

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 375(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/6/98

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

**1 "An Act relating to children-in-need-of-aid matters and proceedings; relating to
2 child abuse and neglect; relating to kidnapping and the crime of endangering
3 the welfare of a child; relating to sentencing for certain crimes; relating to the
4 state medical examiner and reviews of child fatalities; relating to teacher
5 certification and convictions of crimes involving child victims; relating to access
6 to, confidentiality of, and release of certain information concerning children, child
7 abuse and neglect, and child fatalities; authorizing the Department of Health and
8 Social Services to enter into an interstate compact concerning adoption and
9 medical assistance for certain children with special needs; relating to the review
10 of cases involving certain children who are in the custody of the state;
11 authorizing the establishment of multidisciplinary child protection teams and
12 relating to their duties; relating to persons required to report suspected child**

1 abuse or neglect; relating to foster care and foster parents; relating to access
 2 to certain criminal justice information and licensure of certain child care
 3 facilities; amending Rule 218, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure; and
 4 amending Rules 3, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19, and 22, Alaska Child in Need of Aid
 5 Rules."

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 * **Section 1.** INTENT AND PURPOSE OF ACT. (a) The intent of this Act is to protect
 8 children from abuse and neglect without prohibiting the use of reasonable methods of parental
 9 discipline or prescribing a particular method of parenting.

10 (b) The purpose of this Act is to

11 (1) provide the legal mechanisms by which the state can use its resources for
 12 the best interest of children in this state; and

13 (2) override the court decisions in the following cases:

14 (A) Matter of J.L.F., 912 P.2d 1255 (Alaska 1996), In Re S.A., 912
 15 P.2d 1235 (Alaska 1996), and F.T. v. State, 862 P.2d 857 (Alaska 1993), concerning
 16 the standards to adjudicate a child in need of aid when a parent or caregiver is willing,
 17 but unable, to provide essential care for a child;

18 (B) A.M. v. State, 891 P.2d 815 (Alaska 1995), and Nada A. v. State,
 19 660 P.2d 436 (Alaska App. 1983), concerning the standards to terminate parental rights
 20 when a parent is incarcerated;

21 (C) R.J.M. v. State, 946 P.2d 855 (Alaska 1997), concerning the type
 22 of neglect necessary to adjudicate a child in need of aid under AS 47.10.

23 * **Sec. 2.** AS 10.06.961(a) is amended to read:

24 (a) Notwithstanding AS 13.46.085 or the appointment of a guardian of the
 25 property of the **child** [MINOR] under **AS 47.10.010** [AS 47.10.010(c)], when a **child**
 26 [MINOR] who is in the custody of this state under AS 47.10 or **a minor who is in the**
 27 **custody of this state under** AS 47.12 or of another state under a provision similar to
 28 AS 47.10 or AS 47.12 becomes entitled to receive dividends or other distributions
 29 resulting from the ownership of stock or a membership in a corporation organized

1 under this chapter and under 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1641 (Alaska Native Claims Settlement
 2 Act), the corporation paying the dividends or making the other distributions shall retain
 3 the dividends and other distributions in an interest bearing account for the benefit of
 4 the child or minor during the state custody.

5 * **Sec. 3.** AS 11.41.300(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) A person commits the crime of kidnapping if

7 (1) the person restrains another with intent to

8 (A) hold the restrained person for ransom, reward, or other
 9 payment;

10 (B) use the restrained person as a shield or hostage;

11 (C) inflict physical injury upon or sexually assault the restrained
 12 person or place the restrained person or a third person in apprehension that any
 13 person will be subjected to serious physical injury or sexual assault;

14 (D) interfere with the performance of a governmental or
 15 political function;

16 (E) facilitate the commission of a felony or flight after
 17 commission of a felony; [OR]

18 **(F) commit an offense in violation of AS 11.41.434 -**
 19 **11.41.438 upon the restrained person or place the restrained person or a**
 20 **third person in apprehension that a person will be subject to an offense in**
 21 **violation of AS 11.41.434 - 11.41.438; or**

22 (2) the person restrains another

23 (A) by secreting and holding the restrained person in a place
 24 where the restrained person is not likely to be found; or

25 (B) under circumstances which expose the restrained person to
 26 a substantial risk of serious physical injury.

27 * **Sec. 4.** AS 11.41.300(d) is amended to read:

28 (d) In a prosecution for kidnapping, it is an affirmative defense which reduces
 29 the crime to a class A felony that the defendant voluntarily caused the release of the
 30 victim alive in a safe place before arrest, or within 24 hours after arrest, without
 31 having caused serious physical injury to the victim and without having engaged in

1 conduct described in AS 11.41.410(a), [OR] 11.41.420, 11.41.434, or 11.41.436.

2 * **Sec. 5.** AS 11.51.100 is repealed and reenacted to read:

3 **Sec. 11.51.100. Endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree.** (a)

4 A person commits the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree
5 if, being a parent, guardian, or other person legally charged with the care of a child
6 under 16 years of age, the person

7 (1) intentionally deserts the child in a place under circumstances
8 creating a substantial risk of physical injury to the child;

9 (2) leaves the child with another person who is not a parent, guardian,
10 or lawful custodian of the child knowing that the person

11 (A) is registered or required to register as a sex offender under
12 AS 12.63 or a law or ordinance in another jurisdiction with similar
13 requirements;

14 (B) has been charged by complaint, information, or indictment
15 with a violation of AS 11.41.410 - 11.41.455 or a law or ordinance in another
16 jurisdiction with similar elements; or

17 (C) has been charged by complaint, information, or indictment
18 with an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a crime described in (B)
19 of this paragraph; or

20 (3) leaves the child with another person knowing that the person has
21 previously physically mistreated or had sexual contact with any child, and the other
22 person causes physical injury or engages in sexual contact with the child.

23 (b) In this section, "physically mistreated" means

24 (1) having committed an act punishable under AS 11.41.100 -
25 11.41.250; or

26 (2) having applied force to a child that, under the circumstances in
27 which it was applied, or considering the age or physical condition of the child,
28 constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person
29 would observe in the situation because of the substantial and unjustifiable risk of

30 (A) death;

31 (B) serious or protracted disfigurement;

- 1 (C) protracted impairment of health;
- 2 (D) loss or impairment of the function of a body member or
- 3 organ;
- 4 (E) substantial skin bruising, burning, or other skin injury;
- 5 (F) internal bleeding or subdural hematoma;
- 6 (G) bone fracture; or
- 7 (H) prolonged or extreme pain, swelling, or injury to soft tissue

8 (c) Endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree under (a)(1) or (2) of
 9 this section is a class C felony.

10 (d) Endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree under (a)(3) of this
 11 section is a

- 12 (1) class B felony if the child dies;
- 13 (2) class C felony if the child suffers sexual contact, sexual penetration,
 14 or serious physical injury; or
- 15 (3) class A misdemeanor if the child suffers physical injury.

16 * **Sec. 6.** AS 11.51 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 **Sec. 11.51.110. Endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree.**

18 (a) A person commits the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the second
 19 degree if the person, while caring for a child under 10 years of age,

20 (1) causes or allows the child to enter or remain in a dwelling or vehicle
 21 in which a controlled substance is stored in violation of AS 11.71; or

22 (2) is impaired by an intoxicant, whether or not prescribed for the
 23 person under AS 17.30, and there is no third person who is at least 12 years of age and
 24 not impaired by an intoxicant present to care for the child.

25 (b) In this section,

26 (1) "impaired" means that a person is unconscious or a person is
 27 physically or mentally affected so that the person does not have the ability to care for
 28 the basic safety or personal needs of a child with the caution characteristic of a sober
 29 person of ordinary prudence;

30 (2) "intoxicant" has the meaning given in AS 47.10.990.

31 (c) Endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree is a violation.

1 * **Sec. 7.** AS 12.55.155(c)(23) is amended to read:

2 (23) the defendant is convicted of an offense specified in AS 11.71 and
 3 (A) the offense involved the delivery of a controlled substance
 4 under circumstances manifesting an intent to distribute the substance as part of
 5 a commercial enterprise; **or**

6 **(B) at the time of the conduct resulting in the conviction, the**
 7 **defendant was caring for or assisting in the care of a child under 10 years**
 8 **of age;**

9 * **Sec. 8.** AS 12.65.005(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) Unless the person has reasonable grounds to believe that notice has already
 11 been given, a person who attends a death or has knowledge of a death, in addition to
 12 notifying a peace officer, shall immediately notify the state medical examiner when the
 13 death appears to have

14 (1) been caused by unknown or criminal means, during the commission
 15 of a crime, or by suicide, accident, or poisoning;

16 (2) occurred under suspicious or unusual circumstances or occurred
 17 suddenly when the decedent was in apparent good health;

18 (3) been unattended by a practicing physician or occurred less than 24
 19 hours after the deceased was admitted to a medical facility;

20 (4) been associated with a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure;

21 (5) resulted from a disease that constitutes a threat to public health;

22 (6) been caused by a disease, injury, or toxic agent resulting from
 23 employment;

24 (7) occurred in a jail or corrections facility owned or operated by the
 25 state or a political subdivision of the state or in a facility for the placement of persons
 26 in the custody or under the supervision of the state;

27 (8) occurred in a foster home;

28 (9) occurred in a mental institution or mental health treatment facility;

29 [OR]

30 (10) occurred while the deceased was in the custody of, or was being
 31 taken into the custody of, the state or a political subdivision of the state or a public

1 officer or agent of the state or a political subdivision of the state; or

2 (11) been of a child under 18 years of age or under the legal custody
 3 of the Department of Health and Social Services, subject to the jurisdiction of
 4 AS 47.10 or AS 47.12, unless the

5 (A) child's death resulted from a natural disease process and
 6 was medically expected; and

7 (B) the child was under supervised medical care during the
 8 24 hours before the death.

9 * **Sec. 9.** AS 12.65.015 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (e) The state medical examiner shall facilitate the formation of local, regional,
 11 or district child fatality review teams to assist local, regional, and district medical
 12 examiners in determining the cause and manner of deaths of children under 18 years
 13 of age. If a team is formed under this subsection, the team shall have the same access
 14 to information, confidentiality requirements, and immunity as provided to the state child
 15 fatality review team under AS 12.65.140. A meeting of a team formed under this
 16 subsection is closed to the public and not subject to the provisions of AS 44.62.310 and
 17 44.62.312. A review by a local, regional, or district child fatality review team does not
 18 relieve the state child fatality review team under AS 12.65.120 of the responsibility for
 19 reviewing a death under AS 12.65.130. A person on a local, regional, or district child
 20 fatality review team is not eligible to receive compensation from the state for service
 21 on the team, but is eligible for travel expenses and per diem from the Department of
 22 Health and Social Services under AS 39.20.180. A person on a team formed under this
 23 subsection serves at the pleasure of the state medical examiner.

24 * **Sec. 10.** AS 12.65 is amended by adding new sections to read:

25 **Sec. 12.65.120. State child fatality review team.** (a) The state child fatality
 26 review team is established in the Department of Health and Social Services to assist the
 27 state medical examiner. The team is composed of

28 (1) the following persons, or that person's designee:

29 (A) the state medical examiner;

30 (B) a state prosecutor with experience in homicide prosecutions,
 31 appointed by the attorney general;

1 (C) an investigator with the state troopers who has experience
2 in conducting investigations of homicide, child abuse, or child neglect,
3 appointed by the commissioner of public safety;

4 (D) a social worker with the Department of Health and Social
5 Services who has experience in conducting investigations of child abuse and
6 neglect, appointed by the commissioner of health and social services;

7 (2) the following persons, or that person's designee, appointed by the
8 commissioner of health and social services:

9 (A) a physician licensed under AS 08.64 who

10 (i) specializes in neonatology or perinatology; or

11 (ii) is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics;

12 (B) a municipal law enforcement officer with experience in
13 conducting investigations of homicide, child abuse, or child neglect;

14 (C) other persons, including educators, whose experience and
15 expertise would, as determined by the commissioner of health and social
16 services, contribute to the effectiveness of the team.

17 (b) A team member is not eligible to receive compensation from the state for
18 service on the team. A member appointed under (a)(2) of this section

19 (1) is eligible for travel expenses and per diem from the Department of
20 Health and Social Services under AS 39.20.180; and

21 (2) serves at the pleasure of the commissioner of health and social
22 services.

23 (c) In addition to the persons specified in (a) of this section, the team may
24 invite a person to participate as a member of the team if the person has expertise that
25 would be helpful to the team in a review of a specific death. A person participating
26 under this subsection is eligible only for travel expenses and per diem from the
27 Department of Health and Social Services under AS 39.20.180.

28 (d) The state medical examiner serves as chair of the team.

