

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 745

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS DOUGHERTY, WHEELER, BLAND, COLEMAN AND DAYS.

Pre-filed December 1, 2003, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

2771S.04I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 210.025, 210.109, 210.110, 210.145, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160, 210.201, 210.211, 210.518, 210.565, 210.760, 211.031, 211.032, 211.059, 211.171, 211.181, 302.272, 402.199, 402.200, 402.205, 402.215, 402.217, 491.075, 492.304, 630.170, 660.317, and 701.336, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof fifty new sections relating to state foster care and protective services for children, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Sections 210.025, 210.109, 210.110, 210.145, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160, 210.201, 210.211, 210.518, 210.565, 210.760, 211.031, 211.032, 211.059, 211.171, 211.181, 302.272, 402.199, 402.200, 402.205, 402.215, 402.217, 491.075, 492.304, 630.170, 660.317, and 701.336, RSMo, are repealed and fifty new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 37.700, 37.705, 37.710, 37.715, 37.725, 37.730, 168.283, 208.647, 210.025, 210.109, 210.110, 210.111, 210.112, 210.113, 210.114, 210.127, 210.145, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160, 210.187, 210.188, 210.201, 210.211, 210.482, 210.487, 210.518, 210.535, 210.542, 210.565, 210.760, 210.762, 210.763, 211.031, 211.032, 211.059, 211.171, 211.181, 302.272, 402.199, 402.200, 402.205, 402.215, 402.217, 491.075, 492.304, 630.170, 660.317, 701.336, and 1, to read as follows:

37.700. As used in sections 37.700 to 37.725, the following terms mean:

(1) "Office", the office of the child advocate for children's protection and services within the office of administration, which shall include the child advocate and staff;

(2) "Recipient", any child who is receiving services from the department of social services or the department of mental health.

37.705. 1. There is hereby established within the office of administration the "Office of Child Advocate for Children's Protection and Services", for the purpose of assuring that children receive adequate protection and care from services and

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

programs offered by the department of social services or the department of mental health. The child advocate shall report directly to the commissioner of the office of administration.

2. The office shall be administered by the child advocate, who shall be appointed jointly by the governor and the chief justice of the Missouri supreme court with the advice and consent of the senate. The child advocate shall hold office for a term of six years and shall continue to hold office until a successor has been duly appointed. The advocate shall act independently of the department of social services and the department of mental health in the performance of his or her duties. The office of administration shall provide administrative support and staff as deemed necessary.

37.710. 1. The office shall have access to the following information:

(1) The names of all children in protective services, treatment, or other programs under the jurisdiction of the department of social services or the department of mental health, and their location;

(2) All written reports of child abuse and neglect; and

(3) All current records required to be maintained pursuant to chapters 210 and 211, RSMo.

2. The office shall have the authority:

(1) To communicate privately, by any means possible, with any child in treatment or under protective services and anyone working with the child, including the family, relatives, courts, employees of the department of social services and the department of mental health, and others providing treatment and services;

(2) To have access, including the right to inspect, copy and subpoena records held by the clerk of the juvenile or family court, juvenile officers, law enforcement agencies, institutions, public or private, and other agencies, or persons with whom a particular child has been either voluntarily or otherwise placed for care, or has received treatment within or without the state;

(3) To work in conjunction with juvenile officers and guardian ad litem;

(4) To file amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the interests of the parent or child;

(5) To initiate meetings with the department of social services, the department of mental health, and juvenile officers;

(6) To take whatever steps are appropriate to see that persons are made aware of the services of the child advocate's office, its purpose, and how it can be contacted; and

(7) To apply for and accept grants, gifts and bequests of funds from other states, federal and interstate agencies and independent authorities, and private firms, individuals and foundations, for the purpose of carrying out his or her

lawful responsibilities. The funds shall be deposited with the general treasurer in a restricted receipt account established within the office to permit funds to be expended in accordance with the provisions of the grant or bequest.

37.715. 1. The office shall establish and implement procedures for receiving, processing, responding to, and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of children of the departments' services relating to action, inaction, or decisions of providers or their representatives, of public or private child welfare agencies, of social service agencies, or of the courts which may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of such recipient.

2. The office shall establish and implement procedures for resolution of complaints.

3. The office shall have the authority to make the necessary inquiries and review such information and records as the office deems necessary.

4. The office may recommend to the relevant governmental agency changes in the rules and regulations adopted or proposed by such governmental agency which do or may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or civil or human rights of any recipient. The office shall make recommendations on changes to any current policies and procedures. The office shall analyze and monitor the development and implementation of federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies with respect to services in the state and shall recommend to the department, courts, general assembly, and governor changes in such laws, regulations and policies deemed by the office to be appropriate.

5. The office shall inform recipients, their guardians or their families of their rights and entitlements under state and federal laws and rules and regulations by means of the distribution of educational materials and group meetings.

6. The office shall annually submit to the governor, the general assembly, and the Missouri supreme court a detailed report analyzing the work of the office of the child advocate for children's protection and services.

37.725. 1. Any files maintained by the advocate program shall be disclosed only at the discretion of the office having authority over the disposition of such files, except that the identity of any complainant or recipient shall not be disclosed by the office unless:

(1) Such complainant or recipient, or the complainant's or recipient's legal representative, consents in writing to such disclosure; or

(2) Such disclosure is required by court order.

2. Any statement or communication made by the office relevant to a complaint received by, proceedings before or activities of the office and any complaint or information made or provided in good faith by any person, shall be absolutely privileged and such person shall be immune from suit.

3. Any representative of the office conducting or participating in any examination of a complaint who shall knowingly and willfully disclose to any person other than the office, or those authorized by the office to receive it, the name of any witness examined or any information obtained or given upon such examination, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. However, the office conducting or participating in any examination of a complaint shall disclose the final result of the examination with the consent of the recipient.

4. The office shall not be required to testify in any court with respect to matters held to be confidential in this section except as the court may deem necessary to enforce the provisions of sections 37.700 to 37.725, or where otherwise required by court order.

37.730. 1. Any program staff, whether an employee or an unpaid volunteer, shall be treated as a representative of the office. No representative of the office shall be held liable for good faith performance of his official duties under the provisions of sections 37.700 to 37.725 and shall be immune from suit for the good faith performance of such duties. Every representative of the office shall be considered a state employee pursuant to section 105.711, RSMo.

2. No reprisal or retaliatory action shall be taken against any recipient or employee of the departments or courts for any communication made or information given to the office. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

168.283. 1. The school district shall ensure that a criminal background check is conducted on any person employed after January 1, 2005, authorized to have contact with pupils and prior to the individual having contact with any pupil. This includes, but is not limited to, administrators, teachers, aides, paraprofessionals, assistants, secretaries, custodians, cooks, nurses, and bus drivers.

2. In order to facilitate the criminal history background check on any person employed after January 1, 2005, the applicant shall submit two sets of fingerprints collected pursuant to standards determined by the Missouri highway patrol. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository and the family care safety registry pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.936, RSMo, and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files.

3. The applicant shall pay the fee for the state criminal history record information pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo, and sections 210.900 to 210.936, RSMo, and pay the appropriate fee determined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the federal criminal history record when he or she applies for a position authorized to have contact with pupils pursuant to this section. The department shall distribute the fees collected for the state and federal criminal

histories to the Missouri highway patrol.

4. The applicant may be compensated by the employing school district if the school district policy should provide for reimbursement intended for state and federal criminal history information pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo.

5. If, as a result of the criminal history background check mandated by this section, it is determined that the holder of a certificate issued pursuant to section 168.021 has been charged with, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of a crime under the laws of this state, any other state, the United States, or any other country, regardless of imposition of sentence, such information shall be reported to the department of elementary and secondary education.

6. Any school official making a report to the department of elementary and secondary education in conformity with this section shall not be subject to civil liability for such action.

7. The state board of education may promulgate rules for criminal history background checks made pursuant to this section.

8. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo.

9. This section shall become effective January 1, 2005.

208.647. 1. Any child identified as having special health care needs that does not have access to affordable employer-subsidized health care insurance shall not be required to be without health care coverage for six months in order to be eligible for services pursuant to sections 208.631 to 208.657 and shall not be subject to the waiting period required pursuant to section 208.646, as long as the child meets all other qualifications for eligibility.

2. For purposes of this section, "special health care needs" shall be defined as a condition which left unmanaged may result in additional or secondary medical complications and which if not ameliorated may increase the total health care costs of the child or contribute to the death of the child.

210.025. 1. To qualify for receipt of state or federal funds for providing child-care services in the home either by direct payment or through reimbursement to a child-care beneficiary, an applicant and any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home shall be required to submit to a criminal background check pursuant to section 43.540, RSMo, and a check of the central registry for child abuse established in section 210.145. Effective January 1, 2001, the requirements of this subsection or subsection 2 of this section shall be satisfied through registration with the family care safety registry established in sections 210.900 to 210.936. Any costs associated with such checks shall be paid by the applicant.

2. Upon receipt of an application for state or federal funds for providing child-care services in the home, the [division of family services] **children's division** shall:

(1) Determine if a probable cause finding of child abuse or neglect involving the applicant or any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home has been recorded pursuant to section 210.221 or 210.145;

(2) Determine if the applicant or any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home has been refused licensure or has experienced licensure suspension or revocation pursuant to section 210.221 or 210.496; and

(3) **Upon initial application, require the applicant to submit to fingerprinting and** request a criminal background check of the applicant and any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home pursuant to section 43.540, RSMo, **and section 210.487.**

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of this section, upon completion of the background checks in subsection 2 of this section, an applicant shall be denied state or federal funds for providing child care if such applicant or any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home:

(1) Has had a probable cause finding of child abuse or neglect pursuant to section 210.145 **or section 210.152;**

(2) Has been refused licensure or has experienced licensure suspension or revocation pursuant to section 210.496;

(3) Has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any felony for an offense against the person as defined by chapter 565, RSMo, or any other offense against the person involving the endangerment of a child as prescribed by law; of any misdemeanor or felony for a sexual offense as defined by chapter 566, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for an offense against the family as defined in chapter 568, RSMo, with the exception of the sale of fireworks, as defined in section 320.110, RSMo, to a child under the age of eighteen; of any misdemeanor or felony for pornography or related offense as defined by chapter 573, RSMo; or of any similar crime in any federal, state, municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction of which the director has knowledge or any offenses or reports which will disqualify an applicant from receiving state or federal funds.

4. An applicant shall be given an opportunity by the division to offer any extenuating or mitigating circumstances regarding the findings, refusals or violations against such applicant or any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home listed in subsection 2 of this section. Such extenuating and mitigating circumstances may be considered by the division in its determination of whether to permit such applicant to receive state or federal funds for providing child care in the home.

5. An applicant who has been denied state or federal funds for providing child care in the home may appeal such denial decision in accordance with the provisions of section 208.080, RSMo.

6. If an applicant is denied state or federal funds for providing child care in the home based on the background check results for any person over the age of eighteen who is living in the applicant's home, the applicant shall not apply for such funds until such person is no

longer living in the applicant's home.

7. [Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. All rulemaking authority delegated prior to August 28, 1999, is of no force and effect and repealed. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or adopted prior to August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with all applicable provisions of law. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 1999, shall be invalid and void.] **Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2004, shall be invalid and void.**

210.109. 1. The **children's** division [of family services] shall establish a child protection system for the entire state.

2. The child protection system shall seek to promote the safety of children and the integrity and preservation of their families by conducting investigations or family assessments and providing services in response to reports of child abuse or neglect. The system shall endeavor to coordinate community resources and provide assistance or services to children and families identified to be at risk, and to prevent and remedy child abuse and neglect.

