

Congregate Care Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses congregate care programs.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates the Congregate Care Admissions Committee (committee);
- ▶ authorizes and directs the committee to:
 - set minimum safety requirements for congregate care programs;
 - review proposed admissions criteria a program submits in connection with the program's application for or renewal of licensure;
- ▶ deny or accept proposed admissions criteria;
- ▶ creates the position of congregate care ombudsman (ombudsman);
- ▶ authorizes and directs the ombudsman to receive and investigate reported concerns regarding congregate care programs;
- ▶ creates the Licensed Provider Civil Money Penalty Fund;
- ▶ authorizes and directs the Division of Licensing and Background Processing (division) to regulate congregate care programs;
- ▶ denies direct access qualified status for individuals who are or have been under investigation for sexual misconduct within the past three years;
- ▶ establishes requirements for congregate care programs, including that the programs:
 - adopt admissions criteria by which to determine whether an individual child is a qualified candidate for the congregate care program;
 - maintain a list of a child's authorized contacts who may contact the child if the child is in crisis;
 - notify the authorized contacts and the parent or guardian of a child who is in crisis;
 - post notice within the program stating that clients and staff may report a complaint or concern regarding the congregate care program to the ombudsman;

- 31 • provide a dedicated telephone from which a child or staff at a program may contact the
32 ombudsman at any time;
- 33 • provide disclosures to a child, the child's parent or guardian, and the child's authorized
34 contacts;
- 35 ▸ establishes responsibility for payment to a health care facility that provides services to a
36 child, including transportation costs;
- 37 ▸ authorizes the office to collect a fee; and
- 38 ▸ establishes whistleblower protections for individuals who report a concern to, or who
39 facilitate or cooperate with, the ombudsman; and
- 40 ▸ makes technical changes.

41 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

42 None

43 **Other Special Clauses:**

44 None

45 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

46 AMENDS:

47 **26B-1-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 240, 404 and 506

48 **26B-1-334**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 325

49 **26B-2-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 240, 267, 307, and 438

50 **26B-2-104**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 240, 307

51 **26B-2-107**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 267, 307

52 **26B-2-120**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 234

53 **26B-2-124**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 305

54 ENACTS:

55 **26B-1-336**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

56 **26B-2-124.1**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

57 **26B-2-124.2**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

58 **26B-2-124.3**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

59

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

61 Section 1. Section **26B-1-204** is amended to read:

62 **26B-1-204 . Creation of boards, divisions, and offices -- Power to organize**
63 **department.**

64 (1) The executive director shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah

- 65 Administrative Rulemaking Act, and not inconsistent with law for:
- 66 (a) the administration and government of the department;
- 67 (b) the conduct of the department's employees; and
- 68 (c) the custody, use, and preservation of the records, papers, books, documents, and
- 69 property of the department.
- 70 (2) The following policymaking boards, councils, and committees are created within the
- 71 Department of Health and Human Services:
- 72 (a) Board of Aging and Adult Services;
- 73 (b) Utah State Developmental Center Board;
- 74 (c) Health Facility Committee;
- 75 (d) Health Data Committee;
- 76 (e) Child Care Provider Licensing Committee;
- 77 (f) Adult Autism Treatment Program Advisory Committee;
- 78 (g) Youth Electronic Cigarette, Marijuana, and Other Drug Prevention Committee;[-]
- 79 (h) Congregate Care Admissions Committee; and
- 80 [~~h~~] (i) any boards, councils, or committees that are created by statute in this title.
- 81 (3) The following divisions and offices are created within the Department of Health and
- 82 Human Services:
- 83 (a) relating to operations:
- 84 (i) the Division of Finance and Administration;
- 85 (ii) the Division of Licensing and Background Checks;
- 86 (iii) the Division of Customer Experience;
- 87 (iv) the Division of Data, Systems, and Evaluation; and
- 88 (v) the Division of Continuous Quality and Improvement;
- 89 (b) relating to healthcare administration:
- 90 (i) the Division of Integrated Healthcare, which shall include responsibility for:
- 91 (A) the state's medical assistance programs; and
- 92 (B) behavioral health programs described in Chapter 5, Health Care - Substance
- 93 Use and Mental Health;
- 94 (ii) the Division of Aging and Adult Services; and
- 95 (iii) the Division of Services for People with Disabilities;
- 96 (c) relating to community health and well-being:
- 97 (i) the Division of Child and Family Services;
- 98 (ii) the Division of Family Health;

- 99 (iii) the Division of Population Health;
- 100 (iv) the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services;
- 101 (v) the Office of Families; and
- 102 (vi) the Office of Recovery Services; and
- 103 (d) relating to clinical services, the Division of Health Access.
- 104 (4) The executive director may establish offices to facilitate management of the department
- 105 as required by, and in accordance with this title.
- 106 (5) From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the executive director may adjust the
- 107 organizational structure relating to the department, including the organization of the
- 108 department's divisions and offices, notwithstanding the organizational structure
- 109 described in this title.

110 Section 2. Section **26B-1-334** is amended to read:

111 **26B-1-334 . Licensed Provider Assessment Fund -- Creation -- Deposits -- Uses.**

- 112 (1) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the "Licensed Provider
- 113 Assessment Fund" consisting of:
- 114 (a) the assessments collected under, and any interest and penalties levied with the
- 115 administration of:
- 116 (i) Title 26B, Chapter 2, Part 2, Health Care Facility Licensing and Inspection Act,
- 117 except assessments that comprise the Licensed Provider Civil Money Penalty
- 118 Fund pursuant to Section 26B;
- 119 (ii) [~~Title 26B, Chapter 1, Part 4, Child Care Licensing~~] Title 26B, Chapter 2, Part 4,
- 120 Child Care Licensing; and
- 121 (iii) Title 26B, Chapter 2, Part 1, Human Services Programs and Facilities;
- 122 (b) money appropriated or otherwise made available by the Legislature; and
- 123 (c) any interest earned on the fund.
- 124 (2) Money in the fund may only be used by the department:
- 125 (a) for upgrades to and maintenance of licensing databases and applications;
- 126 (b) for training for providers and staff;
- 127 (c) to assist individuals during a facility shutdown; or
- 128 (d) for administrative expenses, if the administrative expenses for the fiscal year do not
- 129 exceed 3% of the money deposited into the fund during the fiscal year.

130 Section 3. Section **26B-1-336** is enacted to read:

131 **26B-1-336 . Licensed Provider Civil Money Penalty Fund.**

- 132 (1) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the "Licensed Provider

133 Civil Money Penalty Fund" consisting of:

134 (a) federal civil money penalty funds received under the federal Centers for Medicare
 135 and Medicaid Facility Licensing and Inspection Act, including any existing funds
 136 previously received and allocable to the Office of Licensing and Background
 137 Processing;

138 (b) money appropriated or otherwise made available by the Legislature; and

139 (c) any interest earned on the fund.