29 **Sec. 12.65.130. State child fatality review team duties.** (a) The state child
30 fatality review team shall

31 (1) assist the state medical examiner in determining the cause and

1 manner of the deaths in this state of children under 18 years of age;

2 (2) unless the child's death is currently being investigated by a law
3 enforcement agency, review a report of a death of a child within 48 hours of the report
4 being received by the medical examiner if

5 (A) the death is of a child under 10 years of age;

6 (B) the deceased child, a sibling, or a member of the deceased
7 child's household

8 (i) is in the legal or physical custody of the state under
9 AS 47 or under similar custody of another state or political subdivision
10 of a state; or

11 (ii) has been the subject of a report of harm under
12 AS 47.17 or a child abuse or neglect investigation by the Department of
13 Health and Social Services or by a similar child protective service in this
14 or another state;

15 (C) a protective order under AS 18.66.100 or 18.66.110 has been
16 in effect during the previous year in which the petitioner or respondent was a
17 member of the deceased child's immediate family or household; or

18 (D) the child's death occurred in a mental health institution,
19 mental health treatment facility, foster home, or other residential or child care
20 facility, including a day care facility;

21 (3) review records concerning

22 (A) abuse or neglect of the deceased child or another child in the
23 deceased child's household;

24 (B) the criminal history or juvenile delinquency of a person who
25 may have caused the death of the child and of persons in the deceased child's
26 household; and

27 (C) a history of domestic violence involving a person who may
28 have caused the death of the child or involving persons in the deceased child's
29 household, including records in the central registry of protective orders under
30 AS 18.65.540;

31 (4) if insufficient information exists to adequately determine the cause

1 and manner of death, recommend to the state medical examiner that additional
2 information be obtained under AS 12.65.020; and

3 (5) if a local, regional, or district child fatality review team has not been
4 appointed under AS 12.65.015 or is not available, be available to provide
5 recommendations, suggestions, and advice to state or municipal law enforcement or
6 social service agencies in the investigation of deaths of children.

7 (b) The state child fatality review team may

8 (1) collect data and analyze and interpret information regarding deaths
9 of children in this state;

10 (2) develop state and local data bases on deaths of children in this state;

11 (3) develop a model protocol for the investigation of deaths of children;

12 and

13 (4) periodically issue reports to the public containing statistical data and
14 other information that does not violate federal or state law concerning confidentiality
15 of the children and their families involved in the reviews; these reports may include

16 (A) identification of trends, patterns, and risk factors in deaths
17 of the children;

18 (B) analyses of the incidence and causes of deaths of children
19 in this state;

20 (C) recommendations for improving the coordination of
21 government services and investigations; and

22 (D) recommendations for prevention of future deaths of children.

23 **Sec. 12.65.140. Records; information; meetings; confidentiality; immunity.**

24 (a) The state child fatality review team and its members shall have access to all
25 information and records to which the state medical examiner has access under this
26 chapter. The state child fatality review team and its members shall maintain the
27 confidentiality of information and records concerning deaths under review, except when
28 disclosures may be necessary to enable the team to carry out its duties under this
29 chapter. However, the team and its members may not disclose a record that is
30 confidential under federal or state law.

31 (b) Except for public reports issued by the team, records, and other information

1 collected by the team or a member of the team related to duties under this chapter are
2 confidential and not subject to public disclosure under AS 09.25.100 - 09.25.220.

3 (c) Meetings of the state child fatality review team are closed to the public and
4 are not subject to the provisions of AS 44.62.310 and 44.62.312.

5 (d) The determinations, conclusions, and recommendations of the state child
6 fatality review team, or its members, are not admissible in a civil or criminal
7 proceeding. Members may not be compelled to disclose their determinations,
8 conclusions, recommendations, discussions, or thought processes through discovery or
9 testimony in any civil or criminal proceeding. Records and information collected by
10 the state child fatality review team are not subject to discovery or subpoena in
11 connection with a civil or criminal proceeding.

12 (e) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, the state medical examiner may testify
13 in a civil or criminal proceeding even though the death was reviewed by the state child
14 fatality review team under AS 12.65.130 and information received from the review
15 formed a basis of the state medical examiner's testimony.

16 (f) A person who is a member or an employee of, or who furnishes services to
17 or advises, the state child fatality review team is not liable for damages or other relief
18 in an action brought by reason of the performance of a duty, a function, or an activity
19 of the review team.

20 * **Sec. 11.** AS 14.20.020(f) is amended to read:

21 (f) **The** [EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION,
22 THE] department may not issue a teacher certificate to a person who has been
23 convicted of a crime involving a minor under AS 11.41.434 - 11.41.440, 11.41.455, or
24 11.41.460, or under a law in another jurisdiction with elements substantially similar to
25 an offense described in AS 11.41.434 - 11.41.440, 11.41.455, or 11.41.460, **or that is**
26 **an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a crime described in this**
27 **subsection or a law or ordinance in another jurisdiction with similar elements.**
28 [WHEN FIVE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED AFTER A PERSON HAS RECEIVED AN
29 UNCONDITIONAL DISCHARGE FOR A CONVICTION OF A CRIME LISTED IN
30 THIS SUBSECTION, THE PERSON MAY PETITION THE DEPARTMENT TO
31 ISSUE THE CERTIFICATE IN SPITE OF THE CONVICTION IF THE PERSON

1 OTHERWISE SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE. WHEN
2 DECIDING WHETHER TO GRANT OR DENY THE PETITION, THE
3 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE NATURE OF THE PARTICULAR
4 CRIME, WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE PERSON HAS BEEN
5 REHABILITATED, AND THE OTHER FACTORS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
6 DETERMINES ARE SIGNIFICANT.]

7 * **Sec. 12.** AS 14.20.030(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) Upon receipt of a judgment of conviction, the department [THE
9 COMMISSIONER OR THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES
10 COMMISSION] shall **permanently** revoke, **effective immediately,** [FOR LIFE] the
11 certificate of a person who has been convicted of a crime involving a minor under
12 AS 11.41.434 - 11.41.440, 11.41.455, or 11.41.460, or under a law in another
13 jurisdiction with elements substantially similar to an offense described in AS 11.41.434
14 - 11.41.440, 11.41.455, or 11.41.460, **or that is an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy**
15 **to commit a crime described in this subsection or a law or ordinance in another**
16 **jurisdiction with similar elements. If the judgment of conviction is reversed on**
17 **appeal and the person is otherwise eligible for licensure, the department shall**
18 **reinstate the license.** [WHEN FIVE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED AFTER THE
19 PERSON HAS RECEIVED AN UNCONDITIONAL DISCHARGE FOR THE
20 CONVICTION, THE PERSON MAY PETITION THE COMMISSION FOR
21 RECERTIFICATION. WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO GRANT OR DENY THE
22 PETITION, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE NATURE OF THE
23 PARTICULAR CRIME, WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE PERSON HAS
24 BEEN REHABILITATED, AND THE OTHER FACTORS THAT THE COMMISSION
25 DETERMINES ARE SIGNIFICANT.]

26 * **Sec. 13.** AS 22.15.100 is amended to read:

27 **Sec. 22.15.100. Functions and powers of district judge and magistrate.**

28 Each district judge and magistrate has the power

29 (1) to issue writs of habeas corpus for the purpose of inquiring into the
30 cause of restraint of liberty, returnable before a judge of the superior court, and the
31 same proceedings shall be had on the writ as if it had been granted by the superior

1 court judge under the laws of the state in such cases;

2 (2) of a notary public;

3 (3) to solemnize marriages;

4 (4) to issue warrants of arrest, summons, and search warrants according
5 to manner and procedure prescribed by law and the supreme court;

6 (5) to act as an examining judge or magistrate in preliminary
7 examinations in criminal proceedings; to set, receive, and forfeit bail and to order the
8 release of defendants under bail;

9 (6) to act as a referee in matters and actions referred to the judge or
10 magistrate by the superior court, with all powers conferred upon referees by laws;

11 (7) of the superior court in all respects including but not limited to
12 contempts, attendance of witnesses, and bench warrants;

13 (8) to order the temporary detention of a minor, or take other action
14 authorized by law or rules of procedure, in cases arising under **AS 47.10** [AS 47.10.010
15 - 47.10.142] or AS 47.12, when the minor is in a condition or surrounding dangerous
16 or injurious to the welfare of the minor or others that requires immediate action; the
17 action may be continued in effect until reviewed by the superior court in accordance
18 with rules of procedure governing these cases;

19 (9) to issue a protective order in cases involving domestic violence as
20 provided in AS 18.66.100 - 18.66.180;

21 (10) to review an administrative revocation of a person's driver's license
22 or nonresident privilege to drive, and an administrative refusal to issue an original
23 license, when designated as a hearing officer by the commissioner of administration and
24 with the consent of the administrative director of the state court system;

25 (11) to establish the fact of death or inquire into the death of a person
26 in the manner prescribed under AS 09.55.020 - 09.55.069.

27 * **Sec. 14.** AS 25.23.180(c) is amended to read:

28 (c) The relationship of parent and child may be terminated by a court order
29 issued in connection with a proceeding under this chapter or a proceeding under
30 AS 47.10 **on the grounds** [:]

31 (1) [ON THE GROUNDS] specified in **AS 47.10.080(o) or 47.10.088**

1 [AS 47.10.080(c)(3)];

2 (2) [ON THE GROUNDS] that a parent who does not have custody is
3 unreasonably withholding consent to adoption, contrary to the best interest of the minor
4 child; or

5 (3) [ON GROUNDS] that the parent committed an act constituting
6 sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor under the laws of this state or a comparable
7 offense under the laws of the state where the act occurred that resulted in conception
8 of the child and that termination of the parental rights of the biological parent is in the
9 best interests of the child.

10 * **Sec. 15.** AS 47.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 **Sec. 47.05.065. Legislative findings related to children.** The legislature finds
12 that

13 (1) parents have the following rights and responsibilities relating to the
14 care and control of their child while the child is a minor:

15 (A) the responsibility to provide the child with food, clothing,
16 shelter, education, and medical care;

17 (B) the right and responsibility to protect, nurture, train, and
18 discipline the child, including the right to direct the child's medical care and the
19 right to exercise reasonable corporal discipline;

20 (C) the right to determine where and with whom the child shall
21 live;

22 (D) the rights and responsibility to make decisions of legal or
23 financial significance concerning the child;

24 (E) the right to obtain representation for the child in legal
25 actions; and

26 (F) the responsibility to provide special safeguards and care,
27 including appropriate prenatal and postnatal protection for the child;

28 (2) it is the policy of the state to strengthen families and to protect
29 children from child abuse and neglect; the state recognizes that, in some cases,
30 protection of a child may require removal of the child from the child's home; however,

31 (A) except in those cases involving serious risk to a child's

1 health or safety, the Department of Health and Social Services should provide
2 time-limited family support services to the child and the child's family in order
3 to offer parents the opportunity to remedy parental conduct or conditions in the
4 home that placed the child at risk of harm so that a child may return home
5 safely and permanently; and

6 (B) the state also recognizes that when a child is removed from
7 the home, visitation between the child and the child's parents or guardian and
8 family members reduces the trauma for the child and enhances the likelihood
9 that the child will be able to return home; therefore, whenever a child is
10 removed from the parental home, the Department of Health and Social Services
11 should encourage frequent, regular, and reasonable visitation of the child with
12 the child's parent or guardian and family members;

13 (3) it is the policy of the state to recognize that, when a child is a ward
14 of the state, the child is entitled to reasonable safety, adequate care, and adequate
15 treatment and that the Department of Health and Social Services as legal custodian and
16 the child's guardian ad litem as guardian of the child's best interests and their agents
17 and assignees, each should make reasonable efforts to ensure that the child is provided
18 with reasonable safety, adequate care, and adequate treatment for the duration of time
19 that the child is a ward of the state;

20 (4) it is in the best interests of a child who has been removed from the
21 child's own home for the state to apply the following principles in resolving the
22 situation:

23 (A) the child should be placed in a safe, secure, and stable
24 environment;

25 (B) the child should not be moved unnecessarily;

26 (C) a planning process should be followed to lead to permanent
27 placement of the child;

28 (D) every effort should be made to encourage psychological
29 attachment between the adult caregiver and the child;

30 (E) frequent, regular, and reasonable visitation with the parent
31 or guardian and family members should be encouraged; and

1 (F) parents and guardians must actively participate in family
 2 support services so as to facilitate the child's being able to remain in the home;
 3 when children are removed from the home, the parents and guardians must
 4 actively participate in family support services to make return of their children
 5 to the home possible;

6 (5) numerous studies establish that

7 (A) children undergo a critical attachment process before the
 8 time they reach six years of age;

9 (B) a child who has not attached with an adult caregiver during
 10 this critical stage will suffer significant emotional damage that frequently leads
 11 to chronic psychological problems and antisocial behavior when the child
 12 reaches adolescence and adulthood; and

13 (C) it is important to provide for an expedited placement
 14 procedure to ensure that all children, especially those under the age of six years,
 15 who have been removed from their homes are placed in permanent homes
 16 expeditiously.

17 * **Sec. 16.** AS 47.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 **Sec. 47.05.090. Authorization of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and**
 19 **Medical Assistance.** (a) The Department of Health and Social Services may, on
 20 behalf of the state, enter into the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical
 21 Assistance and supplementary agreements with agencies of other states for the provision
 22 of adoption and medical assistance under AS 47.07 and other provisions of this title for
 23 eligible children with special needs.

