~(4) If a child is planning to leave care upon reaching 18 years of age, The transition plan must be approved by the court before the child's 18th birthday and must be attached to the case plan and updated before each judicial review child leaves care and the court terminates jurisdiction.~~

Section 18. Present subsections (2) through (11) of section 39.621, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (3) through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

39.621 Permanency determination by the court.—

(2) The permanency goal of maintaining and strengthening the placement with a parent may be used in all of the following circumstances:

(a) If a child has not been removed from a parent, even if adjudication of dependency is withheld, the court may leave the child in the current placement with maintaining and strengthening the placement as a permanency option.

(b) If a child has been removed from a parent and is placed with the parent from whom the child was not removed, the court may leave the child in the placement with the parent from whom the child was not removed with maintaining and strengthening the placement as a permanency option.

(c) If a child has been removed from a parent and is subsequently reunified with that parent, the court may leave the child with that parent with maintaining and strengthening the placement as a permanency option.

Section 19. Subsection (7) is added to section 39.6221, Florida Statutes, to read:

39.6221 Permanent guardianship of a dependent child.—

(7) The requirements of s. 61.13001 do not apply to permanent guardianships established under this section.

Section 20. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of section 39.701, Florida Statutes, to read:

39.701 Judicial review.—

(1) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(h) If a child is born into a family that is under the court's jurisdiction or a child moves into a home that is under the court's jurisdiction, the department shall assess the child's safety and provide notice to the court.

1. The department shall complete an assessment to determine how the addition of a child will impact family functioning. The assessment must be completed at least 30 days before a child is expected to be born or to move into a home, or within 72 hours after the department learns of the pregnancy or addition if the child is expected to be born or to move into the home in less than 30 days. The assessment shall be filed with the court.

2. Once a child is born into a family or a child moves into the home, the department shall complete a progress update and file it with the court.

3. The court has the discretion to hold a hearing on the progress update filed by the department.

Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 39.801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

1. The parents of the child.
2. The legal custodians of the child.
3. If the parents who would be entitled to notice are dead or unknown, a living relative of the child, unless upon diligent search and inquiry no such relative can be found.
4. Any person who has physical custody of the child.
5. Any grandparent entitled to priority for adoption under s. 63.0425.
6. Any prospective parent who has been identified under s. 39.503 or s. 39.803, unless a court order has been entered pursuant to s. 39.503(4) or (9) or s. 39.803(4) or (9) which indicates no further notice is required. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if there is not a legal father, notice of the petition for termination of parental rights must be provided to any known prospective father who is identified under oath before the court or who is identified by a diligent search of the Florida Putative Father Registry. Service of the notice of the petition for termination of parental rights is not required if the prospective father executes an affidavit of nonpaternity or a consent to termination of his parental rights which is accepted by the court after notice and opportunity to be heard by all parties to address the best interests of the child in accepting such affidavit.



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

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

(b) If a party required to be served with notice as prescribed in paragraph (a) cannot be served, notice of hearings must be given as prescribed by the rules of civil procedure, and service of process must be made as specified by law or civil actions.

(c) Notice as prescribed by this section may be waived, in the discretion of the judge, with regard to any person to whom notice must be given under this subsection if the person executes, before two witnesses and a notary public or other officer authorized to take acknowledgments, a written surrender of the child to a licensed child-placing agency or the department.

(d) If the person served with notice under this section fails to personally appear at the advisory hearing, the failure to personally appear shall constitute consent for termination of parental rights by the person given notice. If a parent appears for the advisory hearing and the court orders that parent to personally appear at the adjudicatory hearing for the petition for termination of parental rights, stating the date, time, and location of said hearing, then failure of that parent to personally appear at the adjudicatory hearing shall constitute consent for termination of parental rights.

