



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1991

**Source**

CSSB 170(FIN)

**Chapter No.**

94

**AN ACT**

Directing the Department of Health and Social Services to develop a statewide plan and conduct a statewide public awareness campaign relating to adolescent pregnancy prevention and services for adolescent parents and their children; and establishing a program to fund adolescent pregnancy and parenthood projects; relating to a peer counselor program; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

**Approved by the Governor:** July 2, 1991

**Actual Effective Date:** AS 47.18.010 and AS 47.18.900, as added by Sec. 1, take effect September 30, 1991; remainder of Act is conditional

AN ACT

1 Directing the Department of Health and Social Services to develop a statewide plan and  
2 conduct a statewide public awareness campaign relating to adolescent pregnancy  
3 prevention and services for adolescent parents and their children; and establishing a  
4 program to fund adolescent pregnancy and parenthood projects; relating to a peer  
5 counselor program; and providing for an effective date.  
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9 \* Section 1. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 18. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELATED TO ADOLESCENTS.

11 ARTICLE 1. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING.

12 Sec. 47.18.010. DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE PLAN. (a) With the advice of the  
13 Alaska Commission on Children and Youth, the department shall develop a comprehensive  
14 statewide plan to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of state programs that relate to the  
15 prevention of adolescent pregnancy and the provision of services to adolescent parents and their  
16 children under AS 47.18.100 - 47.18.140, and to peer counseling under AS 47.18.200.

17 (b) The plan developed under (a) of this section must

- 18 (1) review and include existing programs and services of state government;  
19 (2) examine and consider the achievements and experiences of projects that are  
20 similar to those authorized under AS 47.18.100 - 47.18.140 and 47.18.200;  
21 (3) give priority to the consolidation and improvement of existing programs;

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1 (4) make recommendations with regard to the need for new or expanded programs  
2 and services within the existing level of funding;

3 (5) consider the findings and recommendations of the Alaska's Adolescent  
4 Pregnancy and Parenthood Task Force; and

5 (6) make recommendations concerning the incremental implementation of the  
6 plan.

7 (c) The Department of Education, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs,  
8 and the Department of Labor shall assist the department in developing the plan required under  
9 (a) of this section. In addition, through appropriate means, the department shall solicit advice  
10 from teens, parents, educators, school administrators, taxpayers, civic groups, community  
11 organizations, Native organizations, officials of local governments, religious institutions, and  
12 other concerned persons about how state programs can be coordinated and operated in a manner  
13 that will enhance their effectiveness and efficiency in addressing the many needs associated with  
14 adolescent parenting, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and the provision of adolescent  
15 peer counseling.

16 **ARTICLE 2. PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS.**

17 **Sec. 47.18.050. PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.** (a) The department shall develop  
18 and implement statewide a continuing public awareness campaign, including appropriate public  
19 forums and workshops, radio and television public service announcements, and press releases  
20 designed to

21 (1) communicate to the public the scope and magnitude of the adolescent  
22 pregnancy and parenthood problem in the state;

23 (2) encourage community activities that will educate adults and adolescents about  
24 the importance of reducing adolescent pregnancy;

25 (3) enlist the active support and involvement of members of the public and  
26 community organizations in the development and implementation of community based programs  
27 and activities to reduce adolescent pregnancy and assist adolescent parents in obtaining needed  
28 educational, vocational, and parenting skills.

29 (b) A primary policy and objective of the public awareness campaign required under (a)  
30 of this section shall be to encourage adolescents to abstain from premarital sexual intimacy.

ARTICLE 3. ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PROJECTS.

1  
2           Sec. 47.18.100. STATE FUNDING AUTHORIZED. In order to encourage and support  
3 community based initiatives to combat the many problems associated with adolescent pregnancy  
4 and parenthood, the department shall, from appropriations for that purpose, give grants or award  
5 contracts to fund a percentage of the cost of local projects designed to prevent adolescent  
6 pregnancy and assist adolescent parents in obtaining needed educational, vocational, and  
7 parenting skills.

8           Sec. 47.18.110. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS. (a) Projects funded under AS 47.18.100 shall  
9 be designed with a holistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of adolescent  
10 parenthood and a broad array of related circumstances, such as low self-esteem, domestic  
11 violence, substance abuse, economic security, financial responsibilities of having a child, cultural  
12 integrity, sources of adolescent stress, parenting skills, educational and vocational opportunities,  
13 and access to reproductive health services.