24 (b) In this section, "state" includes a state, territory, possession, or
 25 commonwealth of the United States.

26 * **Sec. 17.** AS 47.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 **Sec. 47.10.005. Construction.** The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally
 28 construed to the end that a child coming within the jurisdiction of the court under this
 29 chapter may receive the care, guidance, treatment, and control that will promote the
 30 child's welfare.

31 * **Sec. 18.** AS 47.10.010 is repealed and reenacted to read:

1 **Sec. 47.10.010. Jurisdiction.** (a) Proceedings relating to a child under 18
2 years of age residing or found in the state are governed by this chapter when the child
3 is alleged to be or may be determined by the court to be a child in need of aid under
4 AS 47.10.011.

5 (b) In a controversy concerning custody of a child under this chapter, the court
6 may appoint a guardian of the person and property of a child, may appoint an attorney
7 to represent the legal interests of the child, and may order support from either or both
8 parents. Custody of a child may be given to the department and payment of support
9 money to the department may be ordered by a court.

10 * **Sec. 19.** AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 **Sec. 47.10.011. Children in need of aid.** Subject to AS 47.10.019, the court
12 may find a child to be a child in need of aid if it finds by a preponderance of the
13 evidence that the child has been subjected to any of the following:

14 (1) a parent or guardian has abandoned the child as described in
15 AS 47.10.013, and the other parent is absent or has committed conduct or created
16 conditions that cause the child to be a child in need of aid under this chapter;

17 (2) a parent, guardian, or custodian is incarcerated, the other parent is
18 absent or has committed conduct or created conditions that cause the child to be a child
19 in need of aid under this chapter, and the incarcerated parent has not made adequate
20 arrangements for the child;

21 (3) a custodian with whom the child has been left is unwilling or unable
22 to provide care, supervision, or support for the child, and the whereabouts of the parent
23 or guardian is unknown;

24 (4) the child is in need of medical treatment to cure, alleviate, or
25 prevent substantial physical harm or is in need of treatment for mental injury and the
26 child's parent, guardian, or custodian has knowingly failed to provide the treatment;

27 (5) the child is habitually absent from home or refuses to accept
28 available care and the child's conduct places the child at substantial risk of physical or
29 mental injury;

30 (6) the child has suffered substantial physical harm, or there is a
31 substantial risk that the child will suffer substantial physical harm, as a result of

1 conduct by or conditions created by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or by the
2 failure of the parent, guardian, or custodian to supervise the child adequately;

3 (7) the child has suffered sexual abuse, or there is a substantial risk that
4 the child will suffer sexual abuse, as a result of conduct by or conditions created by the
5 child's parent, guardian, or custodian or by the failure of the parent, guardian, or
6 custodian to adequately supervise the child; if a parent, guardian, or custodian has
7 actual notice that a person has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor within
8 the past 15 years, is registered or required to register as a sex offender under AS 12.63,
9 or is under investigation for a sex offense against a minor, and the parent, guardian, or
10 custodian subsequently allows a child to be left with that person, this conduct
11 constitutes prima facie evidence that the child is at substantial risk of being sexually
12 abused;

13 (8) conduct by or conditions created by the parent, guardian, or
14 custodian have

15 (A) resulted in mental injury to the child; or

16 (B) placed the child at substantial risk of mental injury as a
17 result of

18 (i) a pattern of rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, isolating,
19 or corrupting behavior that would, if continued, result in mental injury;
20 or

21 (ii) exposure to domestic violence; in this sub-
22 subparagraph, "domestic violence" means conduct by a household
23 member described in AS 18.66.990 against another household member
24 that is a crime against a person under AS 11.41, an offense under a law
25 or ordinance of another jurisdiction having elements similar to a crime
26 against a person under AS 11.41, an attempt to commit an offense that
27 is a crime against a person under AS 11.41 or an attempt to commit an
28 offense under a law or ordinance of another jurisdiction having elements
29 similar to a crime against a person under AS 11.41;

30 (9) conduct by or conditions created by the parent, guardian, or
31 custodian have subjected the child or another child in the same household to neglect;

1 (10) the parent, guardian, or custodian's ability to parent has been
2 substantially impaired by the addictive or habitual use of an intoxicant, and the
3 addictive or habitual use of the intoxicant has resulted in a substantial risk of harm to
4 the child; if a court has previously found that a child is a child in need of aid under this
5 paragraph, the resumption of use of an intoxicant by a parent, guardian, or custodian
6 within one year after rehabilitation is prima facie evidence that the ability to parent is
7 substantially impaired and the addictive or habitual use of the intoxicant has resulted
8 in a substantial risk of harm to the child as described in this paragraph;

9 (11) the parent, guardian, or custodian has a mental illness, serious
10 emotional disturbance, or mental deficiency of a nature and duration that places the
11 child at substantial risk of physical harm or mental injury;

12 (12) the child has committed an illegal act as a result of pressure,
13 guidance, or approval from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

14 **Sec. 47.10.013. Abandonment.** (a) For purposes of this chapter, the court
15 may find abandonment of a child if a parent or guardian has shown a conscious
16 disregard of parental responsibilities toward the child by failing to provide reasonable
17 support, maintain regular contact, or provide normal supervision, considering the child's
18 age and need for care by an adult. Abandonment of a child also includes instances
19 when the parent or guardian, without justifiable cause,

20 (1) left the child with another person without provision for the child's
21 support and without meaningful communication with the child for a period of three
22 months;

23 (2) has made only minimal efforts to support and communicate with the
24 child;

25 (3) failed for a period of at least six months to maintain regular
26 visitation with the child;

27 (4) failed to participate in a suitable plan or program designed to reunite
28 the parent or guardian with the child;

29 (5) left the child without affording means of identifying the child and
30 the child's parent or guardian;

31 (6) was absent from the home for a period of time that created a

1 substantial risk of serious harm to a child left in the home;

2 (7) failed to respond to notice of child protective proceedings; or

3 (8) was unwilling to provide care, support, or supervision for the child.

4 (b) For purposes of (a) of this section, a parent or guardian who is a victim of
5 domestic violence, or who has a child in the parent's or guardian's care who is the
6 victim of domestic violence, is considered to have justifiable cause to take an action
7 or to fail to take an action that would otherwise be considered to be abandonment of
8 a child under (a) of this section if the action or failure to act is necessary to protect the
9 parent or guardian, or a child in the care of the parent or guardian, from further acts
10 of domestic violence. However, a parent or guardian who initially had justifiable cause
11 to act or fail to act as described in this subsection may be considered to have
12 abandoned the child without justifiable cause for purposes of (a) of this section if the
13 parent or guardian does not take reasonable steps to reunify with or provide care for
14 the abandoned child after becoming secure from further acts of domestic violence or
15 after providing that another child in the care of the parent or guardian is secure from
16 further acts of domestic violence.

17 **Sec. 47.10.014. Neglect.** For purposes of this chapter, the court may find
18 neglect of a child if the parent, guardian, or custodian fails to provide the child with
19 adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, medical attention, or other care and control
20 necessary for the child's physical and mental health and development, though
21 financially able to do so or offered financial or other reasonable means to do so.

22 **Sec. 47.10.015. Physical harm.** For the purposes of this chapter, the court may
23 find physical harm to a child or substantial risk of physical harm to a child if

24 (1) the child was the victim of an act described in AS 11.41.100 -
25 11.41.250, 11.41.300, 11.41.410 - 11.41.455, or AS 11.51.100 and the physical harm
26 occurred as a result of conduct by or conditions created by a parent, guardian, or
27 custodian; or

28 (2) a negligent act or omission by a parent, guardian, or custodian
29 creates a substantial risk of injury to the child.

30 **Sec. 47.10.019. Limitations on determinations.** Notwithstanding other
31 provisions of this chapter, the court may not find a minor to be a child in need of aid

1 under this chapter solely on the basis that the child's family is poor, lacks adequate
2 housing, or exhibits a lifestyle that is different from the generally accepted lifestyle
3 standard of the community where the family lives. However, this section may not be
4 construed to prevent a court from finding that a child is in need of aid if the child has
5 been subjected to conduct or conditions described in AS 47.10.011 - 47.10.015.

6 * **Sec. 20.** AS 47.10.020(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) Whenever circumstances subject a **child** [MINOR] to the jurisdiction of **the**
8 **court under AS 47.10.005 - 47.10.142** [AS 47.10.010 - 47.10.142], the court shall
9 appoint a competent person or agency to make a preliminary inquiry and report for the
10 information of the court to determine whether the **best** interests of the **child** [MINOR]
11 require that further action be taken. **If** [; IF], under this subsection, the court appoints
12 a person or agency to make a preliminary inquiry and to report to it, then, upon the
13 receipt of the report, the court may

14 (1) **close** [INFORMALLY ADJUST] the matter without a **court** hearing;

15 (2) **determine whether the best interests of the child require that**
16 **further action be taken;** [,] or

17 (3) [IT MAY] authorize the person **or agency** having knowledge of the
18 facts of the case to file with the court a petition setting out the facts[; IF THE COURT
19 INFORMALLY ADJUSTS THE MATTER, THE MINOR MAY NOT BE DETAINED
20 OR TAKEN INTO THE CUSTODY OF THE COURT AS A CONDITION OF THE
21 ADJUSTMENT, AND THE MATTER SHALL BE CLOSED BY THE COURT UPON
22 ADJUSTMENT].

23 * **Sec. 21.** AS 47.10.020(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) The petition and all subsequent pleadings shall be styled as follows: "In the
25 matter of, a **child** [MINOR] under 18 years of age."
26 The petition may be executed upon the petitioner's information and belief [,] and must
27 be verified. It must include the following information:

28 (1) the name, address, and occupation of the petitioner, together with
29 the petitioner's relationship to the **child** [MINOR], and the petitioner's interest in the
30 matter;

31 (2) the name, age, and address of the **child** [MINOR];

1 (3) a brief statement of the facts that bring the **child** [MINOR] within
2 this chapter;

3 (4) the names and addresses of the **child's** [MINOR'S] parents;

4 (5) **the tribal affiliation, if known, of the child;**

5 (6) the name and address of the **child's** [MINOR'S] guardian [,] or of
6 the person having control or custody of the **child** [MINOR].

7 * **Sec. 22.** AS 47.10.030(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) In all cases under this chapter, the **child** [MINOR], each parent, **the tribe,**
9 **foster parent or other out-of-home care provider,** [OF THE MINOR AND THE]
10 guardian, **and guardian ad litem** of the **child** [MINOR] shall be given notice adequate
11 to give actual notice of the proceedings and the possibility of termination of parental
12 rights and responsibilities, taking into account education and language differences that
13 are known or reasonably ascertainable by the petitioner or the department. The notice
14 of the hearing must contain all names by which the **child** [MINOR] has been identified.
15 Notice shall be given in the manner appropriate under rules of civil procedure for the
16 service of process in a civil action under Alaska law or in any manner the court by
17 order directs. Proof of the giving of the notice shall be filed with the court before the
18 petition is heard. The court may also subpoena the parent of the **child** [MINOR], or
19 any other person whose testimony may be necessary at the hearing. A subpoena or
20 other process may be served by a person authorized by law to make the service, and,
21 where personal service cannot be made, the court may direct that service of process be
22 in a manner appropriate under rules of civil procedure for the service of process in a
23 civil action under Alaska law or in any manner the court directs.

24 * **Sec. 23.** AS 47.10.050(a) is amended to read:

25 (a) Whenever in the course of proceedings instituted under this chapter it
26 appears to the court that the welfare of a **child** [MINOR] will be promoted by the
27 appointment of an attorney to represent the **child** [MINOR OR AN ATTORNEY OR
28 OTHER PERSON TO SERVE AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM], the court may make the
29 appointment. **If it appears to the court that the welfare of a child in the proceeding**
30 **will be promoted by the appointment of a guardian ad litem, the court shall make**
31 **the appointment.** Appointment of a guardian ad litem or attorney shall be made under

1 the terms of AS 25.24.310.

2 * **Sec. 24.** AS 47.10.070(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) The court may conduct the hearing on the petition in an informal manner
4 [IN THE COURTROOM OR IN CHAMBERS]. The court shall give notice of the
5 hearing to the department, and it may send a representative to the hearing. The court
6 shall also transmit a copy of the petition to the department. **The department shall**
7 **send notice of the hearing to the persons for whom notice is required under**
8 **AS 47.10.030(b).** The **department and the persons to whom the department must**
9 **send notice of the hearing are entitled to** [REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
10 DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO] be heard at the hearing. **However, the court may limit**
11 **the presence of the foster parent or other out-of-home care provider to the time**
12 **during which the person's testimony is being given if it is (1) in the best interest**
13 **of the child; or (2) necessary to protect the privacy interests of the parties and will**
14 **not be detrimental to the child.** The public shall be excluded from the hearing, but
15 the court, in its discretion, may permit individuals to attend a hearing if their attendance
16 is compatible with the best interests of the **child** [MINOR].