Section 22. Section 39.803, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.803 Identity or location of parent unknown after filing of termination of parental rights petition; special procedures.—

(1) If the identity or location of a parent is unknown and a petition for termination of parental rights is filed, the court shall conduct under oath the following inquiry of the parent who is available, or, if no parent is available, of any relative, caregiver, or legal custodian of the child who is present at the hearing and likely to have the information:

(a) Whether the mother of the child was married at the probable time of conception of the child or at the time of birth of the child.

(b) Whether the mother was cohabiting with a male at the probable time of conception of the child.

(c) Whether the mother has received payments or promises of support with respect to the child or because of her pregnancy from a man who claims to be the father.

(d) Whether the mother has named any man as the father on the birth certificate of the child or in connection with applying for or receiving public assistance.

(e) Whether any man has acknowledged or claimed paternity of the child in a jurisdiction in which the mother resided at the time of or since conception of the child, or in which the child has resided or resides.

(f) Whether a man is named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2).

(g) Whether a man has been determined by a court order to be the father of the child.

(h) Whether a man has been determined to be the father of the child by the Department of Revenue as provided in s. 409.256.

(2) The information required in subsection (1) may be supplied to the court or the department in the form of a sworn affidavit by a person having personal knowledge of the facts.

(3) If the inquiry under subsection (1) identifies any person as a parent or prospective parent, the court shall require notice of the hearing to be provided to that person.

(4) If the inquiry under subsection (1) fails to identify any person as a parent or prospective parent, the court shall so find and may proceed without further notice.

(5) If the inquiry under subsection (1) identifies a parent or prospective parent, and that person's location is unknown, the court shall direct the petitioner to conduct a diligent search for that person before scheduling an adjudicatory hearing regarding the petition for termination of parental rights to the child unless the court finds that the best interest of the child requires proceeding without actual notice to the person whose location is unknown.

(6) The diligent search required by subsection (5) must include, at a minimum, inquiries of all known relatives of the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of all offices of program areas of the department likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of other state and federal agencies likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of appropriate utility and postal providers, a thorough search of at least one electronic database specifically designed for locating persons, a search of the Florida Putative Father Registry, and inquiries of appropriate law enforcement agencies. Pursuant to s. 453 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 653(c)(4), the department, as the state

agency administering Titles IV-B and IV-E of the act, shall be provided access to the federal and state parent locator service for diligent search activities.

(7) Any agency contacted by petitioner with a request for information pursuant to subsection (6) shall release the requested information to the petitioner without the necessity of a subpoena or court order.

(8) If the inquiry and diligent search identifies a prospective parent, that person must be given the opportunity to become a party to the proceedings by completing a sworn affidavit of parenthood and filing it with the court or the department. A prospective parent who files a sworn affidavit of parenthood while the child is a dependent child but no later than at the time of or ~~before~~ ~~prior to~~ the adjudicatory hearing in the termination of parental rights proceeding for the child shall be considered a parent for all purposes under this section.

(9) If the diligent search under subsection (5) fails to identify and locate a prospective parent, the court shall so find and may proceed without further notice.

Section 23. Paragraph (1) of subsection (1) of section 39.806, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (2) and (3) of that section are republished, to read:

39.806 Grounds for termination of parental rights.—

(1) Grounds for the termination of parental rights may be established under any of the following circumstances:

(1) On three or more occasions the child or another child of the parent or parents has been placed in out-of-home care pursuant to this chapter or the law of any state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States which is substantially similar to this chapter, and the conditions that led to the child's out-of-home placement were caused by the parent or parents.

(2) Reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families are not required if a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that any of the events described in paragraphs (1)(b)-(d) or paragraphs (1)(f)-(m) have occurred.

(3) If a petition for termination of parental rights is filed under subsection (1), a separate petition for dependency need not be filed and the department need not offer the parents a case plan having a goal of reunification, but may instead file with the court a case plan having a goal of termination of parental rights to allow continuation of services until the termination is granted or until further orders of the court are issued.