140 (2) Money in the fund may only be used by the department under a federally approved state
 141 plan:

142 (a) to assist individuals effected by a shutdown of a facility or program under this title; or

143 (b) for administrative expenses associated with administering this section.

144 Section 4. Section **26B-2-101** is amended to read:

145 **26B-2-101 . Definitions.**

146 As used in this part:

147 (1) "Abuse" means the same as that term is defined in Section.

148 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) "Adoption services" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-2-801.

149 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) "Adult day care" means nonresidential care and supervision:

150 (a) for three or more adults for at least four but less than 24 hours a day; and

151 (b) that meets the needs of functionally impaired adults through a comprehensive
 152 program that provides a variety of health, social, recreational, and related support
 153 services in a protective setting.

154 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Applicant" means a person that applies for an initial license or a license renewal
 155 under this part.

156 ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(a) "Associated with the licensee" means that an individual is:

157 (i) affiliated with a licensee as an owner, director, member of the governing body,
 158 employee, agent, provider of care, department contractor, or volunteer; or

159 (ii) applying to become affiliated with a licensee in a capacity described in
 160 Subsection ~~[(4)(a)(i)-]~~ (5)(a)(i).

161 (b) "Associated with the licensee" does not include:

162 (i) service on the following bodies, unless that service includes direct access to a
 163 child or a vulnerable adult:

164 (A) a local mental health authority described in Section 17-43-301;

165 (B) a local substance abuse authority described in Section 17-43-201; or

166 (C) a board of an organization operating under a contract to provide mental health

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

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

171 [(5)] (6)(a) "Boarding school" means a private school that:

172 (i) uses a regionally accredited education program;

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

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

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

177 (iii) has the primary purpose of providing the school's students with an education, as
178 defined in Subsection [(5)(b)(i);-] (6)(b)(i); and

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

181 (B) provides the treatment or services described in Subsection [(40)(a)] (44)(a) on
182 a limited basis, as described in Subsection [(5)(b)(ii)] (6)(b)(ii).

183 (b)(i) For purposes of Subsection [(5)(a)(iii)] (6)(a)(iii), "education" means a course
184 of study for one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 12.

185 (ii) For purposes of Subsection [(5)(a)(iv)(B)] (6)(a)(iv)(B), a private school provides
186 the treatment or services described in Subsection [(40)(a)] (44)(a) on a limited
187 basis if:

188 (A) the treatment or services described in Subsection [(40)(a)] (44)(a) are provided
189 only as an incidental service to a student; and

190 (B) the school does not:

191 (I) specifically solicit a student for the purpose of providing the treatment or
192 services described in Subsection [(40)(a);-] (44)(a) or

193 (II) have a primary purpose of providing the treatment or services described in
194 Subsection [(40)(a)] (44)(a).

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

196 [(6)] (7) "Certification" means a less restrictive level of licensure issued by the department.

197 [(7)] (8) "Child" means an individual under 18 years old.

198 [(8)] (9) "Child placing" means receiving, accepting, or providing custody or care for any
199 child, temporarily or permanently, for the purpose of:

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

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

- 235 Subsection 26B-2-103(3).
- 236 [~~(17)~~] (19) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.
- 237 [~~(18)~~] (20) "Domestic violence treatment program" means a nonresidential program
- 238 designed to provide psychological treatment and educational services to perpetrators and
- 239 victims of domestic violence.
- 240 [~~(19)~~] (21) "Elder adult" means a person 65 years old or older.
- 241 [~~(20)~~] (22) "Emergency safety intervention" means a tactic used to protect staff or a client
- 242 from being physically injured, utilized by an appropriately trained direct care staff and
- 243 only performed in accordance with a nationally or regionally recognized curriculum in
- 244 the least restrictive manner to restore staff or client safety.
- 245 [~~(21)~~] (23) "Foster home" means a residence that is licensed or certified by the office for the
- 246 full-time substitute care of a child.
- 247 (24) "Harm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-1-102.
- 248 [~~(22)~~] (25) "Health benefit plan" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 249 31A-22-634.
- 250 [~~(23)~~] (26) "Health care provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 251 78B-3-403.
- 252 [~~(24)~~] (27) "Health insurer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 31A-22-615.5.
- 253 [~~(25)~~] (28)(a) "Human services program" means:
- 254 (i) a foster home;
- 255 (ii) a therapeutic school;
- 256 (iii) a youth program;
- 257 (iv) an outdoor youth program;
- 258 (v) a residential treatment program;
- 259 (vi) a residential support program;
- 260 (vii) a resource family home;
- 261 (viii) a recovery residence; or
- 262 (ix) a facility or program that provides:
- 263 (A) adult day care;
- 264 (B) day treatment;
- 265 (C) outpatient treatment;
- 266 (D) domestic violence treatment;
- 267 (E) child-placing services;
- 268 (F) social detoxification; or

269 (G) any other human services that are required by contract with the department to
270 be licensed with the department.

271 (b) "Human services program" does not include:

272 (i) a boarding school;

273 (ii) a residential, vocational and life skills program, as defined in Section 13-53-102;

274 or

275 (iii) a short-term relief care provider.

276 ~~[(26)]~~ (29) "Indian child" means the same as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903.

277 ~~[(27)]~~ (30) "Indian country" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.

278 ~~[(28)]~~ (31) "Indian tribe" means the same as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903.

279 ~~[(29)]~~ (32) "Intermediate secure treatment" means 24-hour specialized residential treatment
280 or care for an individual who:

281 (a) cannot live independently or in a less restrictive environment; and

282 (b) requires, without the individual's consent or control, the use of locked doors to care
283 for the individual.

284 ~~[(30)]~~ (33) "Licensee" means an individual or a human services program licensed by the
285 office.

286 ~~[(31)]~~ (34) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.

287 ~~[(32)]~~ (35) "Minor" means child.

288 ~~[(33)]~~ (36) "Office" means, except as provided in Section 26B-2-120, the Office of
289 Licensing within the department.

290 (37) "Ombudsman" means the congregate care ombudsman created in Section 26B-2-124.2.

291 ~~[(34)]~~ (38) "Outdoor youth program" means a program that provides:

292 (a) services to a child ~~[that]~~ who has:

293 (i) a chemical dependency; or

294 (ii) a dysfunction or impairment that is emotional, psychological, developmental,
295 physical, or behavioral;

296 (b) a 24-hour outdoor group living environment; and

297 (c)(i) regular therapy, including group, individual, or supportive family therapy; or

298 (ii) informal therapy or similar services, including wilderness therapy, adventure
299 therapy, or outdoor behavioral healthcare.

300 ~~[(35)]~~ (39) "Outpatient treatment" means individual, family, or group therapy or counseling
301 designed to improve and enhance social or psychological functioning for those whose
302 physical and emotional status allows them to continue functioning in their usual living

303 environment.

304 [~~(36)~~] (40) "Practice group" or "group practice" means two or more health care providers
305 legally organized as a partnership, professional corporation, or similar association, for
306 which:

307 (a) substantially all of the services of the health care providers who are members of the
308 group are provided through the group and are billed in the name of the group and
309 amounts received are treated as receipts of the group; and

310 (b) the overhead expenses of and the income from the practice are distributed in
311 accordance with methods previously determined by members of the group.