17 * **Sec. 25.** AS 47.10.080(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) **An adjudication hearing shall be completed within 120 days after a**
19 **finding of probable cause is entered unless the court finds good cause to continue**
20 **the hearing. When determining whether to grant a continuance for good cause,**
21 **the court shall take into consideration the age of the child and the potential**
22 **adverse effect that the delay may have on the child.** The court, at the conclusion of
23 the hearing, [OR THEREAFTER] as the circumstances of the case may require, shall
24 find and enter a judgment that the **child** [MINOR] is or is not a child in need of aid.

25 * **Sec. 26.** AS 47.10.080(c) is amended to read:

26 (c) If the court finds that the **child** [MINOR] is a child in need of aid, **the**
27 **court** [IT] shall

28 (1) order the **child** [MINOR] committed to the department for placement
29 in an appropriate setting for a period of time not to exceed two years or in any event
30 past the date the **child** [MINOR] becomes 19 years of age, except that the department
31 **or the child's guardian ad litem** may petition for and the court may grant in a hearing

1 (A) **one-year** [TWO-YEAR] extensions of commitment that do not extend beyond the
 2 **child's** [MINOR'S] 19th birthday if the extension is in the best interests of the **child**
 3 [MINOR]; and (B) an additional one-year period of **state custody** [SUPERVISION]
 4 past age 19 if the continued **state custody** [SUPERVISION] is in the best interests of
 5 the person and the person consents to it; [THE DEPARTMENT MAY TRANSFER
 6 THE MINOR, IN THE MINOR'S BEST INTERESTS, FROM ONE PLACEMENT
 7 SETTING TO ANOTHER, AND THE MINOR, THE MINOR'S PARENTS OR
 8 GUARDIAN, AND THE MINOR'S ATTORNEY ARE ENTITLED TO
 9 REASONABLE NOTICE OF THE TRANSFER;]

10 (2) order the **child** [MINOR] released to **a parent, relative, or**
 11 **guardian of the child** [THE MINOR'S PARENTS, GUARDIAN,] or **to another**
 12 [SOME OTHER] suitable person, and, in appropriate cases, order the **parent, relative**
 13 [PARENTS], guardian, or other person to provide medical or other care and treatment;
 14 if the court releases the **child** [MINOR], it shall direct the department to supervise the
 15 care and treatment given to the **child** [MINOR], but the court may dispense with the
 16 department's supervision if the court finds that the adult to whom the **child** [MINOR]
 17 is released will adequately care for the **child** [MINOR] without supervision; the
 18 department's supervision may not exceed two years or in any event extend past the date
 19 the **child** [MINOR] reaches age 19, except that the department **or the child's guardian**
 20 **ad litem** may petition for and the court may grant in a hearing

21 (A) **one-year** [TWO-YEAR] extensions of supervision that do
 22 not extend beyond the **child's** [MINOR'S] 19th birthday if the **extensions are**
 23 [EXTENSION IS] in the best interests of the **child** [MINOR]; and

24 (B) an additional one-year period of supervision past age 19 if
 25 the continued supervision is in the best interests of the person and the person
 26 consents to it; or

27 (3) by order, **under the grounds specified in (o) of this section or**
 28 **AS 47.10.088, the termination of** [UPON A SHOWING IN THE ADJUDICATION
 29 BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS A CHILD IN NEED
 30 OF AID UNDER AS 47.10.010(a) AS A RESULT OF PARENTAL CONDUCT AND
 31 UPON A SHOWING IN THE DISPOSITION BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING

1 EVIDENCE THAT THE PARENTAL CONDUCT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO
2 EXIST IF THERE IS NO TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, TERMINATE]
3 parental rights and responsibilities of one or both parents [,] and commit the child to
4 the custody of the department [OR TO A LEGALLY APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF
5 THE PERSON OF THE CHILD], and the department [OR GUARDIAN] shall report
6 quarterly [ANNUALLY] to the court on efforts being made to find a permanent
7 placement for the child.

8 * **Sec. 27.** AS 47.10.080(f) is amended to read:

9 (f) A child [MINOR] found to be a child in need of aid is a ward of the state
10 while committed to the department or the department has the power to supervise the
11 child's [MINOR'S] actions. **For an order made under (c)(1) of this section, the**
12 **[THE] court shall hold a permanency hearing as required by (l) of this section and**
13 **at least annually thereafter during the continuation of foster care** [REVIEW AN
14 ORDER MADE UNDER (c)(1) OR (2) OF THIS SECTION ANNUALLY, AND MAY
15 REVIEW THE ORDER MORE FREQUENTLY] to determine if continued placement
16 [OR SUPERVISION], as it is being provided, is in the best interest of the child
17 [MINOR. IF ANNUAL REVIEW UNDER THIS SUBSECTION WOULD ARISE
18 WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE HEARING REQUIRED UNDER (l) OF THIS SECTION,
19 THE COURT MAY POSTPONE REVIEW UNDER THIS SUBSECTION UNTIL THE
20 TIME SET FOR THE HEARING]. The department, the child, and [MINOR,] the
21 child's [MINOR'S] parents, guardian, **and guardian ad litem** [OR CUSTODIAN] are
22 entitled, when good cause is shown, to a **permanency hearing** [REVIEW] on
23 application. If the application is granted, the court shall afford these **persons**
24 [PARTIES] and their counsel reasonable **advance** notice [IN ADVANCE OF THE
25 REVIEW] and hold a **permanency** hearing where these **persons** [PARTIES] and their
26 counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. **The persons entitled to notice**
27 **under AS 47.10.030(b) are entitled to notice of a permanency hearing under this**
28 **subsection and are also entitled to be heard at the hearing.** The child [MINOR]
29 shall be afforded the opportunity to be present **and to be heard** at the **permanency**
30 **hearing. After the permanency hearing, the court shall make the written findings**
31 **that are required under (l) of this section. The court shall review an order made**

1 under (c)(2) of this section at least annually to determine if continued supervision,
 2 as it is being provided, is in the best interest of the child; this review is not
 3 considered to be a permanency hearing and is not governed by the provisions of
 4 this subsection that relate to permanency hearings [REVIEW].

5 * **Sec. 28.** AS 47.10.080(i) is amended to read:

6 (i) A child or [MINOR,] the child's [MINOR'S] parents, [OR] guardian, or
 7 guardian ad litem, or attorney, acting on the child's [MINOR'S] behalf, or the
 8 department may appeal a judgment or order, or the stay, modification, setting aside,
 9 revocation, or enlargement of a judgment or order issued by the court under this
 10 chapter. Absent extraordinary circumstances, a decision on the appeal shall be
 11 issued no later than 90 days after the latest of the following:

12 (1) the date oral argument, if any, is heard on the appeal; or

13 (2) 45 days after the last date oral argument could have been timely
 14 requested if oral argument was not requested.

15 * **Sec. 29.** AS 47.10.080(l) is repealed and reenacted to read:

16 (l) Within 12 months after the date a child enters foster care as calculated under
 17 AS 47.10.088(f), the court shall hold a permanency hearing. The hearing and
 18 permanent plan developed in the hearing are governed by the following provisions:

19 (1) the persons entitled to be heard under AS 47.10.070 or under (f) of
 20 this section are also entitled to be heard at the hearing held under this subsection;

21 (2) when establishing the permanent plan for the child, the court shall
 22 make appropriate written findings, including findings related to whether

23 (A) and when the child should be returned to the parent or
 24 guardian;

25 (B) the child should be placed for adoption or legal guardianship
 26 and whether a petition for termination of parental rights should be filed by the
 27 department; and

28 (C) the child should be placed in another planned, permanent
 29 living arrangement and what steps are necessary to achieve the new
 30 arrangement;

31 (3) if the court is unable to make a finding required under (2) of this

1 subsection, the court shall hold another hearing within a reasonable period of time;

2 (4) in addition to the findings required by (2) of this subsection, the
3 court shall also make appropriate written findings related to

4 (A) whether the department has made the reasonable efforts
5 required under AS 47.10.086 to offer appropriate family support services to
6 remedy the parent's or guardian's conduct or conditions in the home that made
7 the child a child in need of aid under this chapter;

8 (B) whether the parent or guardian has made substantial progress
9 to remedy the parent's or guardian's conduct or conditions in the home that
10 made the child a child in need of aid under this chapter; and

11 (C) if the permanent plan is for the child to remain in out-of-
12 home-care, whether the child's out-of-home placement continues to be
13 appropriate and in the best interests of the child;

14 (5) the court shall hold a hearing to review the permanent plan at least
15 annually until successful implementation of the plan; if the plan approved by the court
16 changes after the hearing, the department shall promptly apply to the court for another
17 permanency hearing, and the court shall conduct the hearing within 30 days after
18 application by the department.

19 * **Sec. 30.** AS 47.10.080(o) is amended to read:

20 (o) For purposes of terminating a parent's parental rights under the standards
21 in (c)(3) of this section, the court may determine that incarceration of the parent is
22 sufficient grounds for determining that a **child** [MINOR] is a child in need of aid under
23 **AS 47.10.011** [AS 47.10.010(a)(1)] as a result of parental conduct and that the **parental**
24 **rights of the incarcerated parent should be terminated** [CONDUCT IS LIKELY TO
25 CONTINUE] if the court finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, that [THE]

26 (1) **the** period of incarceration that the parent is scheduled to serve
27 during the child's minority is significant considering the child's age and the child's need
28 for an adult's care and supervision; [AND]

29 (2) **there is not another parent willing and able to care for the child;**
30 **and**

31 (3) **the incarcerated** parent has failed to make adequate provisions for

1 care of the child during the period of incarceration that will be during the child's
2 minority.

3 * **Sec. 31.** AS 47.10.080 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

4 (p) If a child is removed from the parental home, the department shall provide
5 reasonable visitation between the child and the child's parents, guardian, and family.
6 When determining what constitutes reasonable visitation with a family member, the
7 department shall consider the nature and quality of the relationship that existed between
8 the child and the family member before the child was committed to the custody of the
9 department. The court may require the department to file a visitation plan with the
10 court. The department may deny visitation to the parents, guardian, or family members
11 if there is clear and convincing evidence that visits are not in the child's best interests.
12 A parent or guardian who is denied visitation may request a review hearing.

13 (q) If the court orders a child committed to the department under (c) of this
14 section and the department places the child in licensed foster care, the department shall

15 (1) provide the foster parent with a copy of

16 (A) appropriate information held by the department regarding the
17 child to the extent required by AS 47.12.310(b)(8);

18 (B) all initial, updated, and revised case service plans for the
19 child, court orders relating to the child, and the child's medical, mental, and
20 education reports prepared by or for the department, including reports compiled
21 before the child was placed with the foster parent; and

22 (C) supplements to the plans, orders, and reports described in (B)
23 of this paragraph;

24 (2) require the foster parent to

25 (A) maintain and update records regarding medical, mental,
26 educational, and behavioral services provided to the child;

27 (B) provide all records described in (A) of this paragraph to the
28 department when the child leaves the foster home placement; and

29 (C) maintain the confidentiality of records regarding a child
30 placed in the foster home except when disclosure of the records is allowed
31 under regulations of the department or when disclosure is reasonably necessary

1 to ensure continuation of care for the child through appropriate medical, mental,
2 educational, and behavioral services.

3 (r) If the court orders a child committed to the department under (c) of this
4 section, the court shall order the child's parent or guardian to provide the department
5 with

6 (1) the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all of the child's
7 medical providers;

8 (2) the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of mental health
9 providers that have provided services to the child;

10 (3) the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of schools, preschools,
11 or day care facilities that the child was attending before the child was committed to the
12 department;

13 (4) a description of special needs of the child, if any; and

14 (5) the names and locations of relatives who may be willing to have the
15 child placed in their home.

16 (s) The department may transfer a child, in the child's best interests, from one
17 placement setting to another, and the child, the child's parents or guardian, the child's
18 foster parents or out-of-home caregiver, the child's guardian ad litem, the child's
19 attorney, and the child's tribe are entitled to advance notice of a nonemergency transfer.

20 A party opposed to the proposed transfer may request a hearing and must prove by
21 clear and convincing evidence that the transfer would be contrary to the best interests
22 of the child for the court to deny the transfer. A foster parent or out-of-home caregiver
23 who requests a nonemergency change in placement of the child shall provide the
24 department with reasonable advance notice of the requested change.

25 * **Sec. 32.** AS 47.10.082 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 47.10.082. Health and safety [BEST INTERESTS] of child and other**
27 **considerations.** In making its dispositional order under AS 47.10.080(c), the court
28 shall **keep the health and safety of the child as the court's paramount concern and**
29 consider

30 (1) the best interests of the child; [AND]

31 (2) the ability of the state to take custody and to care for the child to

1 protect the child's best interests under AS 47.10.005 - 47.10.142; and

2 (3) the potential harm to the child caused by removal of the child
3 from the home and family environment [AS 47.10.010 - 47.10.142].