Section 24. Subsection (6) of section 39.811, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.811 Powers of disposition; order of disposition.—

(6) The parental rights of one parent may be severed without severing the parental rights of the other parent only under the following circumstances:

(a) If the child has only one surviving parent;

(b) If the identity of a prospective parent has been established as unknown after sworn testimony;

(c) If the parent whose rights are being terminated became a parent through a single-parent adoption;

(d) If the protection of the child demands termination of the rights of a single parent; or

(e) If the parent whose rights are being terminated meets any of the criteria specified in s. 39.806(1)(c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), or (n) and (f)-(m).

Section 25. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.901 Children’s services; independent special district; council; powers, duties, and functions; public records exemption.—

(4)

(b)1.a. Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the governing body of the county shall submit the question of retention or dissolution of a district with voter-approved taxing authority to the electorate in the general election according to the following schedule:

(I) For a district in existence on July 1, 2010, and serving a county with a population of 400,000 or fewer persons as of that date.....2014.

(II) For a district in existence on July 1, 2010, and serving a county with a population of 2 million or more persons as of that date, unless the governing body of the county has previously submitted such question voluntarily to the electorate for a second time since 2005,..... 2020.

b. A referendum by the electorate on or after July 1, 2010, creating a new district with taxing authority may specify that the district is not subject to reauthorization or may specify the number of years for which the initial authorization shall remain effective. If the referendum does not prescribe terms of reauthorization, the governing body of the county shall submit the question of retention or dissolution of the district to the electorate in the general election 12 years after the initial authorization.

2. The governing body of the district may specify, and submit to the governing body of the county no later than 9 months before the scheduled election, that the district is not subsequently subject to reauthorization or

may specify the number of years for which a reauthorization under this paragraph shall remain effective. If the governing body of the district makes such specification and submission, the governing body of the county shall include that information in the question submitted to the electorate. If the governing body of the district does not specify and submit such information, the governing body of the county shall resubmit the question of reauthorization to the electorate every 12 years after the year prescribed in subparagraph 1. The governing body of the district may recommend to the governing body of the county language for the question submitted to the electorate.

3. Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority to dissolve a district as provided under paragraph (a).

4. Nothing in this paragraph precludes the governing body of a district from requesting that the governing body of the county submit the question of retention or dissolution of a district with voter-approved taxing authority to the electorate at a date earlier than the year prescribed in subparagraph 1. If the governing body of the county accepts the request and submits the question to the electorate, the governing body satisfies the requirement of that subparagraph.

If any district is dissolved pursuant to this subsection, each county must first obligate itself to assume the debts, liabilities, contracts, and outstanding obligations of the district within the total millage available to the county governing body for all county and municipal purposes as provided for under s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution. Any district may also be dissolved pursuant to part VII of chapter 189.

Section 26. Paragraphs (g) and (h) of subsection (2) of section 394.463, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

394.463 Involuntary examination.—

(2) INVOLUNTARY EXAMINATION.—

(g) The examination period must be for up to 72 hours. For a minor, the examination shall be initiated within 12 hours after the patient's arrival at the facility. Within the ~~72-hour~~ examination period or, if the examination period ~~72 hours~~ ends on a weekend or holiday, no later than the next working day thereafter, one of the following actions must be taken, based on the individual needs of the patient:

1. The patient shall be released, unless he or she is charged with a crime, in which case the patient shall be returned to the custody of a law enforcement officer;

2. The patient shall be released, subject to ~~the provisions of~~ subparagraph 1., for voluntary outpatient treatment;

3. The patient, unless he or she is charged with a crime, shall be asked to give express and informed consent to placement as a voluntary patient and, if such consent is given, the patient shall be admitted as a voluntary patient; or

4. A petition for involuntary services shall be filed in the circuit court if inpatient treatment is deemed necessary or with the criminal county court, as defined in s. 394.4655(1), as applicable. When inpatient treatment is deemed necessary, the least restrictive treatment consistent with the optimum improvement of the patient's condition shall be made available. When a petition is to be filed for involuntary outpatient placement, it shall be filed by one of the petitioners specified in s. 394.4655(4)(a). A petition for involuntary inpatient placement shall be filed by the facility administrator.