3. In addition to any duties specified in section 210.145, in implementing the child protection system, the division shall:

- (1) Maintain a central registry;
- (2) Receive reports and establish and maintain an information system operating at all times, capable of receiving and maintaining reports;
- (3) Attempt to obtain the name and address of any person making a report in all cases, after obtaining relevant information regarding the alleged abuse or neglect, although reports may be made anonymously;
- (4) Upon receipt of a report, check with the information system to determine whether previous reports have been made regarding actual or suspected abuse or neglect of the subject child, of any siblings, and the perpetrator, and relevant dispositional information regarding such previous reports;

(5) Provide protective or preventive services to the family and child and to others in the home to prevent abuse or neglect, to safeguard their health and welfare, and to help preserve and stabilize the family whenever possible. The juvenile court shall cooperate with the division in providing such services;

(6) Collaborate with the community to identify comprehensive local services and assure access to those services for children and families where there is risk of abuse or neglect;

(7) Maintain a record which contains the facts ascertained which support the determination as well as the facts that do not support the determination.

(8) Whenever available and appropriate, contract for the provision of children's division through private children's division providers and agencies in the community; except that the state shall be the sole provider of child abuse and neglect hotline services, the initial child abuse and neglect investigation, and the initial family assessment. The state shall be responsible for representation to the court for children in the custody of the division, but the division may contract for such services. Such private children's division providers and agencies shall be subject to criminal background checks pursuant to chapter 43, RSMo, and shall submit names of all employees to the family care safety registry.

As used in this subsection, "report" includes any telephone call made pursuant to section 210.145.

[4. By January 1, 1998, the division of family services shall submit documentation to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tem of the senate on the success or failure of the child protection system established in this section. The general assembly may recommend statewide implementation or cancellation of the child protection system based on the success or failure of the system established in this section.

5. The documentation required by subsection 4 of this section shall include an independent evaluation of the child protection system completed according to accepted, objective research principles.]

210.110. As used in sections 210.109 to 210.165, and sections 210.180 to 210.183, the following terms mean:

(1) "Abuse", any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed to be abuse;

(2) "Central registry", a registry of persons where the division has found probable cause to believe or a court has substantiated through court adjudication that the individual has committed child abuse or neglect or the person has pled guilty or has been found guilty of a crime pursuant to section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024 or 565.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crime pursuant to chapter 566,

RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or 568.090, RSMo, section 573.025 or 573.035, RSMo, or an attempt to commit any such crimes;

(3) "Child", any person, regardless of physical or mental condition, under eighteen years of age;

(4) **"Children's services providers and agencies", any public or private entity or community action agency with the appropriate and relevant training and expertise in delivering services to children and their families, and capable of providing direct services and other family services for children in the custody of the children's division or any such entities or agencies that are receiving state moneys for such services;**

(5) "Director", the director of the Missouri **children's** division [of family services];

[(5)] (6) "Division", the Missouri **children's** division [of family services];

[(6)] (7) "Family assessment and services", an approach to be developed by the [division of family services] **children's division** which will provide for a prompt assessment of a child who has been reported to the division as a victim of abuse or neglect by a person responsible for that child's care, custody or control and of that child's family, including risk of abuse and neglect and, if necessary, the provision of community-based services to reduce the risk and support the family;

[(7)] (8) "Investigation", the collection of physical and verbal evidence to determine if a child has been abused or neglected;

[(8)] (9) "Jail or detention center personnel", employees and volunteers working in any premises or institution where incarceration, evaluation, care, treatment or rehabilitation is provided to persons who are being held under custody of the law;

[(9)] (10) "Neglect", failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being;

[(10)] (11) "Probable cause", available facts when viewed in the light of surrounding circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or neglected;

[(11)] (12) "Report", the communication of an allegation of child abuse or neglect to the division pursuant to section 210.115;

[(12)] (13) "Those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child", those included but not limited to the parents or guardian of a child, other members of the child's household, or those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four-hour day. Those responsible for the care, custody and control shall also include any adult who, based on relationship to the parents of the child, members of the child's household or the family, has access to the child.

210.111. Any contracts entered into by the children's division with children's

services providers and agencies shall be in accordance with all federal laws and regulations and shall not result in a loss of federal funding. All children's services providers and agencies under contract with the division shall be subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to the provisions of such services.

210.112. By January 1, 2005, the children's division shall identify all children in the custody of the division currently receiving foster care services and shall report to the general assembly the type of foster care being provided, including but not limited to care provided in a licensed foster care home, institutional setting, residential setting, independent living setting, or kinship care setting, and the status of all such children. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the division to disclose the identity or precise location of any child in the custody of the division.

210.113. On or before January 15, 2006, and each January fifteenth through 2008, the division shall submit a report to the general assembly which shall include:

(1) Details about the specifics of the implementation of contracted services, including the number of children and families served through contracted services, the cost to the state for contracting such services, the current status of the children and families served through contracted services, an assessment of the quality of services provided through contracted services and outcomes achieved, uniform guidelines to evaluate the providers of contracted services, and an overall evaluation of privatization through the utilization of contracted services;

(2) An evaluation of the success of this privatization. The evaluation shall be based on objective, consistent and performance-based criteria;

(3) Any recommendations regarding the continuation of privatization of services; and

(4) Any information or recommendations directly related to the provision of direct services for children and their families that any of the contracting children's services providers and agencies request to have included in the report.

210.114. 1. It is the intent and goal of the general assembly to have the department attain accreditation by the council for accreditation for families and children's division.

2. The department shall implement a pilot program in three circuits to obtain accreditation in those circuits within three years. The department shall strive to have full accreditation for the children's services program within six years.

210.127. 1. If the location or identity of the natural parent or parents of a child in the custody of the division is unknown, the children's division, or its successor division, shall utilize all reasonable and effective means available to

conduct a diligent search for the biological parent or parents of such child.

2. For purposes of this section, "diligent search" means the efforts of the division, or an entity under contract with the division, to locate a biological parent whose identity or location is unknown, initiated as soon as the division is made aware of the existence of such parent, with the search progress reported at each court hearing until the parent is either identified and located or the court excuses further search.

210.145. 1. The division shall [establish and maintain] **develop protocols which give priority to:**

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

(2) **Promoting the preservation and reunification of children and families;**

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

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

2. Upon receipt of a report, the division shall immediately communicate such report to its appropriate local office and any relevant information as may be contained in the information system **and determine if the report merits an investigation or which, if true, would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following: section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, or 565.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crime under chapter 566, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or 568.090, RSMo, section 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or 573.040, RSMo, or an attempt to commit any such crimes.** The local division staff shall determine, through the use of protocols developed by the division, whether an investigation or the family assessment and services approach should be used to respond to the allegation. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child.

3. **The division shall utilize structured decision-making protocol for classification purposes of all child abuse and neglect reports. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child. All child abuse and neglect reports shall be initiated within twenty-four hours and shall be classified based upon the reported risk and injury to the child.**

4. The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of a report which division personnel determine merits an investigation, or,

which, if true, would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following: section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024 or 565.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crime under chapter 566, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or 568.090, RSMo, section 573.025, **573.035**, 573.037 or [573.045] **573.040**, RSMo, or an attempt to commit any such crimes. The local office shall provide such agency with a detailed description of the report received. In such cases the local division office shall request the assistance of the local law enforcement agency in all aspects of the investigation of the complaint. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall either assist the division in the investigation or provide the division, within twenty-four hours, an explanation in writing detailing the reasons why it is unable to assist.

[4.] **5.** The local office of the division shall cause an investigation or family assessment and services approach to be initiated immediately or no later than within twenty-four hours of receipt of the report from the division, except in cases where the sole basis for the report is educational neglect. If the report indicates that educational neglect is the only complaint and there is no suspicion of other neglect or abuse, the investigation shall be initiated within seventy-two hours of receipt of the report. If the report indicates the child is in danger of serious physical harm or threat to life, an investigation shall include direct observation of the subject child within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the report. Local law enforcement shall take all necessary steps to facilitate such direct observation. If the parents of the child are not the alleged abusers, a parent of the child must be notified prior to the child being interviewed by the division. The division shall not meet with the child [at the child's school] **in any school or child-care facility building where abuse of such child is alleged to have occurred.** When the child is reported absent from the residence, the location and the well-being of the child shall be verified.

[5.] **6.** The director of the division shall name at least one chief investigator for each local division office, who shall direct the division response on any case involving a second or subsequent incident regarding the same subject child or perpetrator. The duties of a chief investigator shall include verification of direct observation of the subject child by the division and shall ensure information regarding the status of an investigation is provided to the public school district liaison. The public school district liaison shall develop protocol in conjunction with the chief investigator to ensure information regarding an investigation is shared with appropriate school personnel. The superintendent of each school district shall designate a specific person or persons to act as the public school district liaison. Should the subject child attend a nonpublic school the chief investigator shall notify the school principal of the investigation. Upon notification of an investigation, all information received by the public school district liaison or the school shall be subject to the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C., Section 1232g, and federal

rule 34 C.F.R., Part 99.

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

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

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

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

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

[11.] 12. If the appropriate local division personnel determines to use a family assessment and services approach, the division shall:

(1) Assess any service needs of the family. The assessment of risk and service needs shall be based on information gathered from the family and other sources;

(2) Provide services which are voluntary and time-limited unless it is determined by the division based on the assessment of risk that there will be a high risk of abuse or neglect if the family refuses to accept the services. The division shall identify services for families where it is determined that the child is at high risk of future abuse or neglect. The division shall thoroughly document in the record its attempt to provide voluntary services and the reasons these services are important to reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect to the child. If the family continues to refuse voluntary services or the child needs to be protected, the division may commence an investigation;

(3) Commence an immediate investigation if at any time during the family assessment and services approach the division determines that an investigation, as delineated in sections

210.109 to 210.183, is required. The division staff who have conducted the assessment may remain involved in the provision of services to the child and family;

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

[12.] 13. Within thirty days of an oral report of abuse or neglect, the local office shall update the information in the information system. The information system shall contain, at a minimum, the determination made by the division as a result of the investigation, identifying information on the subjects of the report, those responsible for the care of the subject child and other relevant dispositional information. The division shall complete all investigations within thirty days, unless good cause for the failure to complete the investigation is documented in the information system. If the investigation is not completed within thirty days, the information system shall be updated at regular intervals and upon the completion of the investigation. The information in the information system shall be updated to reflect any subsequent findings, including any changes to the findings based on an administrative or judicial hearing on the matter.

[13.] 14. A person required to report under section 210.115 to the division shall be informed by the division of his right to obtain information concerning the disposition of his or her report. Such person shall receive, from the local office, if requested, information on the general disposition of his or her report. A person required to report to the division pursuant to section 210.115 may receive, if requested, findings and information concerning the case. Such release of information shall be at the discretion of the director based upon a review of the mandated reporter's ability to assist in protecting the child or the potential harm to the child or other children within the family. The local office shall respond to the request within forty-five days. The findings shall be made available to the mandated reporter within five days of the outcome of the investigation.

[14.] 15. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child the fact that a report may have been made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 shall not be admissible. However, nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the introduction of evidence from independent sources to support the allegations that may have caused a report to have been made.

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

[16.] 17. The **children's** division [of family services] is hereby granted the authority to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of section 207.021, RSMo, and chapter 536, RSMo, to carry out the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183.

[17.] 18. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if

applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2000, shall be invalid and void.