312 [~~(37)~~] (41) "Private-placement child" means a child whose parent or guardian enters into a
313 contract with a congregate care program for the child to receive services.

314 [~~(38)~~] (42)(a) "Recovery residence" means a home, residence, or facility that meets at
315 least two of the following requirements:

316 (i) provides a supervised living environment for individuals recovering from a
317 substance use disorder;

318 (ii) provides a living environment in which more than half of the individuals in the
319 residence are recovering from a substance use disorder;

320 (iii) provides or arranges for residents to receive services related to the resident's
321 recovery from a substance use disorder, either on or off site;

322 (iv) is held out as a living environment in which individuals recovering from
323 substance abuse disorders live together to encourage continued sobriety; or

324 (v)(A) receives public funding; or

325 (B) is run as a business venture, either for-profit or not-for-profit.

326 (b) "Recovery residence" does not mean:

327 (i) a residential treatment program;

328 (ii) residential support program; or

329 (iii) a home, residence, or facility, in which:

330 (A) residents, by a majority vote of the residents, establish, implement, and
331 enforce policies governing the living environment, including the manner in
332 which applications for residence are approved and the manner in which
333 residents are expelled;

334 (B) residents equitably share rent and housing-related expenses; and

335 (C) a landlord, owner, or operator does not receive compensation, other than fair
336 market rental income, for establishing, implementing, or enforcing policies

- 337 governing the living environment.
- 338 [(39)] (43) "Regular business hours" means:
- 339 (a) the hours during which services of any kind are provided to a client; or
- 340 (b) the hours during which a client is present at the facility of a licensee.
- 341 [(40)] (44)(a) "Residential support program" means a program that arranges for or
- 342 provides the necessities of life as a protective service to individuals or families who
- 343 have a disability or who are experiencing a dislocation or emergency that prevents
- 344 them from providing these services for themselves or their families.
- 345 (b) "Residential support program" includes a program that provides a supervised living
- 346 environment for individuals with dysfunctions or impairments that are:
- 347 (i) emotional;
- 348 (ii) psychological;
- 349 (iii) developmental; or
- 350 (iv) behavioral.
- 351 (c) Treatment is not a necessary component of a residential support program.
- 352 (d) "Residential support program" does not include:
- 353 (i) a recovery residence; or
- 354 (ii) a program that provides residential services that are performed:
- 355 (A) exclusively under contract with the department and provided to individuals
- 356 through the Division of Services for People with Disabilities; or
- 357 (B) in a facility that serves fewer than four individuals.
- 358 [(41)] (45)(a) "Residential treatment" means a 24-hour group living environment for four
- 359 or more individuals unrelated to the owner or provider that offers room or board and
- 360 specialized treatment, behavior modification, rehabilitation, discipline, emotional
- 361 growth, or habilitation services for persons with emotional, psychological,
- 362 developmental, or behavioral dysfunctions, impairments, or chemical dependencies.
- 363 (b) "Residential treatment" does not include a:
- 364 (i) boarding school;
- 365 (ii) foster home; or
- 366 (iii) recovery residence.
- 367 [(42)] (46) "Residential treatment program" means a program or facility that provides:
- 368 (a) residential treatment; or
- 369 (b) intermediate secure treatment.
- 370 [(43)] (47) "Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of an individual in a room or an

371 area:

372 (a) away from the individual's peers; and

373 (b) in a manner that physically prevents the individual from leaving the room or area.

374 [(44)] (48) "Short-term relief care provider" means an individual who:

375 (a) provides short-term and temporary relief care to a foster parent:

376 (i) for less than six consecutive nights; and

377 (ii) in the short-term relief care provider's home;

378 (b) is an immediate family member or relative, as those terms are defined in Section

379 80-3-102, of the foster parent;

380 (c) is direct access qualified, as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-120;

381 (d) has been approved to provide short-term relief care by the department;

382 (e) is not reimbursed by the department for the temporary relief care provided; and

383 (f) is not an immediate family member or relative, as those terms are defined in Section

384 80-3-102, of the foster child.

385 [(45)] (49) "Social detoxification" means short-term residential services for persons who are

386 experiencing or have recently experienced drug or alcohol intoxication, that are provided

387 outside of a health care facility licensed under Part 2, Health Care Facility Licensing and

388 Inspection, and that include:

389 (a) room and board for persons who are unrelated to the owner or manager of the facility;

390 (b) specialized rehabilitation to acquire sobriety; and

391 (c) aftercare services.

392 [(46)] (50) "Substance abuse disorder" or "substance use disorder" mean the same as

393 "substance use disorder" is defined in Section 26B-5-501.

394 [(47)] (51) "Substance abuse treatment program" or "substance use disorder treatment

395 program" means a program:

396 (a) designed to provide:

397 (i) specialized drug or alcohol treatment;

398 (ii) rehabilitation; or

399 (iii) habilitation services; and

400 (b) that provides the treatment or services described in Subsection [(47)(a)] (51)(a) to

401 persons with:

402 (i) a diagnosed substance use disorder; or

403 (ii) chemical dependency disorder.

404 [(48)] (52) "Therapeutic school" means a residential group living facility:

- 405 (a) for four or more individuals that are not related to:
- 406 (i) the owner of the facility; or
- 407 (ii) the primary service provider of the facility;
- 408 (b) that serves students who have a history of failing to function:
- 409 (i) at home;
- 410 (ii) in a public school; or
- 411 (iii) in a nonresidential private school; and
- 412 (c) that offers:
- 413 (i) room and board; and
- 414 (ii) an academic education integrated with:
- 415 (A) specialized structure and supervision; or
- 416 (B) services or treatment related to:
- 417 (I) a disability;
- 418 (II) emotional development;
- 419 (III) behavioral development;
- 420 (IV) familial development; or
- 421 (V) social development.
- 422 [~~(49)~~] (53) "Unrelated persons" means persons other than parents, legal guardians,
- 423 grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles, or aunts.
- 424 [~~(50)~~] (54) "Vulnerable adult" means an elder adult or an adult who has a temporary or
- 425 permanent mental or physical impairment that substantially affects the person's ability to:
- 426 (a) provide personal protection;
- 427 (b) provide necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, or mental or other health care;
- 428 (c) obtain services necessary for health, safety, or welfare;
- 429 (d) carry out the activities of daily living;
- 430 (e) manage the adult's own resources; or
- 431 (f) comprehend the nature and consequences of remaining in a situation of abuse,
- 432 neglect, or exploitation.
- 433 [~~(51)~~] (55)(a) "Youth program" means a program designed to provide behavioral,
- 434 substance use, or mental health services to minors that:
- 435 (i) serves adjudicated or nonadjudicated youth;
- 436 (ii) charges a fee for the program's services;
- 437 (iii) may provide host homes or other arrangements for overnight accommodation of
- 438 the youth;

- 439 (iv) may provide all or part of the program's services in the outdoors;
- 440 (v) may limit or censor access to parents or guardians; and
- 441 (vi) prohibits or restricts a minor's ability to leave the program at any time of the
- 442 minor's own free will.
- 443 (b) "Youth program" does not include recreational programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl
- 444 Scouts, 4-H, and other such organizations.
- 445 [(52)] (56)(a) "Youth transportation company" means any person that transports a child
- 446 for payment to or from a congregate care program in Utah.
- 447 (b) "Youth transportation company" does not include:
- 448 (i) a relative of the child;
- 449 (ii) a state agency; or
- 450 (iii) a congregate care program's employee who transports the child from the
- 451 congregate care program that employs the employee and returns the child to the
- 452 same congregate care program.