(h) A person for whom an involuntary examination has been initiated who is being evaluated or treated at a hospital for an emergency medical condition specified in s. 395.002 must be examined by a facility within the examination period specified in paragraph (g) 72 hours. ~~The examination 72-hour period begins when the patient arrives at the hospital and ceases when the attending physician documents that the patient has an emergency medical condition.~~ If the patient is examined at a hospital providing emergency medical services by a professional qualified to perform an involuntary examination and is found as a result of that examination not to meet the criteria for involuntary outpatient services pursuant to s. 394.4655(2) or involuntary inpatient placement pursuant to s. 394.467(1), the patient may be offered voluntary services or placement, if appropriate, or released directly from the hospital providing emergency medical services. The finding by the professional that the patient has been examined and does not meet the criteria for involuntary inpatient services or involuntary outpatient placement must be entered into the patient's clinical record. This paragraph is not intended to prevent a hospital providing emergency medical services from appropriately transferring a patient to another hospital before stabilization if the requirements of s. 395.1041(3)(c) have been met.

Section 27. (1) There is created a task force within the Department of Children and Families to address the issue of involuntary examinations under s. 394.463, Florida Statutes, of children age 17 years and younger. The task force shall, at a minimum, analyze data on the initiation of involuntary examinations of children, research the root causes of any trends in such involuntary examinations, identify and evaluate options for expediting examinations for children, and identify recommendations for encouraging alternatives to and eliminating inappropriate initiations of such examinations. The task force shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before November 15, 2017.

(2) The Secretary of Children and Families or his or her designee shall chair the task force, which shall consist of the following members appointed by the secretary:

- (a) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.
  - (b) A representative of the Florida Public Defender Association.
  - (c) A representative of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.
  - (d) A representative of the Florida Sheriffs Association.
  - (e) A representative of the Florida Police Chiefs Association.
  - (f) A representative of the Florida Council for Community Mental Health.
  - (g) A representative of the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.
  - (h) A representative of the Behavioral Health Care Council of the Florida Hospital Association.
  - (i) A representative of the Florida Psychiatric Society.
  - (j) A representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
  - (k) One individual who is a family member of a minor who has been subject to an involuntary examination.
  - (l) Other members as deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Children and Families.
- (3) The department shall use existing and available resources to administer and support the activities of the task force. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement for per diem or travel expense. The task force may conduct its meetings by teleconference.
- (4) This section expires March 31, 2018.

Section 28. Paragraph (g) of subsection (4) of section 395.3025, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) of that section is republished, to read:

395.3025 Patient and personnel records; copies; examination.—

(4) Patient records are confidential and must not be disclosed without the consent of the patient or his or her legal representative, but appropriate disclosure may be made without such consent to:

(g) The Department of Children and Families, or its agent, or its contracted entity, for the purpose of investigations of or services for cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

(8) Patient records at hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers are exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1), except as provided by subsections (1)-(5).

Section 29. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 402.40, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.40 Child welfare training and certification.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Child welfare certification” means a professional credential awarded by a department-approved third-party credentialing entity to individuals demonstrating core competency in any child welfare practice area.

(b) “Child welfare services” means any intake, protective investigations, preprotective services, protective services, foster care, shelter and group care, and adoption and related services program, including supportive services and supervision provided to children who are alleged to have been abused, abandoned, or neglected or who are at risk of becoming, are alleged to be, or have been found dependent pursuant to chapter 39.

(c) “Child welfare trainer” means any person providing training for the purposes of child welfare professionals earning certification.

~~(d)~~(e) “Core competency” means the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to carry out work responsibilities.

~~(e)~~(d) “Person providing child welfare services” means a person who has a responsibility for supervisory, direct care, or support-related work in the provision of child welfare services pursuant to chapter 39.