210.152. 1. All identifying information, including telephone reports reported pursuant to section 210.145, relating to reports of abuse or neglect received by the division shall be retained by the division and removed from the records of the division as follows:

(1) For investigation reports contained in the central registry, identifying information shall be retained by the division;

(2) For investigation reports [initiated by a person required to report pursuant to section 210.115,] where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for [ten] **five** years from the date of the report. [For all other investigation reports where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for two years from the date of the report.] Such report shall include any exculpatory evidence known by the division, including exculpatory evidence obtained after the closing of the case. At the end of such [two] **five**-year period, the identifying information shall be removed from the records of the division and destroyed;

(3) For reports where the division uses the family assessment and services approach, identifying information shall be retained by the division;

(4) For reports in which the division is unable to locate the child alleged to have been abused or neglected, identifying information shall be retained for ten years from the date of the report and then shall be removed from the records of the division.

2. Within ninety days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect that is investigated, the alleged perpetrator named in the report and the parents of the child named in the report, if the alleged perpetrator is not a parent, shall be notified in writing of any determination made by the division based on the investigation. The notice shall advise either:

(1) That the division has determined that there is probable cause to suspect abuse or neglect exists and that the division shall retain all identifying information regarding the abuse or neglect; that such information shall remain confidential and will not be released except to law enforcement agencies, prosecuting or circuit attorneys, or as provided in section 210.150; that the alleged perpetrator has sixty days from the date of receipt of the notice to seek reversal of the division's determination through a review by the child abuse and neglect review board as provided in subsection 3 of this section; or

(2) There is insufficient probable cause of abuse or neglect.

3. Individuals included in the central registry prior to the statewide implementation of family assessments in May of 1999, shall have the right to request a review of their case record to determine if the allegation would currently be classified as a family assessment rather than an investigation. If the allegation

would be classified as a family assessment, the individual's name shall be removed from the central registry.

4. Any person named in an investigation as a perpetrator who is aggrieved by a determination of abuse or neglect by the division as provided in this section may seek an administrative review by the child abuse and neglect review board pursuant to the provisions of section 210.153. Such request for review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the division's decision under this section. In those cases where criminal charges arising out of facts of the investigation are pending, the request for review shall be made within sixty days from the court's final disposition or dismissal of the charges.

[4.] 5. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board shall sustain the division's determination if such determination is supported by evidence of probable cause and is not against the weight of such evidence. **The abuse and neglect review board shall provide the alleged perpetrator with an opportunity to appear and present testimony.** The child abuse and neglect review board hearing shall be closed to all persons except the parties, their attorneys and those persons providing testimony on behalf of the parties.

[5.] 6. If the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board, the alleged perpetrator may seek de novo judicial review in the circuit court in the county in which the alleged perpetrator resides and in circuits with split venue, in the venue in which the alleged perpetrator resides, or in Cole County. If the alleged perpetrator is not a resident of the state, proper venue shall be in Cole County. The case may be assigned to the family court division where such a division has been established. The request for a judicial review shall be made within sixty days of the notification of the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board decision. In reviewing such decisions, the circuit court shall provide the alleged perpetrator the opportunity to appear and present testimony. The alleged perpetrator may subpoena any witnesses except the alleged victim or the reporter. However, the circuit court shall have the discretion to allow the parties to submit the case upon a stipulated record.

[6.] 7. In any such action for administrative review the child abuse and neglect review board shall notify the child or the parent, guardian or legal representative of the child that a review has been requested.

8. After a request for de novo judicial review has been filed pursuant to subsection 5 of section 210.152, the director of the department of social services may review the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board to determine if the decision is supported by sufficient legal evidence. After conducting the review, the director may reverse the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board at any time until a final judgment is entered by the circuit court.

210.153. 1. There is hereby created in the department of social services the "Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board", which shall provide an independent review of child abuse and neglect determinations in instances in which the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the

decision of the division of family services. The division [may] **shall** establish [more than one board] **a sufficient number of boards** to assure [timely review of the determination] **that cases are reviewed in a timely manner.**

2. The board shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and shall include:

- (1) A physician, nurse or other medical professional;
- (2) A licensed child or family psychologist, counselor or social worker;
- (3) An attorney who has acted as a guardian ad litem or other attorney who has represented a subject of a child abuse and neglect report;
- (4) A representative from law enforcement or a juvenile office.

3. Other members of the board may be selected from:

- (1) A person from another profession or field who has an interest in child abuse or neglect;
- (2) A college or university professor or elementary or secondary teacher;
- (3) A child advocate;
- (4) A parent, foster parent or grandparent.

4. The following persons may participate in a child abuse and neglect review board review:

- (1) Appropriate division of family services staff and legal counsel for the department;
- (2) The alleged perpetrator, who may be represented pro se or be represented by legal counsel. The alleged perpetrator's presence is not required for the review to be conducted. The alleged perpetrator may submit a written statement for the board's consideration in lieu of personal appearance; and

(3) Witnesses providing information on behalf of the child, the alleged perpetrator or the department. Witnesses shall only be allowed to attend that portion of the review in which they are presenting information.

5. The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.

6. All records and information compiled, obtained, prepared or maintained by the child abuse and neglect review board in the course of any review shall be confidential information.

7. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of the child abuse and neglect review board except as otherwise provided for in this section. These rules and regulations shall, at a minimum, describe the length of terms, the selection of the chairperson, confidentiality, notification of parties and time frames for the completion of the review.

8. Findings of probable cause to suspect child abuse and neglect by the division which are substantiated by court adjudication shall not be heard by the child abuse and neglect review board.

210.160. 1. In every case involving an abused or neglected child which results in a judicial proceeding, the judge shall appoint a guardian ad litem to appear for and represent:

(1) A child who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to sections 210.110 to 210.165, sections 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487, RSMo, or sections 453.005 to 453.170, RSMo, or proceedings to determine custody or visitation rights under sections 452.375 to 452.410, RSMo; or

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

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

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

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

5. The court may designate volunteer advocates, who may or may not be attorneys licensed to practice law, to assist in the performance of the guardian ad litem duties for the court. **The court shall have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons designated as volunteer advocates, which shall include court appointed special advocates, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.936, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are designated to represent.** The volunteer advocate shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any

agency or person [and], shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, **and upon designation by the court shall be informed of and have the right to attend any and all family support meetings involving the child.** Any such designated person shall receive no compensation from public funds. This shall not preclude reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

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

210.187. 1. The task force on children's justice established by the children's division to recommend improvements in the area of child abuse and neglect services and provide funding for such recommendations shall provide an independent review of policies and procedures of state and local child protective services agencies, and where appropriate, specific cases, and shall evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.

2. Consistent with the task force's function of reviewing applications for federal grant moneys available to the state under the Children's Justice Act which are designed to assist eligible states in implementing programs for the handling, investigation, and prosecution of child abuse cases, the task force shall consider the awarding of grant moneys which address the issues that arise from the independent review conducted by the task force pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. As authorized by the Children's Justice Act, grant moneys shall be awarded for the following categories:

(1) Improvements to the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect;

(2) Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques to improve the prompt and successful resolution of court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness and judicial administration action in child abuse and neglect cases; and

(3) Reform of state laws, rules, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse and neglect.

3. The members of the task force shall not disclose to any person or government official any identifying information concerning a specific child protection case with respect to which the task force is providing information and shall not make public other information unless authorized by state law.

4. The task force shall be provided:

(1) Access to information on cases that the task force desires or is requested to review if such information is necessary for the task force to carry out its functions pursuant to this section; and

(2) Upon request, assistance from the department of social services for the performance of the task force's duties.

210.188. Beginning February 1, 2005, and each February first thereafter, the department of social services shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly that includes the following information for the previous calendar year:

(1) The number of children who were reported to the state of Missouri during the year as abused or neglected;

(2) Of the number of children described in subdivision (1) of this section, the number with respect to whom such reports were substantiated or unsubstantiated;

(3) Of the number of children described in subdivision (2) of this section:

(a) The number that requested, but did not receive services during the year under state programs offered by the department of social services or through private service providers;

(b) The number that did receive services during the year under state programs offered by the department of social services or through private service providers; and

(c) The number that were removed from their families during the year by disposition of the case;

(4) The number of families that received preventive services from the state or a private service provider during the year;

(5) The number of deaths in the state during the year resulting from child abuse or neglect;

(6) Of the number of children described in subdivision (5) of this section, the number of children who were in foster care or received services from a private service provider;

(7) The number of child protective services workers responsible for the intake and screening of reports filed during the year;

(8) The agency response time to each such report with respect to initial investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect;

(9) The response time with respect to the provision of services to families and children where an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made;

(10) The number of child protective services workers responsible for intake, assessment, and investigation of child abuse and neglect reports relative to the number of reports investigated during the year;

(11) The number of children reunited with their families or receiving family preservation services that, within five years, result in subsequent substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, including the death of the child; and

(12) The number of children in foster care who have been adopted.

210.201. As used in sections 210.201 to 210.257, the following terms mean:

(1) "Child", an individual who is under the age of seventeen;

(2) "Child-care facility", a house or other place conducted or maintained by any person who advertises or holds himself out as providing care for more than four children during the daytime, for compensation or otherwise, except those operated by a school system or in connection with a business establishment which provides child care as a convenience for its customers or its employees for no more than four hours per day, but a child-care facility shall not include any private or religious organization elementary or secondary school, a religious organization academic preschool or kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children, a home school, as defined in section 167.031, RSMo, a weekly Sunday or Sabbath school, a vacation Bible school or child care made available while the parents or guardians are attending worship services or other meetings and activities conducted or sponsored by a religious organization. **If a facility or program is exempt from licensure based on the school exception established in this subdivision, such facility or program shall submit documentation annually to the department to verify its licensure-exempt status; except that, under no circumstances shall any private or religious organization elementary or secondary school, a religious organization academic preschool or kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children, a home school, as defined in section 167.031, RSMo, a weekly Sunday or Sabbath school, a vacation Bible school or child care made available while the parents or guardians are attending worship services or other meetings and activities conducted or sponsored by a religious organization be required to submit documentation annually to the department to verify its licensure-exempt status;**

(3) "Person", any person, firm, corporation, association, institution or other incorporated or unincorporated organization;

(4) "Religious organization", a church, synagogue or mosque; an entity that has or would qualify for federal tax-exempt status as a nonprofit religious organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; or an entity whose real estate on which the child-care facility is located is exempt from taxation because it is used for religious purposes.

210.211. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license granted by the department of health and senior services; except that nothing in sections 210.203 to 210.245 shall apply to:

(1) Any person who is caring for four or fewer children. For purposes of this subdivision, children who are related by blood, marriage or adoption to such person within the third degree shall not be considered in the total number of children being cared for;

(2) Any person who has been duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction the guardian of the person of the child or children, or the person who has legal custody of the

child or children;

(3) Any person who receives free of charge, and not as a business, for periods not exceeding ninety consecutive days, as bona fide, occasional and personal guests the child or children of personal friends of such person, and who receives custody of no other unrelated child or children;

(4) Any graded boarding school, summer camp, hospital, sanitarium or home which is conducted in good faith primarily to provide education, recreation, medical treatment, or nursing or convalescent care for children;

(5) Any child-care facility maintained or operated under the exclusive control of a religious organization. When a nonreligious organization, having as its principal purpose the provision of child-care services, enters into an arrangement with a religious organization for the maintenance or operation of a child-care facility, the facility is not under the exclusive control of the religious organization;

(6) Any residential facility or day program licensed by the department of mental health pursuant to sections 630.705 to 630.760, RSMo, which provides care, treatment and habilitation exclusively to children who have a primary diagnosis of mental disorder, mental illness, mental retardation or developmental disability, as defined in section 630.005, RSMo; and

(7) Any nursery school.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, no child-care facility shall be exempt from licensure if such facility receives any state or federal funds for providing care for children, except for federal funds for those programs which meet the requirements for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1766. Grants to parents for child care pursuant to sections 210.201 to 210.257 shall not be construed to be funds received by [the] **a person or facility listed in subdivisions (1) and (5) of subsection 1 of this section.**

210.482. 1. If the emergency placement of a child in a private home is necessary due to the unexpected absence of the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian, the juvenile court or the children's division:

(1) May request that a local or state law enforcement agency or juvenile officer immediately conduct a name-based criminal history record check to include full orders of protection and outstanding warrants of each person eighteen years of age or older residing in the home by using the Missouri uniform law enforcement system (MULES) and the National Crime Information Center to access the Interstate Identification Index maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(2) Shall determine, or in the case of the juvenile court request the division to determine, whether any person eighteen years of age or older residing in the home is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry.