4 * **Sec. 33.** AS 47.10.084(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) When a child is committed under AS 47.10.080(c)(1) to the department,
6 released under AS 47.10.080(c)(2) to the child's parents, guardian, or other suitable
7 person, or committed to the department or to a legally appointed guardian of the person
8 of the child under AS 47.10.080(c)(3), a relationship of legal custody exists. This
9 relationship imposes on the department and its authorized agents or the parents,
10 guardian, or other suitable person the responsibility of physical care and control of the
11 child, the determination of where and with whom the child shall live, the right and duty
12 to protect, **nurture**, train, and discipline the child, [AND] the duty of providing the
13 child with food, shelter, education, and medical care, **and the right and responsibility**
14 **to make decisions of financial significance concerning the child.** These obligations
15 are subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities and rights and
16 responsibilities of a guardian if one has been appointed. When a child is committed
17 to the department and the department places the child with the child's parent, the parent
18 has the responsibility to provide and pay for food, shelter, education, and medical care
19 for the child. When parental rights have been terminated, or there are no living parents
20 and no guardian has been appointed, the responsibilities of legal custody include those
21 in (b) and (c) of this section. The department or person having legal custody of the
22 child may delegate any of the responsibilities under this section, except authority to
23 consent to marriage, adoption, and military enlistment may not be delegated. For
24 purposes of this chapter a person in charge of a placement setting is an agent of the
25 department.

26 * **Sec. 34.** AS 47.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

27 **Sec. 47.10.086. Reasonable efforts.** (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of
28 this section, the department shall make timely, reasonable efforts to provide family
29 support services to the child and to the parents or guardian of the child that are
30 designed to prevent out-of-home placement of the child or to enable the safe return of
31 the child to the family home, when appropriate, if the child is in an out-of-home

1 placement. The department's duty to make reasonable efforts under this subsection
2 includes the duty to

3 (1) identify family support services that will assist the parent or
4 guardian in remedying the conduct or conditions in the home that made the child a
5 child in need of aid;

6 (2) actively offer the parent or guardian, and refer the parent or guardian
7 to, the services identified under (1) of this subsection; the department shall refer the
8 parent or guardian to community-based family support services whenever community-
9 based services are available and desired by the parent or guardian; and

10 (3) document the department's actions that are taken under (1) and (2)
11 of this subsection.

12 (b) If the court makes a finding at a hearing conducted under AS 47.10.080(1)
13 that a parent or guardian has not sufficiently remedied the parent's or guardian's
14 conduct or the conditions in the home despite reasonable efforts made by the
15 department in accordance with this section, the court may conclude that continuation
16 of reasonable efforts of the type described in (a) of this section are not in the best
17 interests of the child. The department shall then make reasonable efforts to place the
18 child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanent plan and to complete
19 whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

20 (c) The court may determine that reasonable efforts of the type described in (a)
21 of this section are not required if the court has found by a preponderance of the
22 evidence that

23 (1) the parent or guardian has subjected the child to circumstances that
24 pose a substantial risk to the child's health or safety; these circumstances include
25 abandonment, sexual abuse, torture, chronic mental injury, or chronic physical harm;

26 (2) the parent or guardian has

27 (A) committed homicide under AS 11.41.100 - 11.41.130 of a
28 parent of the child or of a child;

29 (B) aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited under
30 AS 11.16 or AS 11.31 to commit a homicide described in (A) of this paragraph;

31 (C) committed an assault that is a felony under AS 11.41.200 -

1 11.41.220 and results in serious physical injury to a child; or

2 (D) committed the conduct described in (A) - (C) of this
3 paragraph that violated a law or ordinance of another jurisdiction having
4 elements similar to an offense described in (A) - (C) of this paragraph;

5 (3) the parent or guardian has, during the 12 months preceding the
6 permanency hearing, failed to comply with a court order to participate in family support
7 services;

8 (4) the department has conducted a reasonably diligent search over a
9 time period of at least three months for an unidentified or absent parent and has failed
10 to identify and locate the parent;

11 (5) the parent or guardian is the sole caregiver of the child and the
12 parent or guardian has a mental illness or mental deficiency of such nature and duration
13 that, according to the statement of a psychologist or physician, the parent or guardian
14 will be incapable of caring for the child without placing the child at substantial risk of
15 physical or mental injury even if the department were to provide family support
16 services to the parent or guardian for 12 months;

17 (6) the parent or guardian has previously been convicted of a crime
18 involving a child in this state or in another jurisdiction and, after the conviction, the
19 child was returned to the custody of the parent or guardian and later removed because
20 of an additional substantiated report of physical or sexual abuse by the parent or
21 guardian;

22 (7) a child has suffered substantial physical harm as the result of abusive
23 or neglectful conduct by the parent or guardian or by a person known by the parent or
24 guardian and the parent or guardian knew or reasonably should have known that the
25 person was abusing the child;

26 (8) the parental rights of the parent have been terminated with respect
27 to another child because of child abuse or neglect, the parent has not remedied the
28 conditions or conduct that led to the termination of parental rights, and the parent has
29 demonstrated an inability to protect the child from substantial harm or the risk of
30 substantial harm;

31 (9) the child has been removed from the child's home on at least two

1 previous occasions, family support services were offered or provided to the parent or
 2 guardian at those times, and the parent or guardian has demonstrated an inability to
 3 protect the child from substantial harm or the risk of substantial harm; or

4 (10) the parent or guardian is incarcerated and is unavailable to care for
 5 the child during a significant period of the child's minority, considering the child's age
 6 and need for care by an adult.

7 (d) If the court determines under (b) or (c) of this section that reasonable
 8 efforts under (a) of this section are not required to be provided,

9 (1) the court shall hold a permanency hearing for the child within 30
 10 days after the determination; and

11 (2) the department shall make reasonable efforts to place the child in
 12 a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan, and complete whatever steps
 13 are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

14 (e) The department may develop and implement an alternative permanency plan
 15 for the child while the department is also making reasonable efforts to return the child
 16 to the child's family under (a) of this section.

17 (f) In making determinations and reasonable efforts under this section, the
 18 primary consideration is the child's best interests.

19 **Sec. 47.10.088. Termination of parental rights and responsibilities.** (a)
 20 Except as provided in AS 47.10.080(o), the rights and responsibilities of the parent
 21 regarding the child may be terminated for purposes of freeing a child for adoption or
 22 other permanent placement if the court finds

23 (1) by clear and convincing evidence that

24 (A) the child has been subjected to conduct or conditions
 25 described in AS 47.10.011; and

26 (B) the parent

27 (i) has not remedied the conduct or conditions in the
 28 home that place the child at substantial risk of harm; or

29 (ii) has failed, within a reasonable time, to remedy the
 30 conduct or conditions in the home that place the child in substantial risk
 31 so that returning the child to the parent would place the child at

1 substantial risk of physical or mental injury; and

2 (2) by preponderance of the evidence that the department has complied
3 with the provisions of AS 47.10.086 concerning reasonable efforts.

4 (b) In making a determination under (a)(1)(B) of this section, the court may
5 consider any fact relating to the best interests of the child, including

6 (1) the likelihood of returning the child to the parent within a reasonable
7 time based on the child's age or needs;

8 (2) the amount of effort by the parent to remedy the conduct or the
9 conditions in the home;

10 (3) the harm caused to the child;

11 (4) the likelihood that the harmful conduct will continue; and

12 (5) the history of conduct by or conditions created by the parent.

13 (c) In a proceeding under this chapter involving termination of the parental
14 right of a parent, the court shall consider the best interests of the child.

15 (d) Except as provided in (e) of this section, the department shall petition for
16 termination of a parent's rights to a child, without making further reasonable efforts,
17 when a child is under the jurisdiction of the court under AS 47.10.010 and 47.10.011,
18 and

19 (1) the child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent
20 22 months;

21 (2) the court has determined that the child is abandoned under
22 AS 47.10.013 and the child is younger than six years of age;

23 (3) the court has made a finding under AS 47.10.086(b) or a
24 determination under AS 47.10.086(c) that the best interests of the child do not require
25 further reasonable efforts by the department;

26 (4) a parent has made three or more attempts within a 15-month period
27 to remedy the parent's conduct or conditions in the home without lasting change; or

28 (5) a parent has made no effort to remedy the parent's conduct or the
29 conditions in the home by the time of the permanency hearing under AS 47.10.080(1).

30 (e) If one or more of the conditions listed in (d) of this section are present, the
31 department shall petition for termination of the parental rights to a child unless the

1 department

2 (1) has documented a compelling reason for determining that filing the
3 petition would not be in the best interests of the child; a compelling reason under this
4 paragraph may include care by a relative for the child; or

5 (2) is required to make reasonable efforts under AS 47.10.086 and the
6 department has not provided to the parent, consistent with the time period in the
7 department's case plan, the family support services that the department has determined
8 are necessary for the safe return of the child to the home.

9 (f) A child is considered to have entered foster care under this chapter on the
10 earlier of

11 (1) the date of the first judicial finding of child abuse or neglect; or

12 (2) 60 days after the date of removal of the child from the child's home
13 under this chapter.

14 (g) This section does not preclude the department from filing a petition to
15 terminate the parental rights and responsibilities to a child for other reasons, or at an
16 earlier time than those specified in (d) of this section, if the department determines that
17 filing a petition is in the best interests of the child.

18 (h) The court may order the termination of parental rights and responsibilities
19 of one or both parents under AS 47.10.080(c)(3) and commit the child to the custody
20 of the department. The rights of one parent may be terminated without affecting the
21 rights of the other parent.

22 (i) The department shall concurrently identify, recruit, process, and approve a
23 qualified person or family for an adoption whenever a petition to terminate a parent's
24 rights to a child is filed. If the court issues an order to terminate under (j) of this
25 section, the department shall report within 30 days on the efforts being made to recruit
26 a permanent placement for the child if a permanent placement was not approved at the
27 time of the trial under (j) of this section. The report must document recruitment efforts
28 made for the child.

29 (j) No later than six months after the date on which the petition to terminate
30 parental rights is filed, the court before which the petition is pending shall hold a trial
31 on the petition unless the court finds that good cause is shown for a continuance.

1 When determining whether to grant a continuance for good cause, the court shall take
 2 into consideration the age of the child and the potential adverse effect that the delay
 3 may have on the child. The court shall make written findings when granting a
 4 continuance.

5 (k) The court shall issue an order on the petition to terminate within 90 days
 6 after the last day of the trial on the petition to terminate parental rights.

7 * **Sec. 35.** AS 47.10.090(e) is amended to read:

8 (e) The court's official records under this chapter may be inspected only with
 9 the court's permission and only by persons having a legitimate interest in them. A
 10 **foster parent is considered to have a legitimate interest in those portions of the**
 11 **court's records relating to a child who is placed by the department with the foster**
 12 **parent or who the department proposes for placement with the foster parent.**

13 * **Sec. 36.** AS 47.10.092(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Notwithstanding AS 47.10.090 and 47.10.093, a parent or legal guardian of
 15 a **child** [MINOR] subject to a proceeding under **AS 47.10.005 - 47.10.142**
 16 [AS 47.10.010 - 47.10.142] may disclose confidential or privileged information about
 17 the **child or the child's family** [MINOR], including information that has been lawfully
 18 obtained from agency or court files, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, a
 19 legislator, the ombudsman appointed under AS 24.55, the attorney general, and the
 20 commissioners of health and social services, administration, or public safety, or an
 21 employee of these persons, for review or use in their official capacities. The
 22 department **shall** [MAY] disclose additional confidential or privileged information and
 23 make **copies of documents** available for inspection [DOCUMENTS] about the **child**
 24 **or the child's family** [MINOR] to these state officials or employees for review or use
 25 in their official capacities **upon request of the official or employee and submission**
 26 **of satisfactory evidence that a parent or legal guardian of the child has requested**
 27 **the state official's assistance in the case as part of the official's duties.** A person
 28 to whom disclosure is made under this section may not disclose confidential or
 29 privileged information about the **child or the child's family** [MINOR] to a person not
 30 authorized to receive it.