~~(f)~~(e) “Preservice curriculum” means the minimum statewide training content based upon the core competencies which is made available to all persons providing child welfare services.

~~(g)~~(f) “Third-party credentialing entity” means a department-approved nonprofit organization that has met nationally recognized standards for developing and administering professional certification programs.

(6) ADOPTION OF RULES.—The Department of Children and Families shall adopt rules necessary to carry out ~~the provisions of this section, including the requirements for child welfare trainers.~~

Section 30. Section 409.16742, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.16742 Shared family care residential services program for substance-exposed newborns.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds that there is evidence that, with appropriate support and training, some families can remain safely together without court involvement or traumatic



separations. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that alternative types of placement options be available which provide both safety for substance-exposed newborns and an opportunity for parents recovering from substance abuse disorders to achieve independence while living together in a protective, nurturing family environment.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The department shall establish a shared family care residential services program to serve substance-exposed newborns and their families through a contract with the designated lead agency established in accordance with s. 409.987 or with a private entity capable of providing residential care that satisfies the requirements of this section. The private entity or lead agency is responsible for all programmatic functions necessary to carry out the intent of this section. As used in this section, the term “shared family care” means out-of-home care in which an entire family in need is temporarily placed in the home of a family who is trained to mentor and support the biological parents as they develop the caring skills and supports necessary for independent living.

(3) SERVICES.—The department shall specify services that must be made available to newborns and their families through the pilot program.

Section 31. Section 409.992, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.992 Lead agency expenditures.—

(1) The procurement of commodities or contractual services by lead agencies shall be governed by the financial guidelines developed by the department and must comply with applicable state and federal law and follow good business practices. Pursuant to s. 11.45, the Auditor General may provide technical advice in the development of the financial guidelines.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a community-based care lead agency may make expenditures for staff cellular telephone allowances, contracts requiring deferred payments and maintenance agreements, security deposits for office leases, related agency professional membership dues other than personal professional membership dues, promotional materials, and grant writing services. Expenditures for food and refreshments, other than those provided to clients in the care of the agency or to foster parents, adoptive parents, and caseworkers during training sessions, are not allowable.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a community-based care lead agency administrative employee may not receive a salary, whether base pay or base pay combined with any bonus or incentive payments, in excess of 150 percent of the annual salary paid to the secretary of the Department of Children and Families from state-appropriated funds, including state-appropriated federal funds. This subsection does not prohibit any party from providing cash that is not from appropriated state funds to a community-based care lead agency administrative employee.

~~(4)~~(3) A lead community-based care agency and its subcontractors are exempt from state travel policies as provided in s. 112.061(3)(a) for their travel expenses incurred in order to comply with the requirements of this section.

Section 32. Subsections (22) and (23) are added to section 409.996, Florida Statutes, to read:

409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery, administration, or management of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services and programs and shall ensure that services are delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

(22) The department shall develop, in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, lead agencies, service providers, current and former foster children placed in residential group care, and other community stakeholders, a statewide accountability system for residential group care providers based on measureable quality standards.

(a) The accountability system must:

1. Promote high quality in services and accommodations, differentiating between shift and family-style models and programs and services for children with specialized or extraordinary needs, such as pregnant teens and children with Department of Juvenile Justice involvement.

2. Include a quality measurement system with domains and clearly defined levels of quality. The system must measure the level of quality for each domain, using criteria that residential group care providers must meet in order to achieve each level of quality. Domains may include, but are not limited to, admissions, service planning, treatment planning, living environment, and program and service requirements. The system may also consider outcomes 6 months and 12 months after a child leaves the provider's care. However, the system may not assign a single summary rating to residential group care providers.

3. Consider the level of availability of trauma-informed care and mental health and physical health services, providers' engagement with the schools children in their care attend, and opportunities for children's involvement in extracurricular activities.