14           (b) Projects funded under AS 47.18.100 may include one or more of the following types  
15 of activities:

- 16                   (1) family life education;  
17                   (2) counseling services for adolescents who are, or who may think they are,  
18 pregnant or who want to avoid pregnancy;  
19                   (3) prenatal care for pregnant adolescents;  
20                   (4) job training and placement for adolescent parents;  
21                   (5) educational and support services for adolescent parents;  
22                   (6) other activities that, in the judgment of the department, are likely to have a  
23 tangible effect on combating a problem associated with adolescent pregnancy or parenthood.

24           Sec. 47.18.120. APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT FUNDING. (a) A person or group  
25 seeking funding under AS 47.18.100 shall apply to the department on a form provided by the  
26 department.

27           (b) When applying under (a) of this section, the applicant must demonstrate to the  
28 satisfaction of the department that the proposed project

- 29                   (1) has been designed with extensive assistance from local community members  
30 who represent a variety of interests, cultures, and perspectives on adolescent pregnancy and

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1           parenthood;

2                           (2) is based on sound research, to the maximum extent possible;

3                           (3) will maximize collaboration among all relevant agencies involved in the needs  
4           being addressed by the project;

5                           (4) includes an evaluation component to measure project effectiveness;

6                           (5) includes a public awareness campaign component.

7                   Sec. 47.18.140. PROMOTION OF PROGRAM AND PROJECTS. (a) The department  
8           shall take appropriate actions to publicize the availability of funds under AS 47.18.100 -  
9           47.18.140.

10                   (b) The department shall annually conduct regional conferences or workshops across the  
11           state to

12                           (1) showcase the activities and achievements of projects funded under  
13           AS 47.18.100 - 47.18.140 for which the evaluation components have shown a high level of  
14           success;

15                           (2) encourage and support the replication of these successful projects; and

16                           (3) increase public awareness of the availability of state administered services and  
17           programs to address the many problems associated with adolescent pregnancy and parenthood.

18                           ARTICLE 4. ADOLESCENT PEER COUNSELING.

19                   Sec. 47.18.200. PEER COUNSELOR PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop  
20           and implement a continuing statewide program of technical support and assistance to encourage  
21           school districts, municipalities, and nonprofit corporations incorporated under AS 10.20 that  
22           initiate implementation, or that are considering implementation, of adolescent peer counseling  
23           groups under adult supervision for

24                           (1) prevention of adolescent behavioral patterns that jeopardize physical and  
25           mental health and that hamper social, educational, and personal development; and

26                           (2) spreading information about services that are available to adolescents to help  
27           them with their health needs.

28                   (b) The program of technical support required under (a) of this section must include

29                           (1) suggested methods for maintaining a high level of adolescent, parental, and  
30           community support for peer counseling groups;

1 (2) workshops, seminars, or other training opportunities for adolescent peer  
2 counselors and their adult leaders; this training must include sessions to

3 (A) develop interpersonal communications skills;

4 (B) teach accurate health information, emphasizing sexual development;

5 (C) provide information about services that are available in the peer  
6 counselors' areas and how those services can be obtained for pregnancy prevention, and  
7 prenatal care; and

8 (D) encourage adolescents to avoid major risk-taking behavior and to  
9 reinforce responsible behavior and self control;

10 (3) assistance in selecting appropriate resource materials for the groups;

11 (4) recommended mechanisms for effectively monitoring and evaluating the  
12 activities and accomplishments of the groups; and

13 (5) other similar services to assist and encourage school districts and  
14 municipalities in establishing and administering adolescent peer counseling groups.

15 (c) In developing the program of technical support and assistance required under (a) of  
16 this section, the department shall review and consider the activities and accomplishments in other  
17 states that have developed peer counseling networks. The department shall solicit contributions  
18 of money and expertise from the private sector that may be available for this type of program.

19 ARTICLE 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

20 Sec. 47.18.900. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "department" means the Department of  
21 Health and Social Services.

22 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.18.050 - 47.18.200, as added by sec. 1 of this Act, take effect on the date the  
23 Department of Health and Social Services completes the plan required under AS 47.18.010(a), as added  
24 by sec. 1 of this Act. The commissioner of health and social services shall certify to the revisor of  
25 statutes and the lieutenant governor the date the plan is completed.