31 * **Sec. 37.** AS 47.10.093(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) A state or municipal agency or employee shall [MAY] disclose
2 appropriate information regarding a case to

3 (1) a guardian ad litem appointed by the court or to a citizen review
4 board or local review panel for permanency planning authorized by AS 47.14.200 or
5 47.14.220;

6 (2) a person or an agency requested by the department or the child's
7 legal custodian to provide consultation or services for a child [MINOR] who is subject
8 to the jurisdiction of the court under AS 47.10.010 as necessary to enable the
9 provision of the consultation or services;

10 (3) foster parents or relatives with whom the child is placed by the
11 department as may be necessary to enable the foster parents or relatives to
12 provide appropriate care for the child who is the subject of the case, to protect the
13 safety of the child who is the subject of the case, and to protect the safety and
14 property of family members and visitors of the foster parents or relatives;

15 (4) school officials as may be necessary to enable the school to provide
16 appropriate counseling and support services to the child [MINOR] who is the subject
17 of the case, to protect the safety of the child [MINOR] who is the subject of the case,
18 and to protect the safety of school students and staff;

19 (5) [(4)] a governmental agency as may be necessary to obtain that
20 agency's assistance for the department in its investigation or to obtain physical custody
21 of a child;

22 (6) [AND (5)] a [STATE OR MUNICIPAL] law enforcement agency
23 of this state or another jurisdiction as may be necessary for the protection of any
24 child [A SPECIFIC INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY THAT AGENCY]
25 or for actions [DISCLOSURES] by that agency to protect the public safety;

26 (7) members of a multidisciplinary child protection team created
27 under AS 47.14.300 as may be necessary for the performance of their duties;

28 (8) the state medical examiner under AS 12.65 as may be necessary
29 for the performance of the duties of the state medical examiner;

30 (9) a person who has made a report of harm as required by
31 AS 47.17.020 to inform the person that the investigation was completed and of

1 action taken to protect the child who was the subject of the report; and
 2 (10) the child support enforcement agency established in
 3 AS 25.27.010 as may be necessary to establish and collect child support for a child
 4 who is a child in need of aid under this chapter.

5 * **Sec. 38.** AS 47.10.141(f) is amended to read:

6 (f) If a **child** [MINOR], without permission, leaves the semi-secure portion of
 7 an office, program, shelter, or facility to which the **child** [MINOR] was taken by a
 8 peace officer under **(b)(1)(C)** [(b)(1)(c)] of this section, the office, program, shelter, or
 9 facility shall immediately notify the department and the nearest law enforcement agency
 10 of the identity of the **child** [MINOR] and the **child's** [MINOR'S] absence. If the same
 11 **child** [MINOR] is again taken into protective custody under (b) of this section and the
 12 peace officer knows that the **child** [MINOR] has previously been reported under this
 13 subsection as missing from a semi-secure placement, the peace officer, in addition to
 14 taking the appropriate action under (b) of this section, shall report the circumstances
 15 and the identity of the **child** [MINOR] to the department. Within 48 hours after
 16 receiving this report, the department shall determine whether to file a petition alleging
 17 that the **child** [MINOR] is a child in need of aid under **AS 47.10.011**
 18 [AS 47.10.010(a)(1)]. If the department decides not to file a petition alleging that the
 19 **child** [MINOR] is a child in need of aid, the department shall, within seven state
 20 working days after receiving the report from the peace officer under this subsection,
 21 send to the **child's** [MINOR'S] parents or guardian, as applicable, written notice of its
 22 determination not to proceed with the petition, including the reasons on which the
 23 determination was based. If the department is unable to obtain a reasonably reliable
 24 address for a parent or guardian, the department shall keep a copy of the notice on file
 25 and, notwithstanding AS 47.10.093, release the notice to the **child's** [MINOR'S] parent
 26 or guardian on request of the parent or guardian. If the department files a petition
 27 alleging that the **child** [MINOR] is a child in need of aid, the court shall proceed under
 28 AS 47.10.142(d).

29 * **Sec. 39.** AS 47.10.141(g) is amended to read:

30 (g) If the department files a petition alleging the **child** [MINOR] is a child in
 31 need of aid under **AS 47.10.011(5)** [AS 47.10.010(a)(1)] because the **child** [MINOR]

1 is habitually absent from home or refuses available care, the **child's** [MINOR'S] parent
 2 or guardian shall attend each hearing held during the child-in-need-of-aid proceedings
 3 unless the court excuses the parent or guardian from attendance for good cause. If the
 4 **child** [MINOR] is found to be a child in need of aid, the court may order that the

5 **(1) child participate in treatment;**

6 **(2)** [MINOR'S] parent or guardian [(1)] personally participate in
 7 treatment reasonably available in the parent or guardian's community as specified in a
 8 plan set out in the court order; and

9 **(3) child and the parent or guardian** [(2)] comply with other
 10 conditions set out in the court order.

11 * **Sec. 40.** AS 47.10.142(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) The Department of Health and Social Services may take emergency custody
 13 of a **child** [MINOR] upon discovering any of the following circumstances:

14 (1) the **child** [MINOR] has been abandoned **as abandonment is**
 15 **described in AS 47.10.013;**

16 (2) the **child** [MINOR] has been [GROSSLY] neglected by the **child's**
 17 [MINOR'S] parents or guardian, as "neglect" is **described** [DEFINED] in **AS 47.10.014**
 18 [AS 47.17.290], and the department determines that immediate removal from the **child's**
 19 [MINOR'S] surroundings is necessary to protect the **child's** [MINOR'S] life or provide
 20 immediate necessary medical attention;

21 (3) the **child** [MINOR] has been subjected to **physical harm** [CHILD
 22 ABUSE OR NEGLECT] by a person responsible for the **child's** [MINOR'S] welfare,
 23 [AS "CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT" IS DEFINED IN AS 47.17.290,] and the
 24 department determines that immediate removal from the **child's** [MINOR'S]
 25 surroundings is necessary to protect the **child's** [MINOR'S] life or that immediate
 26 medical attention is necessary; or

27 (4) the **child or a sibling** [MINOR] has been sexually abused under
 28 circumstances listed in **AS 47.10.011(7)** [AS 47.10.010(a)(4)].

29 * **Sec. 41.** AS 47.10.142(c) is amended to read:

30 (c) When a child is taken into custody under (a) or (b) of this section or when
 31 the department is notified of a child's presence in either a program for runaway

1 **children** [MINORS] under AS 47.10.300 - 47.10.390 or a shelter for runaway **children**
 2 [MINORS] under AS 47.10.392 - 47.10.399, the department shall immediately, and in
 3 no event more than 24 [12] hours later unless prevented by lack of communication
 4 facilities, notify the parents or the person or persons having custody of the child. If the
 5 department determines that continued custody is necessary to protect the child, the
 6 department shall notify the court of the emergency custody by filing, within 24 [12]
 7 hours after custody was assumed, a petition alleging that the child is a child in need of
 8 aid. If the department releases the child within 24 [12] hours after taking the child into
 9 custody and does not file a child in need of aid petition, the department shall, within
 10 24 [12] hours after releasing the child, file with the court a report explaining why the
 11 child was taken into custody, **why the child was released, and to whom the child was**
 12 **released.**

13 * **Sec. 42.** AS 47.10.142(h) is amended to read:

14 (h) Within 12 [18] months after a **child** [MINOR] is committed to the
 15 department under this section, the court shall review the placement plan and actual
 16 placement of the **child** [MINOR] under AS 47.10.080(l).

17 * **Sec. 43.** AS 47.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 **Sec. 47.10.960. Duty and standard of care not created.** Nothing in this title
 19 creates a duty or standard of care for services to children and their families being
 20 served under AS 47.10.

21 * **Sec. 44.** AS 47.10.990(1) is amended to read:

22 (1) "care" [OR "CARING" UNDER AS 47.10.010(a)(1) AND
 23 47.10.120(a)] means to provide for the physical, [EMOTIONAL,] mental, and social
 24 needs of the child;

25 * **Sec. 45.** AS 47.10.990(2) is amended to read:

26 (2) "child in need of aid" means a **child** [MINOR] found to be within
 27 the jurisdiction of the court under **AS 47.10.010 and 47.10.011** [AS 47.10.010(a)];

28 * **Sec. 46.** AS 47.10.990 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

29 (8) "child" means a person under 18 years of age and a person 19 years
 30 of age if that person was under 18 years of age at the time that a proceeding under this
 31 chapter was commenced;

1 (9) "custodian" means a natural person 18 years of age or older to
2 whom a parent or guardian has transferred temporary physical care, custody, and
3 control of the child for a period of time;

4 (10) "domestic violence" has the meaning given in AS 18.66.990;

5 (11) "family support services" means the services and activities provided
6 to children and their families, including those provided by the community, a church,
7 or other service organization, both to prevent removal of a child from the parental home
8 and to facilitate the child's safe return to the family; "family support services" may
9 include counseling, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, assistance to
10 address domestic violence, visitation with family members, parenting classes, in-home
11 services, temporary child care services, and transportation;

12 (12) "foster care" means care provided by a person or household under
13 a foster home license required under AS 47.35.015;

14 (13) "guardian" means a natural person who is legally appointed
15 guardian of the child by the court;

16 (14) "hazardous volatile material or substances" has the meaning given
17 in AS 47.37.270;

18 (15) "intoxicant" means a substance that temporarily diminishes a
19 person's control over mental or physical powers, including alcohol, controlled
20 substances under AS 11.71, and a hazardous volatile material or substance misused by
21 inhaling its vapors;

22 (16) "mental injury" has the meaning given in AS 47.17.290;

23 (17) "parent" means the biological or adoptive parent of the child;

24 (18) "permanency hearing" means a hearing

25 (A) designed to reach a decision in a case concerning the
26 permanent placement of a child under AS 47.10; and

27 (B) at which the direction of the case involving the child is
28 determined;

29 (19) "physical injury" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900(b);

30 (20) "reasonable efforts" means, with respect to family support services
31 required under AS 47.10.086, consistent attempts made during a reasonable time period

1 and time-limited services;

2 (21) "reasonable time" means a period of time that serves the best
3 interests of the child, taking in account the affected child's age, emotional and
4 developmental needs, and ability to form and maintain lasting attachments;

5 (22) "serious physical injury" has the meaning given in
6 AS 11.81.900(b);

7 (23) "sexual abuse" means the conduct described in AS 11.41.410 -
8 11.41.460; conduct constituting "sexual exploitation" as defined in AS 47.17.290, and
9 conduct prohibited by AS 11.66.100 - 11.66.150;

10 (24) "support" has the meaning given in AS 11.51.120(b).

11 * **Sec. 47.** AS 47.12.310(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) A state or municipal agency or employee **shall** [MAY] disclose
13 **appropriate** information regarding a case to

14 (1) a guardian ad litem appointed by the court [OR TO A CITIZEN
15 REVIEW BOARD OR LOCAL REVIEW PANEL FOR PERMANENCY PLANNING
16 AUTHORIZED BY AS 47.14.200 - 47.14.220];

17 (2) a person or an agency requested **by the department or the minor's**
18 **legal custodian** to provide consultation or services for a minor who is subject to the
19 jurisdiction of the court under this chapter **as necessary to enable the provision of the**
20 **consultation or services**;

21 (3) school officials as may be necessary to protect the safety of the
22 minor who is the subject of the case and the safety of school students and staff or to
23 enable the school to provide appropriate counseling and supportive services to meet the
24 needs of a minor about whom information is disclosed;

25 (4) a governmental agency as may be necessary to obtain that agency's
26 assistance for the department in its investigation or to obtain physical custody of a
27 minor;

28 (5) a [STATE OR MUNICIPAL] law enforcement agency **of this state**
29 **or another jurisdiction** as may be necessary for **the protection, rehabilitation, or**
30 **supervision of any minor** [A SPECIFIC INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED
31 BY THAT AGENCY] or for **actions** [DISCLOSURES] by that agency to protect the

1 public safety; [AND]

2 (6) a victim as may be necessary to inform the victim about the
3 disposition or resolution of a case involving a minor;

4 (7) the state medical examiner under AS 12.65 as may be necessary
5 to perform the duties of the state medical examiner; and

6 (8) foster parents or relatives with whom the child is placed by the
7 department as may be necessary to enable the foster parents or relatives to
8 provide appropriate care for the child who is the subject of the case, to protect the
9 safety of the child who is the subject of the case, and to protect the safety and
10 property of family members and visitors of the foster parents or relatives.

11 * **Sec. 48.** AS 47.14.100(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) Subject to (e), (f), (i), and (j) [(e) AND (f)] of this section, the department
13 shall arrange for the care of every child committed to its custody by placing the child
14 in a foster home or in the care of an agency or institution providing care for children
15 inside or outside the state. The department may place a child in a suitable family
16 home, with or without compensation, and may place a child released to it, in writing
17 verified by the parent, or guardian or other person having legal custody, for adoptive
18 purposes, in a home for adoption in accordance with existing law.

19 * **Sec. 49.** AS 47.14.100(d) is amended to read:

20 (d) In addition to money paid for the maintenance of foster children under (b)
21 of this section, the department

22 (1) shall pay the costs of caring for physically or mentally handicapped
23 foster children, including the additional costs of medical care, habilitative and
24 rehabilitative treatment, services and equipment, special clothing, and the indirect costs
25 of medical care, including child care and transportation expenses;

26 (2) may pay for respite care; in this paragraph, "respite care" means
27 child care for the purpose of providing

28 [(A)] temporary relief from the stresses of caring for a foster
29 child [WHO HAS A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY OR A
30 PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT; IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH,

31 (i) "PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY" HAS THE

1 MEANING GIVEN IN AS 18.80.300(12)(A), (B), AND (D); AND

2 (ii) "PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT" HAS
3 THE MEANING GIVEN IN AS 18.80.300; AND

4 (B) PROTECTION FOR THE CHILD WHEN THE FOSTER
5 PARENT IS

6 (i) AWAY FROM THE HOME BECAUSE OF AN
7 EMERGENCY AND OTHER CARE IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE
8 CHILD; OR

9 (ii) ON VACATION AND THE CHILD, BECAUSE OF
10 AGE OR INFIRMITY, CANNOT BE PLACED IN ANY OTHER TYPE
11 OF TEMPORARY CARE FACILITY]; and

12 (3) may pay a subsidized guardianship payment under AS 25.23.210
13 when a foster child's foster parents or other persons approved by the department
14 become court-appointed legal guardians of the child.