(b) After development and implementation of the accountability system in accordance with paragraph (a), the department and each lead agency shall use the information from the accountability system to promote enhanced quality in residential group care within their respective areas of responsibility. Such promotion may include, but is not limited to, the use of incentives and ongoing contract monitoring efforts.

(c) The department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1 of each year, with the first report due October 1, 2017. The report must, at a minimum, include an update on the development of a statewide accountability system for residential group care providers and a plan for department oversight and implementation of the statewide accountability system. After implementation of the statewide accountability system, the report must also include a description of the system, including measures and any tools developed, a description of how the information is being used by the department and lead agencies, an assessment of placement of children in residential group care using data from the accountability system measures, and recommendations to further improve quality in residential group care.

(d) The accountability system must be implemented by July 1, 2022.

(e) Nothing in this subsection impairs the department's licensure authority under s. 409.175.

(f) The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

(23)(a) The department, in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, shall convene a workgroup on foster home quality. The workgroup, at a minimum, shall identify measures of foster home quality, review current efforts by lead agencies and subcontractors to enhance foster home quality, identify barriers to the greater availability of high-quality foster homes, and recommend additional strategies for assessing the quality of foster homes and increasing the availability of high-quality foster homes.

(b) The workgroup shall include representatives from the department, the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, foster parents, current and former foster children, foster parent organizations, lead agencies, child-placing agencies, other service providers, and others as determined by the department.

(c) The Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall provide the workgroup with relevant research on, at a minimum, measures of quality of foster homes; evidence-supported strategies to increase the availability of high-quality foster homes, such as those regarding recruitment, screening, training, retention, and child placement; descriptions and results of quality improvement efforts in other jurisdictions; and the root causes of placement disruption.

(d) The department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 15, 2017. The report shall, at a minimum:

1. Describe the important dimensions of quality for foster homes;
2. Describe the foster home quality enhancement efforts in the state, including, but not limited to, recruitment, retention, placement procedures,

systems change, and quality measurement programs, and any positive or negative results;

3. Identify barriers to the greater availability of high-quality foster homes;

4. Discuss available research regarding high-quality foster homes; and

5. Present a plan for developing and implementing strategies to increase the availability of high-quality foster homes. The strategies shall address important elements of quality, be based on available research, include both qualitative and quantitative measures of quality, integrate with the community-based care model, and be respectful of the privacy and needs of foster parents. The plan shall recommend possible instruments and measures and identify any changes to general law or rule necessary for implementation.

Section 33. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 456.057, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.057 Ownership and control of patient records; report or copies of records to be furnished; disclosure of information.—

(7)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in s. 440.13(4)(c), such records may not be furnished to, and the medical condition of a patient may not be discussed with, any person other than the patient, the patient's legal representative, or other health care practitioners and providers involved in the patient's care or treatment, except upon written authorization from the patient. However, such records may be furnished without written authorization under the following circumstances:

1. To any person, firm, or corporation that has procured or furnished such care or treatment with the patient's consent.

2. When compulsory physical examination is made pursuant to Rule 1.360, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, in which case copies of the medical records shall be furnished to both the defendant and the plaintiff.

3. In any civil or criminal action, unless otherwise prohibited by law, upon the issuance of a subpoena from a court of competent jurisdiction and proper notice to the patient or the patient's legal representative by the party seeking such records.

4. For statistical and scientific research, provided the information is abstracted in such a way as to protect the identity of the patient or provided written permission is received from the patient or the patient's legal representative.

5. To a regional poison control center for purposes of treating a poison episode under evaluation, case management of poison cases, or compliance with data collection and reporting requirements of s. 395.1027 and the

professional organization that certifies poison control centers in accordance with federal law.