453 Section 5. Section **26B-2-104** is amended to read:

454 **26B-2-104 . Division responsibilities.**

- 455 (1) Subject to the requirements of federal and state law, the office shall:
- 456 (a) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
- 457 Rulemaking Act, to establish:
- 458 (i) except as provided in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), basic health and safety standards for
- 459 licensees, that shall be limited to:
- 460 (A) fire safety;
- 461 (B) food safety;
- 462 (C) sanitation;
- 463 (D) infectious disease control;
- 464 (E) safety of the:
- 465 (I) physical facility and grounds; and
- 466 (II) area and community surrounding the physical facility;
- 467 (F) transportation safety;
- 468 (G) emergency preparedness and response;
- 469 (H) the administration of medical standards and procedures, consistent with the
- 470 related provisions of this title;
- 471 (I) staff and client safety and protection;
- 472 (J) the administration and maintenance of client and service records;

- 473 (K) staff qualifications and training, including standards for permitting experience
 474 to be substituted for education, unless prohibited by law;
- 475 (L) staff to client ratios;
- 476 (M) access to firearms; and
- 477 (N) the prevention of abuse, neglect, exploitation, harm, mistreatment, or fraud;
- 478 (ii) basic health and safety standards for therapeutic schools, that shall be limited to:
- 479 (A) fire safety, except that the standards are limited to those required by law or
 480 rule under Title 53, Chapter 7, Part 2, Fire Prevention and Fireworks Act;
- 481 (B) food safety;
- 482 (C) sanitation;
- 483 (D) infectious disease control, except that the standards are limited to:
- 484 (I) those required by law or rule under this title, or Title 26A, Local Health
 485 Authorities; and
- 486 (II) requiring a separate room for clients who are sick;
- 487 (E) safety of the physical facility and grounds, except that the standards are
 488 limited to those required by law or rule under Title 53, Chapter 7, Part 2, Fire
 489 Prevention and Fireworks Act;
- 490 (F) transportation safety;
- 491 (G) emergency preparedness and response;
- 492 (H) access to appropriate medical care, including:
- 493 (I) subject to the requirements of law, designation of a person who is
 494 authorized to dispense medication; and
- 495 (II) storing, tracking, and securing medication;
- 496 (I) staff and client safety and protection that permits the school to provide for the
 497 direct supervision of clients at all times;
- 498 (J) the administration and maintenance of client and service records;
- 499 (K) staff qualifications and training, including standards for permitting experience
 500 to be substituted for education, unless prohibited by law;
- 501 (L) staff to client ratios;
- 502 (M) access to firearms; and
- 503 (N) the prevention of abuse, neglect, exploitation, harm, mistreatment, or fraud;
- 504 (iii) procedures and standards for permitting a licensee to:
- 505 (A) provide in the same facility and under the same conditions as children,
 506 residential treatment services to a person 18 years old or older who:

- 507 (I) begins to reside at the licensee's residential treatment facility before the
 508 person's 18th birthday;
- 509 (II) has resided at the licensee's residential treatment facility continuously since
 510 the time described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii)(A)(I);
- 511 (III) has not completed the course of treatment for which the person began
 512 residing at the licensee's residential treatment facility; and
- 513 (IV) voluntarily consents to complete the course of treatment described in
 514 Subsection (1)(a)(iii)(A)(III); or
- 515 (B)(I) provide residential treatment services to a child who is:
- 516 (Aa) at least 12 years old or, as approved by the [office] division, younger
 517 than 12 years old; and
- 518 (Bb) under the custody of the department, or one of its divisions; and
- 519 (II) provide, in the same facility as a child described in Subsection
 520 (1)(a)(iii)(B)(I), residential treatment services to a person who is:
- 521 (Aa) at least 18 years old, but younger than 21 years old; and
- 522 (Bb) under the custody of the department, or one of its divisions;
- 523 (iv) minimum administration and financial requirements for licensees;
- 524 (v) guidelines for variances from rules established under this Subsection (1);
- 525 (vi) ethical standards, as described in Subsection 78B-6-106(3), and minimum
 526 responsibilities of a child-placing agency that provides adoption services and that
 527 is licensed under this part;
- 528 (vii) what constitutes an "outpatient treatment program" for purposes of this part;
- 529 (viii) a procedure requiring a licensee to provide an insurer the licensee's records
 530 related to any services or supplies billed to the insurer[;] and a procedure allowing
 531 the licensee and the insurer to contact the Insurance Department to resolve any
 532 disputes;
- 533 (ix) a protocol for the office to investigate and process complaints about licensees;
- 534 (x) a procedure for a licensee to:
- 535 (A) report the use of a restraint or seclusion within one business day after the day
 536 on which the use of the restraint or seclusion occurs;[~~and~~]
- 537 (B) report a critical incident within one business day after the day on which the
 538 incident occurs; and
- 539 (C) comply with any requirements of this part;
- 540 (xi) guidelines for the policies and procedures described in Sections 26B-2-109 and

- 541 26B-2-123;
- 542 (xii) a procedure for the [~~office~~] division to review and approve the policies and
- 543 procedures described in Sections 26B-2-109 and 26B-2-123; [~~and~~]
- 544 (xiii) a requirement that each human services program publicly post information that
- 545 informs an individual how to submit a complaint about a human services program
- 546 to the [~~office~~] division; and
- 547 (xiv) requirements for disruption plans under Section 26B-2-124;
- 548 (b) enforce rules relating to the [~~office~~] division;
- 549 (c) issue licenses in accordance with this part;
- 550 (d) if the United States Department of State executes an agreement with the [~~office~~]
- 551 division that designates the [~~office~~] division to act as an accrediting entity in
- 552 accordance with the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-279,
- 553 accredit one or more agencies and persons to provide intercountry adoption services
- 554 pursuant to:
- 555 (i) the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-279; and
- 556 (ii) the implementing regulations for the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, Pub. L.
- 557 No. 106-279;
- 558 (e) make rules to implement the provisions of Subsection (1)(d);
- 559 (f) conduct surveys and inspections of licensees and facilities in accordance with Section
- 560 26B-2-107;
- 561 (g) collect licensure fees;
- 562 (h) notify licensees of the name of a person within the department to contact when filing
- 563 a complaint;
- 564 (i) investigate complaints regarding any licensee or human services program;
- 565 (j) have access to all records, correspondence, and financial data required to be
- 566 maintained by a licensee;
- 567 (k) have authority to interview any client, family member of a client, employee, or
- 568 officer of a licensee;
- 569 (l) have authority to deny, condition, revoke, suspend, or extend any license issued by
- 570 the department under this part by following the procedures and requirements of Title
- 571 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act;
- 572 (m) cooperate with the Division of Child and Family Services to condition, revoke, or
- 573 suspend the license of a foster home when a child welfare caseworker from the
- 574 Division of Child and Family Services identifies a safety concern with the foster