15 * **Sec. 50.** AS 47.14.100(e) is amended to read:

16 (e) A child may not be placed in a foster home or in the care of an agency or
17 institution providing care for children if a [BLOOD] relative **by blood or marriage**
18 [EXISTS WHO] requests **placement** [CUSTODY] of the child **in the relative's home.**
19 However, the department may retain custody of the child and provide for its placement
20 in the same manner as for other children if **the department**

21 **(1)** [IT] makes a determination, supported by clear and convincing
22 evidence, that **placement** [THE CUSTODY] of the child **with** [BY] the [BLOOD]
23 relative will result in physical or **mental injury; in** [EMOTIONAL DAMAGE. IN]
24 making that determination, poverty, including inadequate or crowded housing, on the
25 part of the blood relative, is not considered prima facie evidence that physical or
26 emotional damage to the child will occur; **this** [. THIS] determination may be appealed
27 to the superior court to hear the matter de novo;

28 **(2) determines that a member of the relative's household who is 12**
29 **years of age or older was the perpetrator in a substantiated report of abuse under**
30 **AS 47.17; or**

31 **(3) determines that a member of the relative's household who is 12**

1 years of age or older is under arrest for, charged with, has been convicted of, or
 2 has been found not guilty by reason of insanity of, a serious offense;
 3 notwithstanding this paragraph, the department may place or continue the
 4 placement of a child at the relative's home if the relative demonstrates to the
 5 satisfaction of the department that conduct described in this paragraph occurred
 6 at least five years before the intended placement and the conduct

7 (A) did not involve a victim who was under 18 year of age
 8 at the time of the conduct;

9 (B) was not a crime of domestic violence as defined in
 10 AS 18.66.990; and

11 (C) was not a violent crime under AS 11.41.100 - 11.41.455
 12 or a law or ordinance of another jurisdiction having similar elements.

13 * **Sec. 51.** AS 47.14.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

14 (i) A child may not be placed with an out-of-home care provider, as defined
 15 in AS 47.14.299, if the department determines that the child can remain safely at home
 16 with one parent or guardian.

17 (j) For the purpose of determining whether the home of a relative meets the
 18 requirements for placement of a child, the department shall conduct a criminal
 19 background check from state and national criminal justice information available under
 20 AS 12.62. The department may conduct a fingerprint background check on any
 21 member of the relative's household who is 12 years of age or older when the relative
 22 requests placement of the child. For the purposes of obtaining criminal justice
 23 information under this subsection, the department is a criminal justice agency
 24 conducting a criminal justice activity under AS 12.62.

25 * **Sec. 52.** AS 47.14 is amended by adding a new section to read:

26 **Sec. 47.14.115. Training of foster parents.** If the department has placed a
 27 child in a foster home, the department shall, no less often than once quarterly, make
 28 available training that will assist the foster parent or parents in providing care that will
 29 meet the needs of the child placed in the home and the requirements established by the
 30 department in regulation.

31 * **Sec. 53.** AS 47.14.240(d) is amended to read:

1 (d) In reviewing a case, the local review panel shall consider the case plan and
 2 any progress report of the department or the child's guardian ad litem, court records,
 3 and other relevant information about the child and the child's family. The local **review**
 4 panel shall provide to the following persons an opportunity to be interviewed by the
 5 local review panel in person or by telephone or to provide written material to the local
 6 review panel:

7 (1) the child whose case is being reviewed if the child is 10 years of age
 8 or older;

9 (2) the parents, custodians, or other relatives of the child;

10 (3) the child's out-of-home care provider;

11 (4) the child's guardian;

12 (5) the child's guardian ad litem;

13 (6) the case worker or social worker assigned to the case;

14 (7) **the child's health care providers;**

15 (8) **if the case is governed by 25 U.S.C. 1901 - 1963 (Indian Child**
 16 **Welfare Act),**

17 (A) the child's Indian custodian; and

18 (B) the designated representative of the child's Indian tribe if the
 19 tribe has intervened in the court case; and

20 (9) [(8)] other persons with a close personal knowledge of the case.

21 * **Sec. 54.** AS 47.14.240(h) is amended to read:

22 (h) The report required under (g) of this section must make advisory
 23 recommendations based on the best interests of the child in accordance with
 24 AS 47.10.082 and must include notification of the right to request court review under
 25 AS 47.10.080(f). If the court has scheduled the case for review, the local review panel
 26 shall submit its report at least 20 days before the hearing, **and the department shall**
 27 **present to the court the recommendations that are made in the report.**

28 * **Sec. 55.** AS 47.14 is amended by adding a new section to read:

29 **Article 3A. Multidisciplinary Child Protection Teams.**

30 **Sec. 47.14.300. Multidisciplinary child protection teams.** (a) The
 31 department shall create multidisciplinary child protection teams to assist in the

1 evaluation and investigation of reports made under AS 47.17 and to provide
2 consultation and coordination for agencies involved in child protection cases under
3 AS 47.10.

4 (b) A team created under (a) of this section may invite other persons to serve
5 on the team who have knowledge of and experience in child abuse and neglect matters.
6 These persons may include

- 7 (1) mental and physical health practitioners licensed under AS 08;
- 8 (2) child development specialists;
- 9 (3) educators;
- 10 (4) peace officers as defined in AS 11.81.900;
- 11 (5) victim counselors as defined in AS 18.66.250;
- 12 (6) experts in the assessment and treatment of substance abuse;
- 13 (7) representatives of the district attorney's office and the attorney
14 general's office;
- 15 (8) persons familiar with 25 U.S.C. 1901 - 1963 (Indian Child Welfare
16 Act);
- 17 (9) guardians ad litem; and
- 18 (10) staff members of a child advocacy center if a center is located in
19 the relevant area.

20 (c) A team created under (a) and (b) of this section shall review records on a
21 case referred to the team by the department. The department shall make available to
22 the team its records on the case and other records compiled for planning on the case
23 by other agencies at the request of the department. The team may make
24 recommendations to the department on appropriate planning for the case.

25 (d) Except for a public report issued by a team that does not contain
26 confidential information, records or other information collected by the team or a
27 member of the team related to duties under this section are confidential and not subject
28 to public disclosure under AS 09.25.100 and 09.25.110.

29 (e) Meetings of a team are closed to the public and are not subject to the
30 provisions of AS 44.62.310 and 44.62.312.

31 (f) The determinations, conclusions, and recommendations of a team or its

1 members are not admissible in a civil or criminal proceeding. A member may not be
 2 compelled to disclose a determination, conclusion, recommendation, discussion, or
 3 thought process through discovery or testimony in a civil or criminal proceeding.
 4 Records and information collected by the team are not subject to discovery or subpoena
 5 in connection with a civil or criminal proceeding.

6 (g) Notwithstanding (f) of this section, an employee of the department may
 7 testify in a civil or criminal proceeding concerning cases reviewed by a team even
 8 though the department's records were reviewed by a team and formed the basis of that
 9 employee's testimony and the team's report.

10 (h) A person who serves on a multidisciplinary child protection team is not
 11 liable for damage or other relief in an action brought by the reason of the performance
 12 of a duty, a function, or an activity of the team.

13 (i) In this section, "team" means a multidisciplinary child protection team
 14 created under (a) and (b) of this section.

15 * **Sec. 56.** AS 47.14.990(2) is amended to read:

16 (2) "child in need of aid" means a **child** [MINOR] found to be within
 17 the jurisdiction of the court under **AS 47.10.010 and 47.10.011** [AS 47.10.010(a)];

18 * **Sec. 57.** AS 47.14.990 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

19 (11) "criminal justice information" has the meaning given in
 20 AS 12.62.900;

21 (12) "serious offense" has the meaning given in AS 12.62.900.

22 * **Sec. 58.** AS 47.17.020(a) is amended to read:

23 (a) The following persons who, in the performance of their occupational duties,
 24 **or with respect to (9) of this subsection, in the performance of their appointed**
 25 **duties**, have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of
 26 child abuse or neglect shall immediately report the harm to the nearest office of the
 27 department:

28 (1) practitioners of the healing arts;

29 (2) school teachers and school administrative staff members of public
 30 and private schools;

31 (3) social workers;

- 1 (4) peace officers [,] and officers of the Department of Corrections;
 2 (5) administrative officers of institutions;
 3 (6) child care providers;
 4 (7) paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs,
 5 and crisis intervention and prevention programs as defined in AS 18.66.990;
 6 (8) paid employees of an organization that provides counseling or
 7 treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol;
 8 **(9) members of a child fatality review team established under**
 9 **AS 12.65.015(e) or 12.65.120 or the multidisciplinary child protection team created**
 10 **under AS 47.14.300.**

11 * **Sec. 59.** AS 47.17.020 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

12 (h) This section does not require a person required to report child abuse or
 13 neglect under (a)(7) of this section to report mental injury to a child as a result of
 14 exposure to domestic violence so long as the person has reasonable cause to believe
 15 that the child is in safe and appropriate care and not presently in danger of mental
 16 injury as a result of exposure to domestic violence.

17 (i) This section does not require a person required to report child abuse or
 18 neglect under (a)(8) of this section to report the resumption of use of an intoxicant as
 19 described in AS 47.10.011(10) so long as the person does not have reasonable cause
 20 to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of the resumption.

21 * **Sec. 60.** AS 47.17.030(d) is amended to read:

22 (d) Before the department or a local government health or social services
 23 agency may seek the termination of parental rights under **AS 47.10**
 24 **[AS 47.10.080(c)(3)]**, it shall offer protective social services and pursue all other
 25 reasonable means of protecting the child.

26 * **Sec. 61.** AS 47.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 **Sec. 47.17.033. Investigations.** (a) In investigating child abuse and neglect
 28 reports under this chapter, the department may make necessary inquiries about the
 29 criminal records of the parents or of the alleged abusive or neglectful person, including
 30 inquiries about the existence of a criminal history record involving a serious offense as
 31 defined in AS 12.62.900.

1 (b) For purposes of obtaining access to information needed to conduct the
2 inquiries required by (a) of this section, the department is a criminal justice agency
3 conducting a criminal justice activity.

4 * **Sec. 62.** AS 47.17.035(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) If the department determines in an investigation of abuse or neglect of a
6 child that

7 (1) the child is in danger because of domestic violence or that the child
8 needs protection as a result of the presence of domestic violence in the family, the
9 department shall take appropriate steps for the protection of the child; **in this**
10 **paragraph, "appropriate steps" includes**

11 **(A) reasonable efforts to protect the child and prevent the**
12 **removal of the child from the parent or guardian who is not a domestic**
13 **violence offender;**

14 **(B) reasonable efforts to remove the alleged domestic violence**
15 **offender from the child's residence if it is determined that the child or**
16 **another family or household member is in danger of domestic violence; and**

17 **(C) services to help protect the child from being placed or**
18 **having unsupervised visitation with the domestic violence offender until the**
19 **department determines that the offender has met conditions considered**
20 **necessary by the department to protect the safety of the domestic violence**
21 **victim and household members;**

22 (2) a person is the victim of domestic violence, the department shall
23 provide the victim with a written notice of the rights of and services available to
24 victims of domestic violence that is substantially similar to the notice provided to
25 victims of domestic violence under AS 18.65.520.