6. To the Department of Children and Families, its agent, or its contracted entity, for the purpose of investigations of or services for cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

Section 34. Section 409.141, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 35. Section 409.1677, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 36. Section 743.067, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

743.067 Certified unaccompanied homeless youths.—

(1) For purposes of this section, an “unaccompanied homeless youth” is an individual who is 16 years of age or older and is:

(a) Found by a school district’s liaison for homeless children and youths to be an unaccompanied homeless youth eligible for services pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11431-11435; or

(b) Believed to qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth, as that term is defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, by:

1. The director of an emergency shelter program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the director’s designee;

2. The director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or the director’s designee; or

~~3.— A clinical social worker licensed under chapter 491; or~~

~~4.— A circuit court.~~

3. A continuum of care lead agency, or its designee.

(2)(a) The State Office on Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families shall develop a standardized form that must be used by the entities specified in subsection (1) to certify qualifying unaccompanied homeless youth. The front of the form must include the circumstances that qualify the youth; the date the youth was certified; and the name, title, and signature of the certifying individual. This section must be reproduced in its entirety on the back of the form A minor who qualifies as an unaccompanied homeless youth shall be issued a written certificate documenting his or her status by the appropriate individual as provided in subsection (1). The certificate shall be issued on the official letterhead stationery of the person making the determination and shall include the date of the finding, a citation to this section, and the signature of the individual making the finding.

(b) A certified unaccompanied homeless youth may use the completed form to apply at no charge for an identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles pursuant to s. 322.051(9).

(c) A health care provider may accept the written certificate as proof of the minor's status as a certified ~~an~~ unaccompanied homeless youth and may keep a copy of the certificate in the youth's medical file.

(3) A certified ~~an~~ unaccompanied homeless youth may:

(a) Petition the circuit court to have the disabilities of nonage removed under s. 743.015. The youth shall qualify as a person not required to prepay costs and fees as provided in s. 57.081. The court shall advance the cause on the calendar.

(b) Notwithstanding s. 394.4625(1), consent to medical, dental, psychological, substance abuse, and surgical diagnosis and treatment, including preventative care and care by a facility licensed under chapter 394, chapter 395, or chapter 397 and any forensic medical examination for the purpose of investigating any felony offense under chapter 784, chapter 787, chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, for:

1. Himself or herself; or
2. His or her child, if the certified unaccompanied homeless youth is unmarried, is the parent of the child, and has actual custody of the child.

(4) This section does not affect the requirements of s. 390.01114.

Section 37. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

(1) The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university:

(f) A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence, a public or private transitional living program for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes a student who would otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph, as determined by a college or university, but for his or her residence in college or university dormitory housing.

Section 38. Subsection (1) of section 39.524, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.524 Safe-harbor placement.—

(1) Except as provided in s. 39.407 or s. 985.801, a dependent child 6 years of age or older who has been found to be a victim of sexual exploitation as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g) ~~s. 39.01(70)(g)~~ must be assessed for placement in a safe house or safe foster home as provided in s. 409.1678 using the initial screening and assessment instruments provided in s. 409.1754(1). If such placement is determined to be appropriate for the child as a result of this assessment, the child may be placed in a safe house or safe foster home, if one is available. However, the child may be placed in another setting, if the other setting is more appropriate to the child’s needs or if a safe house or safe foster home is unavailable, as long as the child’s behaviors are managed so as not to endanger other children served in that setting.

Section 39. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section 394.495, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

(p) Trauma-informed services for children who have suffered sexual exploitation as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g) ~~s. 39.01(70)(g)~~.

Section 40. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 409.1678, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.1678 Specialized residential options for children who are victims of sexual exploitation.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(c) “Sexually exploited child” means a child who has suffered sexual exploitation as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g) ~~s. 39.01(70)(g)~~ and is ineligible for relief and benefits under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. ss. 7101 et seq.

(6) LOCATION INFORMATION.—

(a) Information about the location of a safe house, safe foster home, or other residential facility serving victims of sexual exploitation, as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g) ~~s. 39.01(70)(g)~~, which is held by an agency, as defined in s. 119.011, is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption applies to such confidential and exempt information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

(b) Information about the location of a safe house, safe foster home, or other residential facility serving victims of sexual exploitation, as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g) ~~s. 39.01(70)(g)~~, may be provided to an agency, as defined in s.