2. If a name-based search has been conducted pursuant to subsection 1 of

this section, within five business days after the emergency placement of the child in the private home, and if the private home has not previously been approved as a foster or adoptive home, all persons eighteen years of age or older residing in the home shall report to a local law enforcement agency for the purpose of providing two sets of fingerprints each and accompanying fees, pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files. Results of the checks will be provided to the juvenile court or children's division office requesting such information. Any child placed in emergency placement in a private home shall be removed immediately if any person residing in the home fails to provide fingerprints after being requested to do so, unless the person refusing to provide fingerprints ceases to reside in the private home or the court determines that it is contrary to the best interest of the child to be removed.

3. If the placement of a child is denied as a result of a name-based criminal history check and the denial is contested, all persons eighteen years of age or older residing in the home shall, within five business days, submit to the juvenile court or the children's division two sets of fingerprints in the same manner described in subsection 2 of this section, accompanying fees, and written permission authorizing the juvenile court or the children's division to forward the fingerprints to the state criminal record repository for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files. The total cost of such fingerprinting shall be paid by the state.

4. For the purposes of this section, "emergency placement" refers to those limited instances when the juvenile court or children's division is placing a child in the home of private individuals, including neighbors, friends, or relatives, as a result of a sudden unavailability of the child's primary caretaker.

210.487. 1. When conducting investigations of persons for the purpose of foster parent licensing, the division shall:

(1) Conduct a search for any adult in the applicant's household for evidence of full orders of protection. The office of state courts administrator shall allow access to the automated court information system by the division. The clerk of each court contacted by the division shall provide the division information within ten days of a request; and

(2) Obtain two sets of fingerprints for any adult in the applicant's household in the same manner set forth in subsection 2 of section 210.482. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history

repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files. The highway patrol shall assist the division and provide the criminal fingerprint background information, upon request; and

(3) Determine whether any person eighteen years of age or older residing in the home is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry.

2. The division may make arrangements with other executive branch agencies to obtain any investigative background information.

3. The division may promulgate rules and regulations that are necessary to implement the provisions of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo.

210.518. 1. The department of social services, the department of mental health, the department of elementary and secondary education and all subdivisions thereof shall develop and implement through interagency agreement a common system of classification for assessing the needs of a child and common terminology to describe the services to be provided to the child. The agreement must establish a standardized form and set of records to be kept for such children which shall include, if applicable to such child, any individualized education plan, diagnostic summary, school history, school records, medical history, court records, placement orders and any criminal history. The agreement shall be adopted and in effect on or before July 1, 1999.

2. To facilitate the coordination of services being provided to children, interagency meetings pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall be held as frequently as appropriate to ensure the existence of a continuum of services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect, evaluate data, policy, and practices, and assure the quality of services provided to children. Contracted providers shall be included in these coordinating meetings if they provide relevant services.

210.535. The department of social services, shall:

(1) Submit amendments to state plans and seek available waivers from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to enhance federal reimbursement and federal administrative reimbursement for foster care and adoption assistance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and Title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

(2) Take the necessary steps to qualify the state for receipt of any federal block grant moneys which are or will be available for foster care and adoption assistance.

210.542. 1. The children's division shall provide certain standards and training that prospective foster care parents shall meet before becoming licensed.

2. The children's division shall provide performance-based criteria for the evaluation of licensed foster parents and may establish by rule the frequency of

such evaluation.

210.565. 1. Whenever a child is placed in a foster home **and the court has determined pursuant to subsection 3 of this section that foster home placement with relatives is not contrary to the best interest of the child**, the [division of family services] **children's division** shall give [preference and first consideration for] foster home placement to relatives of the child. Notwithstanding any rule of the division to the contrary, grandparents who request consideration shall be given preference and first consideration for foster home placement.

2. As used in this section, the term "relative" means a person related to another by blood or affinity within the third degree. The status of a grandparent shall not be affected by the death or the dissolution of the marriage of a son or daughter.

3. The preference for placement with relatives created by this section shall only apply where the court finds that placement with such relatives is in the best interest of the child considering all circumstances. **If the court finds that it is not in the best interest of a child to be placed with relatives, the court shall make specific findings on the record detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child necessitate placement of the child with persons other than relatives.**

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

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

210.760. 1. In making placements in foster care the **children's** division [of family services] shall:

- (1) Arrange for a preplacement visit of the child, except in emergencies;
- (2) Provide full and accurate medical information and medical history to the persons providing foster care at the time of placement;
- (3) Give a minimum of five days advance notice to the persons providing foster care before removing a child from their care;
- (4) Provide the persons giving foster care with a written statement of the reasons for removing a child at the time of the notification required by this section; [and]
- (5) **Notify the child's parent or legal guardian that the child has been placed in foster care, except where harm or danger to the child is imminent; and;**
- (6) Work with the [natural] parent **or legal guardian of the child**, through services available, in an effort to return the child to his natural home, if at all possible, or to place the child in a permanent adoptive setting, in accordance with the division's goals to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care and reestablish and encourage the family unit.

2. **Except as otherwise provided in section 210.125, no child shall be removed**

from school for placement in foster care without a court order specifying that the child shall be removed from school.

3. No employee of the division or any employee of a public or charter school within this state shall perform a strip search, as defined in section 544.193, RSMo, of any student of any such school without the signed permission of one of the student's parents or guardian.

(1) No strip search of any minor shall be performed outside the presence of any parent or guardian not otherwise the subject of an investigation of abuse or neglect if such parent or guardian requests to be present. Any qualified parent or guardian shall be notified of his or her right to request to be present.

(2) In addition, no employee of the division or any employee of a public or charter school shall direct a student to take part in, direct, or supervise a strip search of a fellow student. For purposes of this section, "employee" includes all temporary and part-time employees of the division or such public or charter schools.

(3) Any employee of the division or any employee of a public or charter school who violates the provisions of this section shall be immediately suspended without pay, pending an evidentiary hearing when such employee is entitled by statute to such a hearing.

210.762. 1. The children's division shall arrange for an initial team meeting immediately following the status conference held pursuant to section 211.032, RSMo, and additional team meetings prior to taking any action relating to the placement of a child in its custody except as otherwise provided in this section. Where the welfare of the child requires an immediate or emergency placement or change of placement, the division may make a temporary placement of a child in its custody. The division shall schedule a team meeting within seventy-two hours of the temporary placement of the child.

2. The parent or legal guardian of the child, the foster parents, the guardian ad litem, the juvenile officer, the caseworker, the court appointed special advocate, and any designee of the parent that has written authorization shall be notified and invited to participate in all team meetings. The team meeting may include such other persons whose attendance at the meeting may assist the team in making appropriate decisions in the best interests of the child. If the division finds that it is not in the best interest of a child to be placed with relatives, the division shall make specific findings in the division's report detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child necessitate placement of the child with persons other than relatives.

3. The department shall be responsible for developing a form to be signed upon the conclusion of the meeting pursuant to subsection 1 of this section confirming that all involved parties are aware of the team's decision regarding the

custody and placement of the child. Any dissenting views must be recorded and attested to on such form.

4. The children's division shall be responsible for including such form with the case records of the child.

210.763. Except as otherwise provided by law, all information provided at family support team meetings is confidential except that a parent may waive confidentiality. Any other party who does not agree to maintain confidentiality may be excluded from any portion of the meeting during which he or she is not providing information.

211.031. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the juvenile court or the family court in circuits that have a family court as provided in sections 487.010 to 487.190, RSMo, shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings:

(1) Involving any child or person seventeen years of age who may be a resident of or found within the county and who is alleged to be in need of care and treatment because:

(a) The parents, or other persons legally responsible for the care and support of the child or person seventeen years of age, neglect or refuse to provide proper support, education which is required by law, medical, surgical or other care necessary for his or her well-being; except that reliance by a parent, guardian or custodian upon remedial treatment other than medical or surgical treatment for a child or person seventeen years of age shall not be construed as neglect when the treatment is recognized or permitted pursuant to the laws of this state;

(b) The child or person seventeen years of age is otherwise without proper care, custody or support; or

(c) The child or person seventeen years of age was living in a room, building or other structure at the time such dwelling was found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a public nuisance pursuant to section 195.130, RSMo;

(d) The child or person seventeen years of age is a child in need of mental health services and the parent, guardian or custodian is unable to afford or access appropriate mental health treatment or care for the child;

(2) Involving any child who may be a resident of or found within the county and who is alleged to be in need of care and treatment because:

(a) The child while subject to compulsory school attendance is repeatedly and without justification absent from school; or

(b) The child disobeys the reasonable and lawful directions of his or her parents or other custodian and is beyond their control; or

(c) The child is habitually absent from his or her home without sufficient cause, permission, or justification; or

(d) The behavior or associations of the child are otherwise injurious to his or her welfare or to the welfare of others; or

(e) The child is charged with an offense not classified as criminal, or with an offense

applicable only to children; except that, the juvenile court shall not have jurisdiction over any child fifteen and one-half years of age who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic ordinance or regulation, the violation of which does not constitute a felony, or any child who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal ordinance or regulation prohibiting possession or use of any tobacco product;

(3) Involving any child who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance, or any person who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance prior to attaining the age of seventeen years, in which cases jurisdiction may be taken by the court of the circuit in which the child or person resides or may be found or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred; except that, the juvenile court shall not have jurisdiction over any child fifteen and one-half years of age who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic ordinance or regulation, the violation of which does not constitute a felony, or any child who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal ordinance or regulation prohibiting possession or use of any tobacco product;

(4) For the adoption of a person;

(5) For the commitment of a child or person seventeen years of age to the guardianship of the department of social services as provided by law.

2. Transfer of a matter, proceeding, jurisdiction or supervision for a child or person seventeen years of age who resides in a county of this state shall be made as follows:

(1) Prior to the filing of a petition and upon request of any party or at the discretion of the juvenile officer, the matter in the interest of a child or person seventeen years of age may be transferred by the juvenile officer, with the prior consent of the juvenile officer of the receiving court, to the county of the child's residence or the residence of the person seventeen years of age for future action;

(2) Upon the motion of any party or on its own motion prior to final disposition on the pending matter, the court in which a proceeding is commenced may transfer the proceeding of a child or person seventeen years of age to the court located in the county of the child's residence or the residence of the person seventeen years of age, or the county in which the offense pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of this section is alleged to have occurred for further action;

(3) Upon motion of any party or on its own motion, the court in which jurisdiction has been taken pursuant to subsection 1 of this section may at any time thereafter transfer jurisdiction of a child or person seventeen years of age to the court located in the county of the child's residence or the residence of the person seventeen years of age for further action with the prior consent of the receiving court;

(4) Upon motion of any party or upon its own motion at any time following a judgment of disposition or treatment pursuant to section 211.181, the court having jurisdiction of the cause may place the child or person seventeen years of age under the supervision of another juvenile court within or without the state pursuant to section 210.570, RSMo, with the consent of the receiving court;

(5) Upon motion of any child or person seventeen years of age or his or her parent, the court having jurisdiction shall grant a change of judge pursuant to Missouri supreme court rules, a change of venue to the family court or juvenile court of another judicial circuit pursuant to Missouri supreme court rules, or both;

(6) Upon the transfer of any matter, proceeding, jurisdiction or supervision of a child or person seventeen years of age, certified copies of all legal and social documents and records pertaining to the case on file with the clerk of the transferring juvenile court shall accompany the transfer.