26 * **Sec. 63.** AS 47.17.290(8) is amended to read:

27 (8) "maltreatment" means an act or omission that results in
28 circumstances in which there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child may be a child
29 in need of aid, as described in **AS 47.10.011** [AS 47.10.010(a)], except that, for
30 purposes of this chapter, the act or omission need not have been committed by the
31 child's parent, custodian, or guardian;

1 * **Sec. 64.** AS 47.17.290(9) is amended to read:

2 (9) "mental injury" means **a serious** [AN] injury to the [EMOTIONAL
3 WELL-BEING, OR INTELLECTUAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF A]
4 child [,] as evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability
5 to function in a developmentally appropriate manner **and the existence of that**
6 **impairment is supported by the opinion of a qualified expert witness;**

7 * **Sec. 65.** AS 47.35.017(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) An application submitted under this section must contain at least the
9 following information:

10 (1) the name and address of the applicant [,] and, if the applicant is an
11 agency, corporation, partnership, association, or any other form of organization, the
12 name, address, and title of **each individual** [ALL INDIVIDUALS] who **has** [HAVE]
13 an ownership or management interest in the facility; **if the applicant is an individual,**
14 **the application must include the name, age, and driver's license number, if any,**
15 **of each member of the individual's household;**

16 (2) the name, physical location, and mailing address of the facility or
17 agency for which the license is sought;

18 (3) the name and address of the administrator of the facility or agency,
19 if any;

20 (4) evidence that the administrator or foster parent is an adult with
21 sufficient experience, training, or education to fulfill the duties of an administrator or
22 foster parent;

23 (5) a release for the administrator or foster parent and for each other
24 person **who is 16 years of age or older,** as specified by the department by regulation,
25 who will have contact with individuals served by the facility or agency, authorizing the
26 department to review all federal, state, and municipal **criminal justice information,**
27 **whether of this state, of a municipality of this state, or of another jurisdiction**
28 [LAW ENFORCEMENT], medical **records,** licensing **records,** and protective services
29 records, identified in regulations adopted under this chapter, that are relevant to the
30 person who is the subject of the release and to the type of license for which the
31 application has been submitted;

1 (6) two sets of fingerprints and the social security number of each
 2 person required to provide a release under (5) of this subsection in order for the
 3 department to submit the fingerprints to the Department of Public Safety for the
 4 purpose of conducting state and national criminal background checks from
 5 criminal justice information received under AS 12.62 and regulations adopted
 6 under AS 12.62; the department may not approve an application under this section
 7 until the results of the criminal background check have been submitted to the
 8 department;

9 (7) for a facility, the number of individuals that will be served in the
 10 facility;

11 (8) [(7)] the type of facility or agency for which the license is sought;

12 (9) [(8)] copies of all inspection reports and approvals required by state
 13 fire prevention and environmental health and safety authorities for operation of the
 14 facility or agency, including any variances granted by these authorities;

15 (10) [(9)] a plan of operation, as required by the department by
 16 regulation;

17 (11) [(10)] a staffing plan that describes the number of people who will
 18 work at the facility or agency, staff qualifications, a description of each person's
 19 responsibilities, and, for a facility other than a maternity home, a supervision schedule
 20 for the children in care that meets the requirements established by the department by
 21 regulation;

22 (12) evidence that the applicant is capable of meeting the minimum
 23 standards of care established by the department under AS 47.14.120;

24 (13) [(11)] evidence that the applicant has completed orientation or
 25 training required by the department, by regulation, for holders of the type of license for
 26 which the application was submitted; and

27 (14) [(12)] other information required by the department, by regulation,
 28 in order to monitor compliance with this chapter and regulations adopted under this
 29 chapter.

30 * **Sec. 66.** AS 47.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

31 **Sec. 47.35.022. Foster care placement.** (a) Except as provided in (b) of this

1 section, the department may not place or continue placement of a child for care for
 2 payment under AS 47.10 in a foster home that is licensed under this chapter if the
 3 department finds that a person for whom fingerprints are required to be submitted for
 4 licensure of the foster home is currently under arrest for, charged with, or has been
 5 convicted of, or found not guilty by reason of insanity of, a serious offense.

6 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the department may place or continue
 7 a placement for foster care if the applicant or licensee demonstrates to the satisfaction
 8 of the department that the applicant, licensee, or other person committed the conduct
 9 described in (a) of this section at least five years before the placement, and the conduct

10 (1) did not involve a victim who was under 18 years of age at the time
 11 the conduct occurred;

12 (2) was not a crime of domestic violence as defined in AS 18.66.990;
 13 and

14 (3) was not a violent crime under AS 11.41.100 - 11.41.455 or a law
 15 or an ordinance of another jurisdiction having similar elements.

16 (c) The department shall develop procedures for rechecking criminal justice
 17 information records for the information described in (a) of this section for persons who
 18 are 16 years of age or older who are living in a licensed foster home with access to
 19 children placed by the department.

20 * **Sec. 67.** AS 47.35.023(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

21 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, if an emergency exists and a child must
 22 be immediately placed, the department or the department's designee may issue a
 23 provisional foster home license on an emergency basis for a period of 90 days or less
 24 if the department or the department's designee determines that the applicant meets
 25 minimal requirements for emergency conditions and the applicant agrees in writing to
 26 provide the fingerprint information described in AS 47.35.017(b) within 30 days of the
 27 placement of a child in the foster home. The department may extend a provisional
 28 foster home license issued under this subsection for one or two additional periods of
 29 up to 90 days each in order to obtain the information from the national criminal
 30 background check required under AS 47.35.017(b)(6). The department may not issue
 31 a license under this subsection before checking state and national criminal justice

1 information available to the department under AS 12.62 and regulations adopted under
 2 AS 12.62 about the administrator or foster parent and each person who is 16 years of
 3 age or older in the foster home who will have contact with the child. If the department
 4 cannot obtain direct access to the state and federal criminal justice information, the
 5 department shall request the agency having primary law enforcement responsibility for
 6 the geographic area in which the prospective foster home is located to obtain the
 7 information and provide it to the department before the license is issued under this
 8 section. If the criminal justice information readily available to the department shows
 9 an offense which a person would be required to notify the department under
 10 AS 47.35.047(b), the department may not issue the license under this subsection. If the
 11 additional criminal justice information available from the fingerprint search or another
 12 source after the license is issued reveals that the person has a record for one or more
 13 of these offenses, the department shall immediately revoke the license and move the
 14 child to an appropriate placement. For purposes of obtaining criminal justice
 15 information under this subsection, the department is a criminal justice agency
 16 conducting a criminal justice activity under AS 12.62.

17 * **Sec. 68.** AS 47.35.047(b) is amended to read:

18 (b) A licensee shall notify the department within 24 hours after having
 19 knowledge of a conviction or indictment, presentment, or charging by information or
 20 complaint of an administrator, foster parent, member of the licensee's household, regular
 21 volunteer, or staff person for a **violation of the following laws or the laws of another**
 22 **jurisdiction with similar elements:**

23 (1) **offenses against the family and vulnerable adults under**
 24 **AS 11.51;**

25 (2) **perjury under AS 11.56.200;**

26 (3) **offenses included in the definition of "serious offense" under**
 27 **AS 12.62.900** [FELONY, FOR A MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF ASSAULT,
 28 RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF A
 29 MINOR, OR MISCONDUCT INVOLVING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, FOR
 30 THE CRIME OF PERJURY, AS DEFINED IN AS 11 OR THE LAWS OF ANOTHER
 31 JURISDICTION, OR FOR A SEX CRIME AS DEFINED IN AS 12.62.035].

1 * **Sec. 69.** AS 47.35.900 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

2 (20) "criminal justice information" has the meaning given in
3 AS 12.62.900;

4 (21) "domestic violence" has the meaning given in AS 18.66.990;

5 (22) "serious offense" has the meaning given in AS 12.62.900.

6 * **Sec. 70.** AS 47.10.080(k) and 47.10.990(7) are repealed.

7 * **Sec. 71.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.030(b) and 47.10.070(a), as amended
8 by secs. 22 and 24 of this Act, have the effect of amending Rules 3, 7, 10, 15, and 19, Alaska
9 Child in Need of Aid Rules, by requiring foster parents and other specified persons to have
10 notice and allowing them an opportunity to be heard in child-in-need-of-aid proceedings.

11 (b) Sections 22 and 24 of this Act take effect only if this section receives the two-
12 thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of
13 Alaska.

14 * **Sec. 72.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.080(a), as amended by sec. 25 of this
15 Act, has the effect of amending Rule 15, Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, by establishing
16 a timeframe for an adjudication hearing under AS 47.10.

17 (b) Section 25 of this Act takes effect only if this section receives the two-thirds
18 majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska.

19 * **Sec. 73.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.080(c)(3), as amended by sec. 26 of
20 this Act, has the effect of amending

21 (1) Rule 18(c), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, by changing the burden of
22 proof for termination of parental rights; and

23 (2) Rule 18(e), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, by requiring the Department
24 of Health and Social Services to report quarterly, instead of annually, on its efforts to find a
25 permanent placement for a child.

26 (b) The amendments made to AS 47.10.080(c)(3) by sec. 26 of this Act that change
27 the burden of proof for termination of parental rights and require quarterly reports take effect
28 only if this section receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV,
29 sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska.

30 * **Sec. 74.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) To the extent that AS 47.10.080(c)(1) and (2)
31 are amended by sec. 26 of this Act to allow a child's guardian ad litem to petition for an

1 extension of the child's commitment or supervision, those provisions amend Rule 19(e), Alaska
2 Child in Need of Aid Rules, relating to petitions for extensions of commitment or supervision
3 of a child.

4 (b) The amendments described in (a) of this section take effect only if this section
5 receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution
6 of the State of Alaska.

7 * **Sec. 75.** COURT RULE CHANGE; EXPEDITED APPEALS. (a) AS 47.10.080(i), as
8 amended by sec. 28 of this Act, has the effect of amending Rule 218, Alaska Rules of
9 Appellate Procedure, by requiring that expedited appeals from a judgment or an order under
10 AS 47.10 be decided within a fixed timeframe.

11 (b) Section 28 of this Act takes effect only if this section receives the two-thirds
12 majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska.

13 * **Sec. 76.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.080(f), as amended by sec. 27 of this
14 Act, and AS 47.10.080(l), as amended by sec. 29 of this Act, have the effect of amending Rule
15 19, Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, regarding reviews and hearings by the court in child-
16 in-need-of-aid proceedings.

17 (b) Sections 27 and 29 of this Act take effect only if this section receives the two-
18 thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of
19 Alaska.

20 * **Sec. 77.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.086, enacted in sec. 34 of this Act,
21 has the effect of amending

22 (1) Rule 15, Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, regarding timing of hearings;
23 and

24 (2) Rule 15(g), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, regarding the standards for
25 reasonable efforts to be made in child-in-need-of-aid proceedings.

26 (b) AS 47.10.086, enacted in sec. 34 of this Act, takes effect only if this section
27 receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution
28 of the State of Alaska.

29 * **Sec. 78.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.088(j) and (k), enacted in sec. 34 of
30 this Act, have the effect of changing Rule 18, Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules, by requiring
31 the court to

1 (1) hold a termination of parental rights trial no later than six months from the
2 date the petition is filed unless good cause is shown; and

3 (2) issue an order on the petition to terminate parental rights and responsibilities
4 within a specified timeframe.

5 (b) AS 47.10.088(j) and (k), enacted in sec. 34 of this Act, take effect only if this
6 section receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15,
7 Constitution of the State of Alaska.

8 * **Sec. 79.** COURT RULE CHANGE. (a) AS 47.10.090(e), as amended by sec. 35 of this
9 Act, and AS 47.10.092(a), as amended by sec. 36 of this Act, amend Rule 22, Alaska Child
10 in Need of Aid Rules, regarding access to, and disclosure of, confidential information
11 pertaining to child-in-need-of-aid proceedings.

12 (b) Sections 35 and 36 of this Act take effect only if this section receives the two-
13 thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of
14 Alaska.

15 * **Sec. 80.** APPLICABILITY. (a) The amendments made in secs. 3 - 7 of this Act apply
16 to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act, except that references in secs.
17 3 - 7 of this Act to previous convictions include convictions occurring before, on, or after the
18 effective date of this Act.

19 (b) Except as provided in secs. 81 and 82 of this Act and (a) of this section, this Act
20 applies to

21 (1) a case or proceeding that is filed with the court on or after the effective date
22 of this Act;

23 (2) an action taken under AS 47.10, AS 47.12, AS 47.17, or AS 47.35 on or
24 after the effective date of this Act; and

25 (3) a motion that is filed with the court on or after the effective date of this Act
26 in a case or proceeding that was pending in the court before the effective date of this Act.

27 (c) The provisions of (b) of this section do not preclude consideration of evidence of
28 conduct or omission of a person that brings a child under the jurisdiction of AS 47.10 or
29 AS 47.12.

30 * **Sec. 81.** TRANSITIONAL PROVISION; FOSTER CARE LICENSING. (a) Unless the
31 information has been previously submitted to the Department of Health and Social Services,

1 an application for biennial renewal of a foster care license under AS 47.35 must include the
2 information required under AS 47.35.017(b), as amended by sec. 65 of this Act.

3 (b) The Department of Health and Social Services may require, as a condition of
4 continued licensure, that a foster care licensee under AS 47.35 submit the additional
5 information required under AS 47.35.017(b), as amended by sec. 65 of this Act, before the
6 licensee is required to submit the additional information under (a) of this section.

7 * **Sec. 82.** TRANSITIONAL PROVISION; DISCLOSURE OF AGENCY RECORDS. (a)
8 The Department of Health and Social Services may disclose information and make copies of
9 documents available to state officials or employees as authorized under AS 47.10.092(a), as
10 amended by sec. 36 of this Act, based on an appropriate request that was received before, on,
11 or after the effective date of this Act.

12 (b) The Department of Health and Social Services, a parent, or a legal guardian may
13 disclose information as authorized under AS 47.10.092(a), as amended by sec. 36 of this Act,
14 regardless of when the information came into the possession or knowledge of the department,
15 parent, or legal guardian and regardless of when the conduct or situation described in the
16 information occurred.