575 home;

576 (n) electronically post notices of agency action issued to a human services program, with
577 the exception of a foster home, on the ~~[office's-]~~ division's website, in accordance with
578 Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act; and

579 (o) upon receiving a local government's request under Section 26B-2-118, notify the
580 local government of new human services program license applications, except for
581 foster homes, for human services programs located within the local government's
582 jurisdiction.

583 (2) In establishing rules under Subsection (1)(a)(ii)(G), the ~~[office-]~~ division shall require a
584 licensee to establish and comply with an emergency response plan that requires clients
585 and staff to:

586 (a) immediately report to law enforcement any significant criminal activity, as defined
587 by rule, committed:

588 (i) on the premises where the licensee operates its human services program;

589 (ii) by or against its clients; or

590 (iii) by or against a staff member while the staff member is on duty;

591 (b) immediately report to emergency medical services any medical emergency, as
592 defined by rule:

593 (i) on the premises where the licensee operates ~~[its human services program]~~ a
594 program;

595 (ii) involving its clients; or

596 (iii) involving a staff member while the staff member is on duty; and

597 (c) immediately report other emergencies that occur on the premises where the licensee
598 operates its human services program to the appropriate emergency services agency.

599 Section 6. Section **26B-2-107** is amended to read:

600 **26B-2-107 . Administrative inspections.**

601 (1) As used in this section:

602 (a) "Foster home" does not include a residence that is licensed or certified for proctor
603 care or care by a professional parent.

604 (b) "Material change" means a significant change in circumstances that may include:

605 (i) a loss or gain of employment;

606 (ii) a change in marital status;

607 (iii) a change of individuals living in the home; or

608 (iv) other changes that may affect a foster child's well-being.

- 609 (2)(a) Subject to Subsections (2)(b) and (3), the office may, for the purpose of
610 ascertaining compliance with this part, enter and inspect on a routine basis the facility
611 or program of a licensee.
- 612 (b)(i) The office shall enter and inspect a congregate care program at least once each
613 calendar quarter.
- 614 (ii) At least two of the inspections described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) shall be
615 unannounced.
- 616 (iii) The division shall routinely verify whether a congregate care program maintains
617 strict compliance with the program's approved admissions criteria in accordance
618 with Section 26B-2-124.
- 619 (c) If another government entity conducts an inspection that is substantially similar to an
620 inspection conducted by the office, the office may conclude the inspection satisfies
621 an inspection described in Subsection (2)(b).
- 622 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b):
- 623 (i) for the first two years of a foster home's license, the [office] division shall enter
624 and inspect the facility once each year;
- 625 (ii) after a foster home has been licensed for two years, the [office] division shall enter
626 and inspect the facility once every three years; and
- 627 (iii) for a foster home licensed for two or more years as of May 1, 2023, and that was
628 inspected by the office on or after May 1, 2023, the office may not enter and
629 inspect the facility until three years after the date of the last inspection.
- 630 (b)(i) If a foster home has not had a placement for more than 12 months after the date
631 of the office's last inspection, the office shall enter and inspect the [facility] home
632 within 30 days after the date on which the foster home receives a new placement.
- 633 (ii) If the license for a foster home is placed on conditions, suspended, or revoked by
634 the office, or voluntarily returned to the office by the licensee, the office may
635 enter and inspect the [facility] home on a routine basis.
- 636 (iii) If there is a material change to a foster home:
- 637 (A) the foster parent shall immediately notify the office of the material change; and
638 (B) the office shall inspect the foster home as soon as practicable after receiving
639 notice of or otherwise becoming aware of the material change.
- 640 (iv) If a health and safety concern is reported to the office, the office may conduct an
641 unannounced inspection of the foster home during regular business hours.
- 642 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b)(iv), an inspection of a foster home shall be

643 announced.

- 644 (4) Before conducting an inspection under Subsection (2) or (3), the office shall, after
645 identifying the person in charge:
- 646 (a) give proper identification;
 - 647 (b) request to see the applicable license;
 - 648 (c) describe the nature and purpose of the inspection; and
 - 649 (d) if necessary, explain the authority of the office to conduct the inspection and the
650 penalty for refusing to permit the inspection as provided in Section 26B-2-707.
- 651 (5) In conducting an inspection under Subsection (2) or (3), the office may, after meeting
652 the requirements of Subsection (4):
- 653 (a) inspect the physical facilities;
 - 654 (b) inspect and copy records and documents;
 - 655 (c) interview officers, employees, clients, family members of clients, and others; and
 - 656 (d) observe the licensee in operation.
- 657 (6) An inspection conducted under Subsection (2) shall be during regular business hours
658 and may be announced or unannounced.
- 659 (7) The licensee shall make copies of inspection reports available to the public upon request.
- 660 (8) The provisions of this section apply to on-site inspections and do not restrict the office
661 from contacting family members, neighbors, or other individuals, or from seeking
662 information from other sources to determine compliance with this part.

663 Section 7. Section **26B-2-120** is amended to read:

664 **26B-2-120 . Background check -- Direct access to children or vulnerable adults.**

- 665 (1) As used in this section:
- 666 (a)(i) "Applicant" means an individual who is associated with a certification,
667 contract, or licensee with the department under this part and has direct access,
668 including:
 - 669 (A) an adoptive parent or prospective adoptive parent, including an applicant for
670 an adoption in accordance with Section 78B-6-128;
 - 671 (B) a foster parent or prospective foster parent;
 - 672 (C) an individual who provides respite care to a foster parent or an adoptive parent
673 on more than one occasion;
 - 674 (D) an individual who transports a child for a youth transportation company;
 - 675 (E) an individual who provides certified peer support, as defined in Section
676 26B-5-610;