3. In any proceeding involving any child or person seventeen years of age taken into custody in a county other than the county of the child's residence or the residence of a person seventeen years of age, the juvenile court of the county of the child's residence or the residence of a person seventeen years of age shall be notified of such taking into custody within seventy-two hours.

4. When an investigation by a juvenile officer pursuant to this section reveals that the only basis for action involves an alleged violation of section 167.031, RSMo, then the juvenile officer shall send the report to the school district in which the child resides. The school district shall immediately refer all private, parochial, or home school matters to the prosecuting attorney of the county where the child legally resides. The school district may refer public school violations of section 167.031, RSMo, to the prosecuting attorney. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted as authorizing a juvenile officer to take custody of a child or person seventeen years of age.

211.032. 1. When a child or person seventeen years of age, alleged to be in need of care and treatment pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, is taken into custody, the juvenile or family court shall **make reasonable efforts to** notify the [parties of the right to have a protective custody hearing. Such notification shall be in writing] **biological parents, the foster parents, and the grandparents of the child, the children's division worker, the child abuse and neglect hotline worker, and the guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocate for the child of the specific date, time, and place that a status conference will be held by the court. Such status conference shall be an open conference and shall be held within three days of the child being taken into custody, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The inability to provide notice to any of the persons listed in this subsection after reasonable efforts have been made or the absence of any such persons at the status conference shall not preclude the court from conducting the status conference as scheduled. The supreme court shall establish procedures for the status conference held pursuant to this subsection which shall include, but not be limited to, the following issues:**

(1) Whether the child can immediately be returned to the child's home. If a child could be returned to the home if support services are provided, such

services shall be ordered;

(2) Appointment of a guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocate for the child;

(3) Appointment of legal counsel;

(4) Whether paternity has been established or needs to be established;

(5) Service of process and the location of any absent parent;

(6) Whether reasonable efforts were made and documented by the division prior to the removal or emergency removal of the child and whether the safety issue justifying custody is documented;

(7) A contrary to welfare finding;

(8) Placement of the child and the availability of relatives of the child as the preferred placement;

(9) Whether the removal of the child necessitates a placement which will cause a disruption in the school currently attended by such child;

(10) Providing for visitation by the child's parents, siblings, or other family members where appropriate;

(11) The status of any temporary assistance for needy families benefits, Social Security benefits, or child support that is being received on behalf of the child; and

(12) Providing for any necessary evaluations, including medical or psychological evaluations.

A protective custody hearing may be requested at a status conference, and if requested, a date for such hearing shall be scheduled pursuant to subsection 2 of this section at the time of the status conference whenever possible.

2. Upon request from any party **or upon request during a status conference**, the court shall hold a protective custody hearing[. Such hearing shall be held within three] **within fourteen** days of the request for a hearing, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. **No continuances shall be granted for such protective custody hearing except upon a written motion for cause filed and signed by the party requesting the continuance and such party's attorney.**

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

the division.

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

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

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

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

211.059. 1. When a child is taken into custody by a juvenile officer or law enforcement official, with or without a warrant for an offense in violation of the juvenile code or the general law which would place the child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the child shall be advised prior to questioning:

(1) That he has the right to remain silent; and

(2) That any statement he does make to anyone can be and may be used against him; and

(3) That he has a right to have a parent, guardian or custodian present during questioning; and

(4) That he has a right to consult with an attorney and that one will be appointed and paid for him if he cannot afford one.

2. If the child indicates in any manner and at any stage of questioning pursuant to this section that he **or she** does not wish to be questioned further, **or that the child wishes to have his or her parent, legal guardian, custodian, or attorney present during questioning,** the officer shall cease questioning.

211.171. 1. **Except as otherwise provided in section 211.321,** the procedure to be followed at the hearing shall be determined by the juvenile court judge and may be as formal or informal as he or she considers desirable, consistent with constitutional and statutory requirements. The judge may take testimony and inquire into the habits, surroundings, conditions and tendencies of the child and the family to enable the court to render such order or judgment as will best promote the welfare of the child and carry out the objectives of this chapter.

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

3. The current foster parents of a child, or any preadoptive parent or relative currently providing care for the child, shall be provided with notice of, and an opportunity to be heard in, any permanency or other review hearing to be held with respect to the child. This subsection shall not be construed to require that any such foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative providing care for a child be made a party to the case solely on the basis of such notice and opportunity to be heard.

4. All cases of children shall be heard separately from the trial of cases against adults.

5. Stenographic notes or an authorized recording of the hearing shall be required if the court so orders [or], if requested by any party interested in the proceeding, **or in accordance with section 211.321.**

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

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

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

211.181. 1. When a child or person seventeen years of age is found by the court to come within the applicable provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall so decree and make a finding of fact upon which it exercises its jurisdiction over the child or person seventeen years of age, and the court may, by order duly entered, proceed as follows:

(1) Place the child or person seventeen years of age under supervision in his own home or in the custody of a relative or other suitable person after the court or a public agency or institution designated by the court conducts an investigation of the home, relative or person and finds such home, relative or person to be suitable and upon such conditions as the court may require;

(2) Commit the child or person seventeen years of age to the custody of:

(a) A public agency or institution authorized by law to care for children or to place them in family homes; except that, such child or person seventeen years of age may not be committed to the department of social services, division of youth services;

(b) Any other institution or agency which is authorized or licensed by law to care for children or to place them in family homes;

(c) An association, school or institution willing to receive the child or person seventeen years of age in another state if the approval of the agency in that state which administers the laws relating to importation of children into the state has been secured; or

(d) The juvenile officer;

(3) Place the child or person seventeen years of age in a family home;

(4) Cause the child or person seventeen years of age to be examined and treated by a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist and when the health or condition of the child or person seventeen years of age requires it, cause the child or person seventeen years of age to be placed in a public or private hospital, clinic or institution for treatment and care; except that, nothing contained herein authorizes any form of compulsory medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment of a child or person seventeen years of age whose parents or guardian in good faith are providing other remedial treatment recognized or permitted under the laws of this state;

(5) The court may order, pursuant to subsection 2 of section 211.081, that the child receive the necessary services in the least restrictive appropriate environment including home and community-based services, treatment and support, based on a coordinated, individualized treatment plan. The individualized treatment plan shall be approved by the court and developed by the applicable state agencies responsible for providing or paying for any and all appropriate and necessary services, subject to appropriation, and shall include which agencies are going to pay for and provide such services. Such plan must be submitted to the court within thirty days and the child's family shall actively participate in designing the service plan for the child or person seventeen years of age.

(6) The department of social services, in conjunction with the department of mental health, shall apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for such federal waivers as required to provide services for such children, including the acquisition of community-based services waivers.

2. When a child is found by the court to come within the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall so decree and upon making a finding of fact upon which it exercises its jurisdiction over the child, the court may, by order duly entered, proceed as follows:

(1) Place the child under supervision in his own home or in custody of a relative or other suitable person after the court or a public agency or institution designated by the court conducts an investigation of the home, relative or person and finds such home, relative or person to be suitable and upon such conditions as the court may require;

(2) Commit the child to the custody of:

(a) A public agency or institution authorized by law to care for children or place them in family homes; except that, a child may be committed to the department of social services, division of youth services, only if he is presently under the court's supervision after an adjudication under the provisions of subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031;

(b) Any other institution or agency which is authorized or licensed by law to care for children or to place them in family homes;

(c) An association, school or institution willing to receive it in another state if the approval of the agency in that state which administers the laws relating to importation of children into the state has been secured; or

(d) The juvenile officer;

(3) Place the child in a family home;

(4) Cause the child to be examined and treated by a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist and when the health or condition of the child requires it, cause the child to be placed in a public or private hospital, clinic or institution for treatment and care; except that, nothing contained herein authorizes any form of compulsory medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment of a child whose parents or guardian in good faith are providing other remedial treatment recognized or permitted under the laws of this state;

(5) Assess an amount of up to ten dollars to be paid by the child to the clerk of the court. Execution of any order entered by the court pursuant to this subsection, including a commitment to any state agency, may be suspended and the child placed on probation subject to such conditions as the court deems reasonable. After a hearing, probation may be revoked and the suspended order executed.

3. When a child is found by the court to come within the provisions of subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall so decree and make a finding of fact upon which it exercises its jurisdiction over the child, and the court may, by order duly entered, proceed as follows:

(1) Place the child under supervision in his own home or in custody of a relative or other suitable person after the court or a public agency or institution designated by the court conducts an investigation of the home, relative or person and finds such home, relative or person to be suitable and upon such conditions as the court may require;

(2) Commit the child to the custody of:

(a) A public agency or institution authorized by law to care for children or to place them in family homes;

(b) Any other institution or agency which is authorized or licensed by law to care for children or to place them in family homes;

(c) An association, school or institution willing to receive it in another state if the approval of the agency in that state which administers the laws relating to importation of children into the state has been secured; or

(d) The juvenile officer;

(3) Beginning January 1, 1996, the court may make further directions as to placement

with the division of youth services concerning the child's length of stay. The length of stay order may set forth a minimum review date;

(4) Place the child in a family home;

(5) Cause the child to be examined and treated by a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist and when the health or condition of the child requires it, cause the child to be placed in a public or private hospital, clinic or institution for treatment and care; except that, nothing contained herein authorizes any form of compulsory medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment of a child whose parents or guardian in good faith are providing other remedial treatment recognized or permitted under the laws of this state;

(6) Suspend or revoke a state or local license or authority of a child to operate a motor vehicle;

(7) Order the child to make restitution or reparation for the damage or loss caused by his offense. In determining the amount or extent of the damage, the court may order the juvenile officer to prepare a report and may receive other evidence necessary for such determination. The child and his attorney shall have access to any reports which may be prepared, and shall have the right to present evidence at any hearing held to ascertain the amount of damages. Any restitution or reparation ordered shall be reasonable in view of the child's ability to make payment or to perform the reparation. The court may require the clerk of the circuit court to act as receiving and disbursing agent for any payment ordered;

(8) Order the child to a term of community service under the supervision of the court or of an organization selected by the court. Every person, organization, and agency, and each employee thereof, charged with the supervision of a child under this subdivision, or who benefits from any services performed as a result of an order issued under this subdivision, shall be immune from any suit by the child ordered to perform services under this subdivision, or any person deriving a cause of action from such child, if such cause of action arises from the supervision of the child's performance of services under this subdivision and if such cause of action does not arise from an intentional tort. A child ordered to perform services under this subdivision shall not be deemed an employee within the meaning of the provisions of chapter 287, RSMo, nor shall the services of such child be deemed employment within the meaning of the provisions of chapter 288, RSMo. Execution of any order entered by the court, including a commitment to any state agency, may be suspended and the child placed on probation subject to such conditions as the court deems reasonable. After a hearing, probation may be revoked and the suspended order executed;

(9) When a child has been adjudicated to have violated a municipal ordinance or to have committed an act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, assess an amount of up to twenty-five dollars to be paid by the child to the clerk of the court; when a child has been adjudicated to have committed an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, assess an amount of up to fifty dollars to be paid by the child to the clerk of the court.