119.011, as necessary to maintain health and safety standards and to address emergency situations in the safe house, safe foster home, or other residential facility.

Section 41. Subsection (5) of section 960.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

960.065 Eligibility for awards.—

(5) A person is not ineligible for an award pursuant to paragraph (2)(a), paragraph (2)(b), or paragraph (2)(c) if that person is a victim of sexual exploitation of a child as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g) ~~s. 39.01(70)(g)~~.

Section 42. Section 409.1679, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.1679 Additional requirements; reimbursement methodology.—

(1) Each program established under s. 409.1676 ~~ss. 409.1676 and 409.1677~~ must meet the following expectations, which must be included in its contracts with the department or lead agency:

(a) No more than 10 percent of the children served may move from one living environment to another, unless the child is returned to family members or is moved, in accordance with the treatment plan, to a less-restrictive setting. Each child must have a comprehensive transitional plan that identifies the child's living arrangement upon leaving the program and specific steps and services that are being provided to prepare for that arrangement. Specific expectations as to the time period necessary for the achievement of these permanency goals must be included in the contract.

(b) Each child must receive a full academic year of appropriate educational instruction. No more than 10 percent of the children may be in more than one academic setting in an academic year, unless the child is being moved, in accordance with an educational plan, to a less-restrictive setting. Each child must demonstrate academic progress and must be performing at grade level or at a level commensurate with a valid academic assessment.

(c) Siblings must be kept together in the same living environment 100 percent of the time, unless that is determined by the provider not to be in the children's best interest. When siblings are separated in placement, the decision must be reviewed and approved by the court within 30 days.

(d) The program must experience a caregiver turnover rate and an incidence of child runaway episodes which are at least 50 percent below the rates experienced in the rest of the state.

(e) In addition to providing a comprehensive assessment, the program must provide, 100 percent of the time, any or all of the following services that are indicated through the assessment: residential care; transportation; behavioral health services; recreational activities; clothing, supplies, and



miscellaneous expenses associated with caring for these children; necessary arrangements for or provision of educational services; and necessary and appropriate health and dental care.

(f) The children who are served in this program must be satisfied with the services and living environment.

(g) The caregivers must be satisfied with the program.

(2) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 409.141, The Department of Children and Families shall fairly and reasonably reimburse the programs established under s. 409.1676 ss. 409.1676 and 409.1677 based on a prospective per diem rate, which must be specified annually in the General Appropriations Act. Funding for these programs shall be made available from resources appropriated and identified in the General Appropriations Act.~~

Section 43. Subsection (11) of section 1002.3305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.3305 College-Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program for at-risk students.—

(11) STUDENT HOUSING.—~~Notwithstanding s. 409.176 ss. 409.1677(3)(d) and 409.176 or any other provision of law, an operator may house and educate dependent, at-risk youth in its residential school for the purpose of facilitating the mission of the program and encouraging innovative practices.~~

Section 44. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 456.057, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 483.181, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

483.181 Acceptance, collection, identification, and examination of specimens.—

(2) The results of a test must be reported directly to the licensed practitioner or other authorized person who requested it, and appropriate disclosure may be made by the clinical laboratory without a patient's consent to other health care practitioners and providers involved in the care or treatment of the patient as specified in s. 456.057(7)(a). The report must include the name and address of the clinical laboratory in which the test was actually performed, unless the test was performed in a hospital laboratory and the report becomes an integral part of the hospital record.

Section 45. The sum of \$250,000 from nonrecurring general revenue is appropriated to the Department of Children and Families the 2017-2018 fiscal year for the purpose of implementing a shared family care residential services pilot program to serve substance-exposed newborns and their families pursuant to s. 409.16742, Florida Statutes.

Section 46. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2017.