- 677 (F) an individual who provides peer supports, has a disability or a family member
 678 with a disability, or is in recovery from a mental illness or a substance use
 679 disorder;
- 680 (G) an individual who has lived experience with the services provided by the
 681 department, and uses that lived experience to provide support, guidance, or
 682 services to promote resiliency and recovery;
- 683 (H) an individual who is identified as a mental health professional, licensed under
 684 Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health Professional Practice Act, and engaged in
 685 the practice of mental health therapy, as defined in Section 58-60-102;
- 686 (I) an individual, other than the child or vulnerable adult receiving the service,
 687 who is 12 years old or older and resides in a home, that is licensed or certified
 688 by the division;
- 689 (J) an individual who is 12 years old or older and is associated with a certification,
 690 contract, or licensee with the department under this part and has or will likely
 691 have direct access;
- 692 (K) a foster home licensee that submits an application for an annual background
 693 screening as required by Subsection 26B-2-105(4)(d)(iii); or
- 694 (L) a short-term relief care provider.
- 695 (ii) "Applicant" does not include:
- 696 (A) an individual who is in the custody of the Division of Child and Family
 697 Services or the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services;
- 698 (B) an individual who applies for employment with, or is employed by, the
 699 Department of Health and Human Services;
- 700 (C) a parent of a person receiving services from the Division of Services for
 701 People with Disabilities, if the parent provides direct care to and resides with
 702 the person, including if the parent provides direct care to and resides with the
 703 person pursuant to a court order; or
- 704 (D) an individual or a department contractor who provides services in an adults
 705 only substance use disorder program, as defined by rule adopted by the
 706 Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with Title 63G,
 707 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, and who is not a program
 708 director or a member, as defined by Section 26B-2-105, of the program.
- 709 (b) "Application" means a background check application to the office.
- 710 (c) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification within the Department of

- 711 Public Safety, created in Section 53-10-201.
- 712 (d) "Criminal finding" means a record of:
- 713 (i) an arrest for a criminal offense;
- 714 (ii) a warrant for a criminal arrest;
- 715 (iii) charges for a criminal offense; or
- 716 (iv) a criminal conviction.
- 717 (e) "Direct access" means that an individual has, or likely will have:
- 718 (i) contact with or access to a child or vulnerable adult by which the individual will
- 719 have the opportunity for personal communication or touch with the child or
- 720 vulnerable adult; or
- 721 (ii) an opportunity to view medical, financial, or other confidential personal
- 722 identifying information of the child, the child's parent or legal guardian, or the
- 723 vulnerable adult.
- 724 (f)(i) "Direct access qualified" means that the applicant has an eligible determination
- 725 by the office within the license and renewal time period; and
- 726 (ii) no more than 180 days have passed since the date on which the applicant's
- 727 association with a certification, contract, or licensee with the department expires.
- 728 (g) "Incidental care" means occasional care, not in excess of five hours per week and
- 729 never overnight, for a foster child.
- 730 (h) "Licensee" means an individual or a human services program licensed by the
- 731 division.
- 732 (i) "Non-criminal finding" means a record maintained in:
- 733 (i) the Division of Child and Family Services' Management Information System
- 734 described in Section 80-2-1001;
- 735 (ii) the Division of Child and Family Services' Licensing Information System
- 736 described in Section 80-2-1002;
- 737 (iii) the Division of Aging and Adult Services' vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, or
- 738 exploitation database described in Section 26B-6-210;
- 739 (iv) juvenile court arrest, adjudication, and disposition records;
- 740 (v) the Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry described in Title 77,
- 741 Chapter 41, Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry, or a national sex
- 742 offender registry; or
- 743 (vi) a state child abuse or neglect registry.
- 744 (j) "Office" means the Office of Background Processing within the department.

- 745 (k) "Personal identifying information" means:
- 746 (i) current name, former names, nicknames, and aliases;
- 747 (ii) date of birth;
- 748 (iii) physical address and email address;
- 749 (iv) telephone number;
- 750 (v) driver license or other government-issued identification;
- 751 (vi) social security number;
- 752 (vii) only for applicants who are 18 years old or older, fingerprints, in a form
- 753 specified by the office; and
- 754 (viii) other information specified by the office by rule made in accordance with Title
- 755 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 756 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (12), an applicant or a representative shall submit the
- 757 following to the office:
- 758 (a) personal identifying information;
- 759 (b) a fee established by the office under Section 63J-1-504;
- 760 (c) a disclosure form, specified by the office, for consent for:
- 761 (i) an initial background check upon association with a certification, contract, or
- 762 licensee with the department;
- 763 (ii) ongoing monitoring of fingerprints and registries until no longer associated with a
- 764 certification, contract, or licensee with the department for 180 days;
- 765 (iii) a background check when the office determines that reasonable cause exists; and
- 766 (iv) retention of personal identifying information, including fingerprints, for
- 767 monitoring and notification as described in Subsections (3)(c) and (4);
- 768 (d) if an applicant resided outside of the United States and its territories during the five
- 769 years immediately preceding the day on which the information described in
- 770 Subsections (2)(a) through (c) is submitted to the office, documentation establishing
- 771 whether the applicant was convicted of a crime during the time that the applicant
- 772 resided outside of the United States or its territories; and
- 773 (e) an application showing an applicant's association with a certification, contract, or a
- 774 licensee with the department, for the purpose of the office tracking the direct access
- 775 qualified status of the applicant, which expires 180 days after the date on which the
- 776 applicant is no longer associated with a certification, contract, or a licensee with the
- 777 department.
- 778 (3) The office:

- 779 (a) shall perform the following duties as part of a background check of an applicant
780 before the office grants or denies direct access qualified status to an applicant:
- 781 (i) check state and regional criminal background databases for the applicant's
782 criminal history by:
- 783 (A) submitting personal identifying information to the bureau for a search; or
784 (B) using the applicant's personal identifying information to search state and
785 regional criminal background databases as authorized under Section 53-10-108;
- 786 (ii) submit the applicant's personal identifying information and fingerprints to the
787 bureau for a criminal history search of applicable national criminal background
788 databases;
- 789 (iii) search the Division of Child and Family Services' Licensing Information System
790 described in Section 80-2-1002;
- 791 (iv) search the Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry described in Title
792 77, Chapter 41, Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry, or a national
793 sex offender registry for an applicant 18 years old or older;
- 794 (v) if the applicant is associated with a licensee for a prospective foster or adoptive
795 parent, search the Division of Child and Family Services' Management
796 Information System described in Section 80-2-1001;
- 797 (vi) search the Division of Aging and Adult Services' vulnerable adult abuse, neglect,
798 or exploitation database described in Section 26B-6-210;
- 799 (vii) search the juvenile court records for substantiated findings of severe child abuse
800 or neglect described in Section 80-3-404; and
- 801 (viii) search the juvenile court arrest, adjudication, and disposition records, as
802 provided under Section 78A-6-209;
- 803 (b) may conduct all or portions of a background check in connection with determining
804 whether an applicant is direct access qualified, as provided by rule, made by the
805 office in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act:
- 806 (i) for an annual renewal; or
807 (ii) when the office determines that reasonable cause exists;
- 808 (c) may submit an applicant's personal identifying information, including fingerprints, to
809 the bureau for checking, retaining, and monitoring of state and national criminal
810 background databases and for notifying the office of new criminal activity associated
811 with the applicant;
- 812 (d) shall track the status of an applicant under this section to ensure that the applicant is