4. Beginning January 1, 1996, the court may set forth in the order of commitment the

minimum period during which the child shall remain in the custody of the division of youth services. No court order shall require a child to remain in the custody of the division of youth services for a period which exceeds the child's eighteenth birth date except upon petition filed by the division of youth services pursuant to subsection 1 of section 219.021, RSMo. In any order of commitment of a child to the custody of the division of youth services, the division shall determine the appropriate program or placement pursuant to subsection 3 of section 219.021, RSMo. Beginning January 1, 1996, the department shall not discharge a child from the custody of the division of youth services before the child completes the length of stay determined by the court in the commitment order unless the committing court orders otherwise. The director of the division of youth services may at any time petition the court for a review of a child's length of stay commitment order, and the court may, upon a showing of good cause, order the early discharge of the child from the custody of the division of youth services. The division may discharge the child from the division of youth services without a further court order after the child completes the length of stay determined by the court or may retain the child for any period after the completion of the length of stay in accordance with the law.

5. When an assessment has been imposed under the provisions of subsection 2 or 3 of this section, the assessment shall be paid to the clerk of the court in the circuit where the assessment is imposed by court order, to be deposited in a fund established for the sole purpose of payment of judgments entered against children in accordance with section 211.185.

302.272. 1. No person shall operate any school bus owned by or under contract with a public school or the state board of education unless such driver has qualified for a school bus permit under this section and complied with the pertinent rules and regulations of the department of revenue. A school bus permit shall be issued to any applicant who meets the following qualifications:

(1) The applicant has a valid state license issued under this chapter or has a license valid in any other state;

(2) The applicant is at least twenty-one years of age;

(3) The applicant has passed a medical examination, including vision and hearing tests, as prescribed by the director of revenue and, if the applicant is at least seventy years of age, the applicant shall pass the medical examination annually to maintain or renew the permit; and

(4) The applicant has successfully passed an examination for the operation of a school bus as prescribed by the director of revenue. The examination shall include, but need not be limited to, a written skills examination of applicable laws, rules and procedures, and a driving test in the type of vehicle to be operated. The test shall be completed in the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven. For purposes of this section classes of school buses shall comply with the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 (Title XII of Pub. Law 99-570).

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a school bus permit shall be renewed every three years and shall require the applicant to provide a medical examination as specified in subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of this section and to successfully pass a written skills examination as prescribed by the director of revenue in consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education. If the applicant is at least seventy years of age, the school bus permit shall be renewed annually, and the applicant shall successfully pass the examination prescribed in subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section prior to receiving the renewed permit. The director may waive the written skills examination on renewal of a school bus permit upon verification of the applicant's successful completion within the preceding twelve months of a training program which has been approved by the director in consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education and which is at least eight hours in duration with special instruction in school bus driving.

3. The fee for a new or renewed school bus permit shall be three dollars.

4. Upon the applicant's completion of the requirements of subsections 1, 2 and 3 of this section, the director of revenue shall issue a temporary school bus permit to the applicant until such time as a permanent school bus permit shall be issued following the record clearance as provided in subsection 6 of this section.

5. The director of revenue, to the best of the director's knowledge, shall not issue or renew a school bus permit to any applicant:

(1) Whose driving record shows that such applicant's privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been suspended, revoked or disqualified or whose driving record shows a history of moving vehicle violations;

(2) Who has pled guilty to or been found guilty of any felony or misdemeanor for violation of drug regulations as defined in chapter 195, RSMo; of any felony for an offense against the person as defined by chapter 565, RSMo, or any other offense against the person involving the endangerment of a child as prescribed by law; of any misdemeanor or felony for a sexual offense as defined by chapter 566, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for prostitution as defined by chapter 567, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for an offense against the family as defined in chapter 568, RSMo; of any felony or misdemeanor for a weapons offense as defined by chapter 571, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for pornography or related offense as defined by chapter 573, RSMo; or of any similar crime in any federal, state, municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction of which the director has knowledge;

(3) Who has pled guilty to or been found guilty of any felony involving robbery, arson, burglary or a related offense as defined by chapter 569, RSMo; or any similar crime in any federal, state, municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction within the preceding ten years of which the director has knowledge.

6. The [department of social services or the] Missouri highway patrol[, whichever has access to applicable records,] shall provide a record of clearance or denial of clearance for any applicant for a school bus permit for the [convictions] **offenses** specified in subdivisions (2)

and (3) of subsection 5 of this section. The Missouri highway patrol in providing the record of clearance or denial of clearance for any such applicant is authorized to obtain from the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information which might aid the Missouri highway patrol in providing such record of clearance or denial of clearance. The [department of social services or the] Missouri highway patrol shall provide the record of clearance or denial of clearance within thirty days of the date requested, relying on information available at that time, except that the [department of social services or the] Missouri highway patrol shall provide any information subsequently discovered to the department of revenue.

7. Beginning January 1, 2004, the director shall request that the department of social services determine whether the applicant is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry and shall require the applicant to submit two sets of fingerprints. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol in order to search the criminal history repository, and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files.

8. The applicant shall pay the fee for the state criminal history information pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo, and pay the appropriate fee determined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the federal criminal history record when he or she applies for the school bus permit pursuant to this section. The director shall distribute the fees collected for the state and federal criminal histories to the highway patrol.

9. The director may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 23, 2003, shall be invalid and void.

402.199. 1. The general assembly hereby finds and declares the following:

(1) It is an essential function of state government to provide basic support for persons with a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, whether the impairment is congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease;

(2) The cost of providing basic support for persons with a mental or physical impairment is difficult for many to afford and they are forced to rely upon the government to provide such support;

(3) Families and friends of persons with a mental or physical impairment desire to supplement, but not replace, the basic support provided by state government and other

governmental programs;

(4) The cost of medical, social or other supplemental services is often provided by families and friends of persons with mental or physical impairments, for the lifetime of such persons;

(5) It is in the best interest of the people of this state to encourage, enhance and foster the ability of families and friends of Missouri residents **and residents of adjacent states** with mental or physical impairments to supplement, but not to replace, the basic support provided by state government and other governmental programs and to provide for medical, social or other supplemental services for such persons;

(6) Permitting and assisting families and friends of Missouri residents **and residents of adjacent states** with mental or physical impairments to supplement, but not to replace, the basic support provided by state government and other governmental programs and to provide medical, social or other supplemental services for such persons as necessary and desirable for the public health, safety and welfare of this state.

2. In light of the findings and declarations described in subsection 1 of this section, the general assembly declares the purpose of the Missouri family trust to be the encouragement, enhancement and fostering of the provision of medical, social or other supplemental services for persons with a mental or physical impairment by family and friends of such persons.

402.200. As used in sections 402.199 to 402.220, the following terms mean:

- (1) "Board of trustees", the Missouri family trust board of trustees;
- (2) "Charitable trust", the trust established to provide benefits for individuals, as set forth in section 402.215;
- (3) "Department", the department of mental health;
- (4) "Disability", a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, whether the impairment is congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease, and where the impairment is verified by medical findings;
- (5) "Life beneficiary" or "**beneficiary**", a designated beneficiary of the Missouri family trust;
- (6) "Net income", the earnings received on investments less administrative expenses and fees;
- (7) "Principal balance", the fair market value of all contributions made to a particular account, less distributions, determined as of the end of the calendar month immediately preceding the occurrence giving rise to any determination of principal balance;
- (8) "Requesting party", the party desiring arbitration;
- (9) "Responding party", the other party in arbitration of a dispute regarding benefits to be provided by the trust;
- (10) "Successor trust", the trust established upon distribution by the board of trustees pursuant to notice of withdrawal or termination and administered as set forth in section 402.215;

(11) "Trust", the Missouri family trust established pursuant to sections 402.200 to 402.220;

(12) "Trustee", a member of the Missouri family trust board of trustees.

402.205. 1. The families, friends and guardians of persons who have a disability or are eligible for services provided by the department of mental health, or both, may participate in a trust which may supplement the care, support, and treatment of such persons pursuant to the provisions of sections 402.199 to 402.220. Neither the contribution to the trust for the benefit of a life beneficiary nor the use of trust income to provide benefits shall in any way reduce, impair or diminish the benefits to which such person is otherwise entitled by law; and the administration of the trust shall not be taken into consideration in appropriations for the department of mental health to render services required by law.

2. Unless otherwise prohibited by federal statutes or regulations, all state agencies shall disregard the trust as a resource when determining eligibility **of Missouri residents** for assistance under chapter 208, RSMo.

3. The assets of the board of trustees and assets held in trust pursuant to the provisions of sections 402.199 to 402.220 shall not be considered state money, assets of the state or revenue for any purposes of the state constitution or statutes. The property of the board of trustees and its income and operations shall be exempt from all taxation by the state or any of its political subdivisions.

402.215. 1. The board of trustees is authorized and directed to establish and administer the Missouri family trust **and to advise, consult with, and render services to departments and agencies of the state of Missouri and to other nonprofit organizations which qualify as organizations pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and which provide services to Missouri residents with a disability.** The board shall be authorized to execute all documents necessary to establish and administer the trust including the formation of a not-for-profit corporation created pursuant to chapter 355, RSMo, and to qualify as an organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code **of 1986, as amended.**

2. The trust documents shall include and be limited by the following provisions:

(1) The Missouri family trust shall be authorized to accept contributions from any source including trustees, personal representatives, personal custodians pursuant to chapter 404, RSMo, and other fiduciaries, **[other than directly] and, subject to the provisions of subdivision (11) of this subsection,** from the life beneficiaries and their respective spouses, to be held, administered, managed, invested and distributed in order to facilitate the coordination and integration of private financing for individuals who have a disability or are eligible for services provided by the Missouri department of mental health, or both, while maintaining the eligibility of such individuals for government entitlement funding. All contributions, and the earnings thereon, shall be administered as one trust fund; however, separate accounts shall be established for each designated beneficiary. The income earned,

after deducting administrative expenses, shall be credited to the accounts of the respective life beneficiaries in proportion to the principal balance in the account for each such life beneficiary, to the total principal balances in the accounts for all life beneficiaries.

(2) Every donor may designate a specific person as the life beneficiary of the contribution made by such donor. In addition, each donor may name a cotrustee, including the donor, and a successor or successors to the cotrustee, to act with the trustees of the trust on behalf of the designated life beneficiary; provided, however, a life beneficiary shall not be eligible to be a cotrustee or a successor cotrustee; provided, however, that court approval of the specific person designated as life beneficiary and as cotrustee or successor trustee shall be required in connection with any trust created pursuant to section 473.657, RSMo, or section 475.093, RSMo.

(3) The [trust] **cotrustee**, with the consent of the [cotrustee] **trust**, shall **from time to time, but not less frequently than** annually [agree on] **determine** the amount of income or principal or income and principal to be used to provide noncash benefits and the nature and type of benefits to be provided for the life beneficiary. Any net income which is not used shall be added to principal annually. [In the event that the trust and the donor, serving as the cotrustee, shall be unable to agree either on the amount of income or principal or income and principal to be used for or the benefits to be provided, then none of the income or principal shall be used.] In the event that the trust and the cotrustee[, other than the donor,] shall be unable to agree either on the amount of income or principal or income and principal to be used or the benefits to be provided, then either the trust or the cotrustee shall have the right to request that the matter be resolved by arbitration **which shall be conducted in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association**. The requesting party shall send a written request for arbitration to the responding party and shall in such request set forth the name, address and telephone number of such requesting party's arbitrator. The responding party shall, within ten days after receipt of the request for arbitration, set forth in writing to the requesting party the name, address and telephone number of the responding party's arbitrator. Copies of the request for arbitration and response shall be sent to the director of the department. If the two designated arbitrators shall be unable to agree upon a third arbitrator within ten days after the responding party shall have identified such party's arbitrator, then the director of the department shall designate the third arbitrator by written notice to the requesting and responding parties' arbitrators. The three arbitrators shall meet, **conduct a hearing**, and render a decision within thirty days after the appointment of the third arbitrator. A decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be binding upon the requesting and responding parties. Each party shall pay the fees and expenses of such party's arbitrator and the fees and expenses of the third arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties. **Judgment on the arbitrators' award may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction.**

(4) Any donor, during his or her lifetime, except for a trust created pursuant to section 473.657, RSMo, or section 475.093, RSMo, may revoke any gift made to the trust;

provided, however, any donor may, at any time, voluntarily waive the right to revoke. In the event that at the time the donor shall have revoked his or her gift to the trust the life beneficiary shall not have received any benefits provided by use of trust income or principal, then an amount equal to one hundred percent of the principal balance shall be returned to the donor. Any undistributed net income shall be distributed to the charitable trust. In the event that at the time the donor shall have revoked his or her gift to the trust the life beneficiary shall have received any benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal, then an amount equal to ninety percent of the principal balance shall be returned to the donor. The balance of the principal balance together with all undistributed net income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(5) Any acting cotrustee, except a cotrustee of a trust created pursuant to section 473.657, RSMo, or section 475.093, RSMo, other than the original donor of a life beneficiary's account, shall have the right, for good and sufficient reason upon written notice to the trust and the department stating such reason, to withdraw all or a portion of the principal balance. In such event, the applicable portion, as set forth **[below] in subdivision (7) of this subsection**, of the principal balance shall then be distributed to the successor trust and the balance of the principal balance together with any undistributed net income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(6) In the event that a life beneficiary for whose benefit a contribution or contributions shall have been made to the family trust, **[except a cotrustee of a trust created pursuant to section 473.657, RSMo, or section 475.093, RSMo,]** shall **[move from the state of Missouri or otherwise]** cease to be eligible for services provided by the department of mental health and neither the donor nor the then acting cotrustee, **except a cotrustee of a trust created pursuant to section 473.657, RSMo**, or section 475.093, RSMo, shall revoke or withdraw **[all] the applicable portion, as set forth in subdivision (7) of this subsection**, of the principal balance, then the board of trustees may, by written notice to such donor or acting cotrustee, terminate the trust as to such beneficiary and thereupon shall distribute the applicable portion, as set forth **[herein] in subdivision (7) of this subsection**, of the principal balance, to the trustee of the successor trust to be held, administered and distributed by such trustee in accordance with the provisions of the successor trust described in subdivision **[(10)] (12)** of this subsection.

(7) If at the time of withdrawal or termination as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection of a life beneficiary's account from the trust either the life beneficiary shall not have received any benefits provided by the use of the trust income or principal or the life beneficiary shall have received benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal for a period of not more than five years from the date a contribution shall have first been made to the trust for such life beneficiary, then an amount equal to ninety percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to the successor trust, and the balance of the principal balance together with all undistributed net income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust; provided, however, if the life beneficiary at the time of such withdrawal by the cotrustee or

termination as provided above shall have received any benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal for a period of more than five years from the date a contribution shall have first been made to the trust for such life beneficiary, then an amount equal to seventy-five percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to the successor trust, and the balance of the principal balance together with all undistributed net income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(8) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (9) of this subsection, if the life beneficiary dies before receiving any benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal, then an amount equal to one hundred percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons as the donor shall have designated. Any undistributed net income shall be distributed to the charitable trust. If at the time of death of the life beneficiary, the life beneficiary shall have been receiving benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal or income and principal, then, in such event, an amount equal to seventy-five percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons as the donor designated, and the balance of the principal balance, together with all undistributed net income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(9) In the event the trust is created as a result of a distribution from a personal representative of an estate of which the life beneficiary is a distributee, then if the life beneficiary dies before receiving any benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal, an amount equal to one hundred percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons who are the life beneficiary's heirs at law. [The balance, if any, of the principal balance, together with all] **Any** undistributed income shall be distributed to the charitable trust. If at the time of death of the life beneficiary the life beneficiary shall have been receiving benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal or income and principal, then, an amount equal to seventy-five percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons who are the life beneficiary's heirs at law. The balance of the principal balance, together with all undistributed income shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(10) In the event the trust is created as a result of the recovery of damages by reason of a personal injury to the life beneficiary, then if the life beneficiary dies before receiving any benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal, the state of Missouri shall receive all amounts remaining in the life beneficiary's account up to an amount equal to the total medical assistance paid on behalf of such life beneficiary under a state plan under Title 42 of the United States Code, and then to the extent there is any amount remaining in the life beneficiary's account, an amount equal to one hundred percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons who are the life beneficiary's heirs at law. **If there are no heirs**, the balance, if any, of the principal balance, together with all undistributed income shall be distributed to the charitable trust. If at the time of death of the life beneficiary the life beneficiary should have been receiving benefits provided by the use of trust income or principal or income and principal then the state of Missouri shall

receive all amounts remaining in the life beneficiary's account up to an amount equal to the total medical assistance paid on behalf of such life beneficiary under a state plan under Title 42 of the United States Code, and then to the extent there is any amount remaining in the life beneficiary's account, an amount equal to seventy-five percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons who are the life beneficiary's heirs at law. **If there are no heirs**, the balance of the principal balance, together with all undistributed income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(11) In the event an account is established with the assets of the beneficiary by the beneficiary, a family member, the beneficiary's guardian, or pursuant to a court order, all in accordance with Title 42 of the United States Code Section 1396p(d)(4)(C), then upon the death of the life beneficiary the state of Missouri shall receive all amounts remaining in the life beneficiary's account up to an amount equal to the total medical assistance paid on behalf of such life beneficiary under a state plan under Title 42 of the United States Code, and then to the extent there is any amount remaining in the life beneficiary's account, an amount equal to seventy-five percent of the principal balance shall be distributed to such person or persons who are the life beneficiary's heirs at law. If there are no heirs, the balance of the principal balance, together with all undistributed income, shall be distributed to the charitable trust.

(12) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (4) to (8) of this subsection to the contrary, the donor may voluntarily agree to a smaller percentage of the principal balance in any account established by such donor than is provided in this subsection to be returned to the donor or distributed to the successor trust, as the case may be; and a corresponding larger percentage of the principal balance in such account to be distributed either to the charitable trust or to a designated restricted account within the charitable trust.

(13) Upon receipt of a notice of withdrawal from a designated cotrustee, other than the original donor, and a determination by the board of trustees that the reason for such withdrawal is good and sufficient, or upon the issuance of notice of termination by the board of trustees, the board of trustees shall distribute and pay over to the designated trustee of the successor trust the applicable portion of the principal balance **as set forth in subdivision (7) of this subsection**; provided, however, that court approval of distribution to a successor trustee shall be required in connection with any trust created pursuant to section 473.657, RSMo, or section 475.093, RSMo. The designated trustee of the successor trust shall hold, administer and distribute the principal and income of the successor trust, in the discretion of such trustee, for the maintenance, support, health, education and general well-being of the beneficiary, recognizing that it is the purpose of the successor trust to supplement, not replace, any government benefits for the beneficiary's basic support to which such beneficiary may be entitled and to increase the quality of such beneficiary's life by providing the beneficiary with those amenities which cannot otherwise be provided by public

assistance or entitlements or other available sources. Permissible expenditures include, but are not limited to, more sophisticated dental, medical and diagnostic work or treatment than is otherwise available from public assistance, private rehabilitative training, supplementary education aid, entertainment, periodic vacations and outings, expenditures to foster the interests, talents and hobbies of the beneficiary, and expenditures to purchase personal property and services which will make life more comfortable and enjoyable for the beneficiary but which will not defeat his or her eligibility for public assistance. Expenditures may include payment of the funeral and burial costs of the beneficiary. The designated trustee, in his or her discretion, may make payments from time to time for a person to accompany the beneficiary on vacations and outings and for the transportation of the beneficiary or of friends and relatives of the beneficiary to visit the beneficiary. Any undistributed income shall be added to the principal from time to time. Expenditures shall not be made for the primary support or maintenance of the beneficiary, including basic food, shelter and clothing, if, as a result, the beneficiary would no longer be eligible to receive public benefits or assistance to which the beneficiary is then entitled. After the death and burial of the beneficiary, the remaining balance of the successor trust shall be distributed to such person or persons as the donor shall have designated.

~~[(12)]~~ **(14)** The charitable trust shall be administered as part of the family trust, but as a separate account. The income attributable to the charitable trust shall be used to provide benefits for individuals who have a disability or who are eligible for services provided by or through the department and who either have no immediate family or whose immediate family, in the reasonable opinion of the trustees, is financially unable to make a contribution to the trust sufficient to provide benefits for such individuals, while maintaining such individuals' eligibility for government entitlement funding. As used in this section, the term "immediate family" includes parents, children and siblings. The individuals to be beneficiaries of the charitable trust shall be recommended to the trustees by the department and others from time to time. The trustees shall annually ~~[agree on]~~ **determine** the amount of charitable trust income to be used to provide benefits and the nature and type of benefits to be provided for each identified beneficiary of the charitable trust. Any income not used shall be added to principal annually.

(15) Any person, with the consent of the board of trustees, may establish a restricted account within the charitable trust and shall be permitted to determine, with the consent of the board of trustees, the beneficiaries of such restricted account provided such beneficiaries qualify as participants of the trust as set forth in subsection 1 of section 402.305.

402.217. 1. No beneficiary shall have any vested or property rights or interests in the family trust, nor shall any beneficiary have the power to anticipate, assign, convey, alienate, or otherwise encumber any interest in the income or principal of the family trust, nor shall such income or the principal or any interest of any beneficiary thereunder be liable for any debt incurred by such beneficiary, nor shall the principal or income of the family trust be

subject to seizure by any creditor or any beneficiary under any writ or proceeding in law or in equity.

2. Except for the right of a donor to revoke any gift made to the trust, pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection 2 of section 402.215, and the right of any acting cotrustee, other than the original donor, to withdraw all or a portion of the [original contribution] **principal balance**, pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 402.215, neither the donor nor any acting cotrustee shall have the right to sell, assign, convey, alienate or otherwise encumber, for consideration or otherwise, any interest in the income or principal of the family trust, nor shall such income or the principal or any interest of any beneficiary thereunder be liable for any debt incurred by the donor or any acting cotrustee, nor shall the principal or income of the family trust be subject to seizure by any creditor of any donor or any acting cotrustee under any writ or proceeding in law or in equity.

491.075. 1. A statement made by a child under the age of [twelve] **fourteen** relating to an offense under chapter 565, 566 or 568, RSMo, performed with or on a child by another, not otherwise admissible by statute or court rule, is admissible in evidence in criminal proceedings in the courts of this state as substantive evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted if:

(1) The court finds, in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury that the time, content and circumstances of the statement provide sufficient indicia of reliability; and

(2) (a) The child testifies at the proceedings; or

(b) The child is unavailable as a witness; or

(c) The child is otherwise physically available as a witness but the court finds that the significant emotional or psychological trauma which would result from testifying in the personal presence of the defendant makes the child unavailable as a witness at the time of the criminal proceeding.

2. Notwithstanding subsection 1 of this section or any provision of law or rule of evidence requiring corroboration of statements, admissions or confessions of the defendant, and notwithstanding any prohibition of hearsay evidence, a statement by a child when under the age of [twelve] **fourteen** who is alleged to be victim of an offense under chapter 565, 566 or 568, RSMo, is sufficient corroboration of a statement, admission or confession regardless of whether or not the child is available to testify regarding the offense.

3. A statement may not be admitted under this section unless the prosecuting attorney makes known to the accused or [his] **the accused's** counsel his **or her** intention to offer the statement and the particulars of the statement sufficiently in advance of the proceedings to provide the accused or [his] **the accused's** counsel with a fair opportunity to prepare to meet the statement.

4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the admissibility of statements, admissions or confessions otherwise admissible by law.

492.304. 1. In addition to the admissibility of a statement under the provisions of section 492.303, the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of a child

when under the age of [twelve] **fourteen** who is alleged to be a victim of an offense under the provisions of chapter 565, 566 or 568, RSMo, is admissible into evidence if:

(1) No attorney for either party was present when the statement was made; **except that, for any statement taken at a state-funded child assessment center as provided for in subsection 2 of section 210.001, RSMo, an attorney representing the state of Missouri in a criminal investigation may, as a member of a multidisciplinary investigation team, observe the taking of such statement, but such attorney shall not be present in the room where the interview is being conducted;**

(2) The recording is both visual and aural and is recorded on film or videotape or by other electronic means;

(3) The recording equipment was capable of making an accurate recording, the operator of the equipment was competent, and the recording is accurate and has not been altered;

(4) The statement was not made in response to questioning calculated to lead the child to make a particular statement or to act in a particular way;

(5) Every voice on the recording is identified;

(6) The person conducting the interview of the child in the recording is present at the proceeding and available to testify or be cross-examined by either party; and

(7) The defendant or the attorney for the defendant is afforded an opportunity to view the recording before it is offered into evidence.

2. If the child does not testify at the proceeding, the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of the child shall not be admissible under this section unless the recording qualifies for admission under section 491.075, RSMo.

3. If the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of a child is admissible under this section and the child testifies at the proceeding, it shall be admissible in addition to the testimony of the child at the proceeding whether or not it repeats or duplicates the child's testimony.

4. As used in this section, a nonverbal statement shall be defined as any demonstration of the child by his or her actions, facial expressions, demonstrations with a doll or other visual aid whether or not this demonstration is accompanied by words.

630.170. 1. A person who is listed on the department of mental health disqualification registry pursuant to this section, who is listed on the department of social services or the department of health and senior services employee disqualification list pursuant to section 660.315, RSMo, or who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime pursuant to section 630.155 or 630.160 shall be disqualified from holding any position in any public or private facility or day program operated, funded or licensed by the department or in any mental health facility or mental health program in which people are admitted on a voluntary or involuntary basis or are civilly detained pursuant to chapter 632, RSMo.

2. A person who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felony

offense against persons as defined in chapter 565, RSMo; any felony sexual offense as defined in chapter 566, RSMo; any felony offense defined in section 568.020, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 569.020, 569.025, 569.030, 569.035, 569.040, 569.050, 569.070, or 569.160, RSMo, or of an equivalent felony offense, or who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any violation of subsection 3 of section 198.070, RSMo, shall be disqualified from holding any direct-care position in any public or private facility, day program, residential facility or specialized service operated, funded or licensed by the department or any mental health facility or mental health program in which people are admitted on a voluntary basis or are civilly detained pursuant to chapter 632, RSMo.

3. A person who has received a suspended imposition of sentence or a suspended execution of sentence following a plea of guilty to any of the disqualifying crimes listed in subsection 1 or 2 of this section shall remain disqualified.

4. Any person disqualified pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 or 2 of this section may seek an exception to the **employment** disqualification from the director of the department or the director's designee. The request shall be written and may not be made more than once every twelve months. The request may be granted by the director or designee if in the judgment of the director or designee a clear showing has been made by written submission only, that the person will not commit any additional acts for which the person had originally been disqualified for or any other acts that would be harmful to a patient, resident or client of a facility, program or service. The director or designee may grant an exception subject to any conditions deemed appropriate and failure to comply with such terms may result in the person again being disqualified. Decisions by the director or designee pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall not be subject to appeal. The right to request an exception pursuant to this subsection shall not apply to persons who are disqualified due to being listed on the department of social services or department of health and senior services employee disqualification list pursuant to section 660.315, RSMo, nor to persons disqualified from employment due to any crime pursuant to the provisions of chapter 566, RSMo, or section 565.020, [565.021,] 568.020, 568.060, 569.025, or 569.070, RSMo.

5. An applicant for a direct care position in any public or private facility, day program, residential facility, or specialized service operated, funded, or licensed by the department or any mental health facility or mental health program in which people are admitted on a voluntary basis or are civilly detained pursuant to chapter 632, RSMo, shall:

(1) Sign a consent form as required by section 43.540, RSMo, to provide written consent for a criminal record review;

(2) Disclose the applicant's criminal history. For the purposes of this subdivision "criminal history" includes any suspended imposition of sentence, any suspended execution of sentence, or any period of probation or parole; and

(3) Disclose if the applicant is listed on the employee disqualification list as provided in section 660.315, RSMo, or the department of mental health disqualification registry as provided for in this section.

6. Any person who has received a good cause waiver issued by the division of senior services or its predecessor under subsection 9 of section 660.317, RSMo, shall not require an additional exception under this section in order to be employed in a long-term care facility licensed under chapter 198, RSMo.

7. Any public or private residential facility, day program, or specialized service licensed, certified, or funded by the department shall, not later than two working days after hiring any person for a full-time, part-time, or temporary position that will have contact with clients, residents, or patients:

(1) Request a criminal background check as provided in section 43.540, RSMo;

(2) Make an inquiry to the department of social services and department of health and senior services to determine whether the person is listed on the employee disqualification list as provided in section 660.315, RSMo; and

(3) Make an inquiry to the department of mental health to determine whether the person is listed on the disqualification registry as provided in this section.

8. An applicant who knowingly fails to disclose his or her criminal history as required in subsection 5 of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. A provider is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if the provider hires a person to hold a direct care position knowing that such person has been disqualified pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 or 2 of this section.

9. The department may maintain a disqualification registry and place on the registry the names of any persons who have been finally determined by the department to be disqualified pursuant to this section, or who have had administrative substantiations made against them for abuse or neglect pursuant to department rule. Such list shall reflect that the person is barred from holding any position in any public or private facility or day program operated, funded or licensed by the department, or any mental health facility or mental health program in which persons are admitted on a voluntary basis or are civilly detained pursuant to chapter 632, RSMo.

660.317. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "provider" means any person, corporation or association who:

(1) Is licensed as an operator pursuant to chapter 198, RSMo;

(2) Provides in-home services under contract with the department;

(3) Employs nurses or nursing assistants for temporary or intermittent placement in health care facilities;

(4) Is an entity licensed pursuant to chapter 197, RSMo[;

(5) Is a public or private facility, day program, residential facility or specialized service operated, funded or licensed by the department of mental health]; or

~~[(6)]~~ **(5)** Is a licensed adult day care provider.

2. For the purpose of this section "patient or resident" has the same meaning as such term is defined in section 43.540, RSMo.

3. Prior to allowing any person who has been hired as a full-time, part-time or

temporary position to have contact with any patient or resident the provider shall, or in the case of temporary employees hired through or contracted for an employment agency, the employment agency shall prior to sending a temporary employee to a provider:

(1) Request a criminal background check as provided in section 43.540, RSMo. Completion of an inquiry to the highway patrol for criminal records that are available for disclosure to a provider for the purpose of conducting an employee criminal records background check shall be deemed to fulfill the provider's duty to conduct employee criminal background checks pursuant to this section; except that, completing the inquiries pursuant to this subsection shall not be construed to exempt a provider from further inquiry pursuant to common law requirements governing due diligence. If an applicant has not resided in this state for five consecutive years prior to the date of his or her application for employment, the provider shall request a nationwide check for the purpose of determining if the applicant has a prior criminal history in other states. The fingerprint cards and any required fees shall be sent to the highway patrol's criminal records division. The first set of fingerprints shall be used for searching the state repository of criminal history information. If no identification is made, the second set of fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, for the searching of the federal criminal history files. The patrol shall notify the submitting state agency of any criminal history information or lack of criminal history information discovered on the individual. The provisions relating to applicants for employment who have not resided in this state for five consecutive years shall apply only to persons who have no employment history with a licensed Missouri facility during that five-year period. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 610.120, RSMo, all records related to any criminal history information discovered shall be accessible and available to the provider making the record request; and

(2) Make an inquiry to the department of health and senior services whether the person is listed on the employee disqualification list as provided in section 660.315.

4. When the provider requests a criminal background check pursuant to section 43.540, RSMo, the requesting entity may require that the applicant reimburse the provider for the cost of such record check. When a provider requests a nationwide criminal background check pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section, the total cost to the provider of any background check required pursuant to this section shall not exceed five dollars which shall be paid to the state. State funding and the obligation of a provider to obtain a nationwide criminal background check shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

5. An applicant for a position to have contact with patients or residents of a provider shall:

(1) Sign a consent form as required by section 43.540, RSMo, so the provider may request a criminal records review;

(2) Disclose the applicant's criminal history. For the purposes of this subdivision "criminal history" includes any conviction or a plea of guilty to a misdemeanor or felony

charge and shall include any suspended imposition of sentence, any suspended execution of sentence or any period of probation or parole; and

(3) Disclose if the applicant is listed on the employee disqualification list as provided in section 660.315.

6. An applicant who knowingly fails to disclose his or her criminal history as required in subsection 5 of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. A provider is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if the provider knowingly hires or retains a person to have contact with patients or residents and the person has been convicted of, pled guilty to or nolo contendere in this state or any other state or has been found guilty of a crime, which if committed in Missouri would be a class A or B felony violation of chapter 565, 566 or 569, RSMo, or any violation of subsection 3 of section 198.070, RSMo, or section 568.020, RSMo.

7. Any in-home services provider agency or home health agency shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if such agency knowingly employs a person to provide in-home services or home health services to any in-home services client or home health patient and such person either refuses to register with the family care safety registry or is listed on any of the background check lists in the family care safety registry pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, RSMo.

8. The highway patrol shall examine whether protocols can be developed to allow a provider to request a statewide fingerprint criminal records review check through local law enforcement agencies.

9. A provider may use a private investigatory agency rather than the highway patrol to do a criminal history records review check, and alternatively, the applicant pays the private investigatory agency such fees as the provider and such agency shall agree.

10. Except for the hiring restriction based on the department of health and senior services employee disqualification list established pursuant to section 660.315, the department of health and senior services shall promulgate rules and regulations to waive the hiring restrictions pursuant to this section for good cause. For purposes of this section, "good cause" means the department has made a determination by examining the employee's prior work history and other relevant factors that such employee does not present a risk to the health or safety of residents.

701.336. 1. The department of health and senior services shall cooperate with the federal government in implementing subsections (d) and (e) of 15 U.S.C. 2685 to establish public education activities and an information clearinghouse regarding childhood lead poisoning. The department may develop additional educational materials on lead hazards to children, lead poisoning prevention, lead poisoning screening, lead abatement and disposal, and on health hazards during abatement.

2. The department of health and senior services and the department of social services, in collaboration with related not-for-profit organizations, health maintenance organizations, and the Missouri consolidated health care plan, shall devise an educational strategy to increase the number of children who are tested

for lead poisoning under the Medicaid program. The goal of the educational strategy is to have seventy-five percent of the children who receive Medicaid tested for lead poisoning by August 28, 2008. The educational strategy shall be implemented over a three-year period and shall be in accordance with all federal laws and regulations.

3. The division of family services, in collaboration with the department of health and senior services, shall regularly inform eligible clients of the availability and desirability of lead screening and treatment services, including those available through the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) component of the Medicaid program.

Section 1. If any provision of this act is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, it is the stated intent of the legislature that the legislature would have approved the remaining portions of the act, and the remaining portions of the act shall remain in full force and effect.

Unofficial

Bill

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