- 813 not required to duplicate the submission of the applicant's fingerprints if the applicant
814 is associated with more than one certification, contract, or licensee with the
815 department;
- 816 (e) shall notify the bureau when a direct access qualified individual has not been
817 associated with a certification, contract, or licensee with the department for a period
818 of 180 days;
- 819 (f) shall adopt measures to strictly limit access to personal identifying information solely
820 to the individuals responsible for processing and entering the applications for
821 background checks and to protect the security of the personal identifying information
822 the office reviews under this Subsection (3);
- 823 (g) as necessary to comply with the federal requirement to check a state's child abuse
824 and neglect registry regarding any applicant working in a congregate care program,
825 shall:
- 826 (i) search the Division of Child and Family Services' Licensing Information System
827 described in Section 80-2-1002; and
- 828 (ii) require the child abuse and neglect registry be checked in each state where an
829 applicant resided at any time during the five years immediately preceding the day
830 on which the application is submitted to the office; and
- 831 (h) shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
832 Rulemaking Act, to implement the provisions of this Subsection (3) relating to
833 background checks.
- 834 (4)(a) With the personal identifying information the office submits to the bureau under
835 Subsection (3), the bureau shall check against state and regional criminal background
836 databases for the applicant's criminal history.
- 837 (b) With the personal identifying information and fingerprints the office submits to the
838 bureau under Subsection (3), the bureau shall check against national criminal
839 background databases for the applicant's criminal history.
- 840 (c) Upon direction from the office, and with the personal identifying information and
841 fingerprints the office submits to the bureau under Subsection (3)(c), the bureau shall:
- 842 (i) maintain a separate file of the fingerprints for search by future submissions to the
843 local and regional criminal records databases, including latent prints; and
- 844 (ii) monitor state and regional criminal background databases and identify criminal
845 activity associated with the applicant.
- 846 (d) The bureau is authorized to submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of

- 847 Investigation Next Generation Identification System, to be retained in the Federal
848 Bureau of Investigation Next Generation Identification System for the purpose of:
- 849 (i) being searched by future submissions to the national criminal records databases,
850 including the Federal Bureau of Investigation Next Generation Identification
851 System and latent prints; and
 - 852 (ii) monitoring national criminal background databases and identifying criminal
853 activity associated with the applicant.
- 854 (e) The ~~[Bureau]~~ bureau shall notify and release to the office all information of criminal
855 activity associated with the applicant.
- 856 (f) Upon notice that an individual who has direct access qualified status will no longer
857 be associated with a certification, contract, or licensee with the department, the
858 bureau shall:
- 859 (i) discard and destroy any retained fingerprints; and
 - 860 (ii) notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation when the license has expired or an
861 individual's direct access to a child or a vulnerable adult has ceased, so that the
862 Federal Bureau of Investigation will discard and destroy the retained fingerprints
863 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Next Generation Identification System.
- 864 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), the office shall deny direct access
865 qualified status to an applicant who, within three years from the date on which the
866 office conducts the background check, was convicted of:
- 867 (i) a felony or misdemeanor involving conduct that constitutes any of the following:
 - 868 (A) an offense identified as domestic violence, lewdness, voyeurism, battery,
869 cruelty to animals, or bestiality;
 - 870 (B) a violation of any pornography law, including sexual exploitation of a minor
871 or aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor;
 - 872 (C) sexual solicitation or prostitution;
 - 873 (D) a violent offense committed in the presence of a child, as described in Section
874 76-3-203.10;
 - 875 (E) an offense included in Title 76, Chapter 4, Part 4, Enticement of a Minor;
 - 876 (F) an offense included in Title 76, Chapter 5, Offenses Against the Individual;
 - 877 (G) an offense included in Title 76, Chapter 5b, Sexual Exploitation Act;
 - 878 (H) an offense included in Title 76, Chapter 7, Offenses Against the Family;
 - 879 (I) an offense included in Title 76, Chapter 9, Part 4, Offenses Against Privacy;
 - 880 (J) an offense included in Title 76, Chapter 10, Part 4, Weapons of Mass

- 881 Destruction;
- 882 (K) an offense included in Title 78B, Chapter 7, Protective Orders and Stalking
- 883 Injunctions;
- 884 (L) aggravated arson, as described in Section 76-6-103;
- 885 (M) aggravated burglary, as described in Section 76-6-203;
- 886 (N) aggravated exploitation of prostitution, as described in Section 76-10-1306;
- 887 (O) aggravated robbery, as described in Section 76-6-302;
- 888 (P) endangering persons in a human services program, as described in Section
- 889 26B-2-113;
- 890 (Q) failure to report, as described in Section 80-2-609;
- 891 (R) identity fraud crime, as described in Section 76-6-1102;
- 892 (S) leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle, as described in Section
- 893 76-10-2202;
- 894 (T) riot, as described in Section 76-9-101;
- 895 (U) sexual battery, as described in Section 76-9-702.1; or
- 896 (V) threatening with or using a dangerous weapon in a fight or quarrel, as
- 897 described in Section 76-10-506; or
- 898 (ii) a felony or misdemeanor offense committed outside of the state that, if committed
- 899 in the state, would constitute a violation of an offense described in Subsection
- 900 (5)(a)(i).
- 901 (b)(i) Subsection (5)(a) does not apply to an applicant who is seeking a position as a
- 902 peer support provider or a mental health professional, if the applicant provides
- 903 services in a program that serves only adults with a primary mental health
- 904 diagnosis, with or without a co-occurring substance use disorder.
- 905 (ii) The office shall conduct a comprehensive review of an applicant described in
- 906 Subsection (5)(b)(i) in accordance with Subsection (7).
- 907 (c) The office shall deny direct access qualified status to an applicant ~~[if]~~ who:
- 908 (i) [the office finds that] a court order prohibits [the applicant] from having direct
- 909 access to a child or vulnerable adult[-] ; or
- 910 (ii) is or has been the subject of an investigation for sexual misconduct, whether
- 911 criminal or civil, within three years from the date on which the office conducts the
- 912 background check.
- 913 (6) The office shall conduct a comprehensive review of an applicant's background check if
- 914 the applicant:

- 915 (a) has a felony or class A misdemeanor conviction that is more than three years from
916 the date on which the office conducts the background check, for an offense described
917 in Subsection (5)(a);
- 918 (b) has a felony charge or conviction that is no more than 10 years from the date on
919 which the office conducts the background check for an offense not described in
920 Subsection (5)(a);
- 921 (c) has a felony charge or conviction that is more than 10 years from the date on which
922 the office conducts the background check, for an offense not described in Subsection
923 (5)(a), with criminal or non-criminal findings after the date of the felony charge or
924 conviction;
- 925 (d) has a class B misdemeanor or class C misdemeanor conviction that is more than
926 three years and no more than 10 years from the date on which the office conducts the
927 background check for an offense described in Subsection (5)(a);
- 928 (e) has a class B misdemeanor or class C misdemeanor conviction that is more than 10
929 years from the date on which the office conducts the background check, for an
930 offense described in Subsection (5)(a), with criminal or non-criminal findings after
931 the date of conviction;
- 932 (f) has a misdemeanor charge or conviction that is no more than three years from the
933 date on which the office conducts the background check for an offense not described
934 in Subsection (5)(a);
- 935 (g) has a misdemeanor charge or conviction that is more than three years from the date
936 on which the office conducts the background check, for an offense not described in
937 Subsection (5)(a), with criminal or non-criminal findings after the date of charge or
938 conviction;
- 939 (h) is currently subject to a plea in abeyance or diversion agreement for an offense
940 described in Subsection (5)(a);
- 941 (i) appears on the Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry described in Title
942 77, Chapter 41, Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry, or a national sex
943 offender registry;
- 944 (j) has a record of an adjudication in juvenile court for an act that, if committed by an
945 adult, would be a felony or misdemeanor, if the applicant is:
- 946 (i) under 28 years old; or
- 947 (ii) 28 years old or older and has been convicted of, has pleaded no contest to, or is
948 currently subject to a plea in abeyance or diversion agreement for a felony or a

- 949 misdemeanor offense described in Subsection (5)(a);
- 950 (k) has a pending charge for an offense described in Subsection (5)(a);
- 951 (l) has a listing that occurred no more than 15 years from the date on which the office
- 952 conducts the background check in the Division of Child and Family Services'
- 953 Licensing Information System described in Section 80-2-1002;
- 954 (m) has a listing that occurred more than 15 years from the date on which the office
- 955 conducts the background check in the Division of Child and Family Services'
- 956 Licensing Information System described in Section 80-2-1002, with criminal or
- 957 non-criminal findings after the date of the listing;
- 958 (n) has a listing that occurred no more than 15 years from the date on which the office
- 959 conducts the background check in the Division of Aging and Adult Services'
- 960 vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation database described in Section
- 961 26B-6-210;
- 962 (o) has a listing that occurred more than 15 years from the date on which the office
- 963 conducts the background check in the Division of Aging and Adult Services'
- 964 vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation database described in Section
- 965 26B-6-210, with criminal or non-criminal findings after the date of the listing;
- 966 (p) has a substantiated finding that occurred no more than 15 years from the date on
- 967 which the office conducts the background check of severe child abuse or neglect
- 968 under Section 80-3-404 or 80-3-504[-]; or
- 969 (q) has a substantiated finding that occurred more than 15 years from the date on which
- 970 the office conducts the background check of severe child abuse or neglect under
- 971 Section 80-3-404 or 80-3-504, with criminal or non-criminal findings after the date of
- 972 the listing.
- 973 (7)(a) The comprehensive review shall include an examination of:
- 974 (i) the date of the offense or incident;
- 975 (ii) the nature and seriousness of the offense or incident;
- 976 (iii) the circumstances under which the offense or incident occurred;
- 977 (iv) the age of the perpetrator when the offense or incident occurred;
- 978 (v) whether the offense or incident was an isolated or repeated incident;
- 979 (vi) whether the offense or incident directly relates to abuse of a child or vulnerable
- 980 adult, including:
- 981 (A) actual or threatened, nonaccidental physical, mental, or financial harm;
- 982 (B) sexual abuse;

- 983 (C) sexual exploitation; or
984 (D) negligent treatment;
- 985 (vii) any evidence provided by the applicant of rehabilitation, counseling, psychiatric
986 treatment received, or additional academic or vocational schooling completed;
- 987 (viii) the applicant's risk of harm to clientele in the program or in the capacity for
988 which the applicant is applying; and
- 989 (ix) if the background check of an applicant is being conducted for the purpose of
990 giving direct access qualified status to an applicant seeking a position in a
991 congregate care program or to become a prospective foster or adoptive parent, any
992 listing in the Division of Child and Family Services' Management Information
993 System described in Section 80-2-1001.
- 994 (b) At the conclusion of the comprehensive review, the office shall deny direct access
995 qualified status to an applicant if the office finds the approval would likely create a
996 risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult.
- 997 (8) The office shall grant direct access qualified status to an applicant who is not denied
998 under this section.
- 999 (9)(a) The office may conditionally grant direct access qualified status to an applicant,
1000 for a maximum of 60 days after the day on which the office sends written notice,
1001 without requiring that the applicant be directly supervised, if the office:
- 1002 (i) is awaiting the results of the criminal history search of national criminal
1003 background databases; and
- 1004 (ii) would otherwise grant direct access qualified status to the applicant under this
1005 section.
- 1006 (b) The office may conditionally grant direct access qualified status to an applicant, for a
1007 maximum of one year after the day on which the office sends written notice, without
1008 requiring that the applicant be directly supervised if the office:
- 1009 (i) is awaiting the results of an out-of-state registry for providers other than foster and
1010 adoptive parents; and
- 1011 (ii) would otherwise grant direct access qualified status to the applicant under this
1012 section.
- 1013 (c) Upon receiving the results of the criminal history search of a national criminal
1014 background database, the office shall grant or deny direct access qualified status to
1015 the applicant in accordance with this section.
- 1016 (10)(a) Each time an applicant is associated with a licensee, the department shall review

- 1017 the current status of the applicant's background check to ensure the applicant is still
1018 eligible for direct access qualified status in accordance with this section.
- 1019 (b) A licensee may not permit an individual to have direct access to a child or a
1020 vulnerable adult without being directly supervised unless:
- 1021 (i) the individual is the parent or guardian of the child, or the guardian of the
1022 vulnerable adult;
- 1023 (ii) the individual is approved by the parent or guardian of the child, or the guardian
1024 of the vulnerable adult, to have direct access to the child or the vulnerable adult;
- 1025 (iii) the individual is only permitted to have direct access to a vulnerable adult who
1026 voluntarily invites the individual to visit; or
- 1027 (iv) the individual only provides incidental care for a foster child on behalf of a foster
1028 parent who has used reasonable and prudent judgment to select the individual to
1029 provide the incidental care for the foster child.
- 1030 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an applicant who is denied direct
1031 access qualified status shall not have direct access to a child or vulnerable adult
1032 unless the office grants direct access qualified status to the applicant through a
1033 subsequent application in accordance with this section.
- 1034 (11) If the office denies direct access qualified status to an applicant, the applicant may
1035 request a hearing in the department's Office of Administrative Hearings to challenge the
1036 office's decision.
- 1037 (12)(a) This Subsection (12) applies to an applicant associated with a certification,
1038 contract, or licensee serving adults only.
- 1039 (b) A program director or a member, as defined in Section 26B-2-105, of the licensee
1040 shall comply with this section.
- 1041 (c) The office shall conduct a comprehensive review for an applicant if:
- 1042 (i) the applicant is seeking a position:
- 1043 (A) as a peer support provider;
- 1044 (B) as a mental health professional; or
- 1045 (C) in a program that serves only adults with a primary mental health diagnosis,
1046 with or without a co-occurring substance use disorder; and
- 1047 (ii) within three years from the date on which the office conducts the background
1048 check, the applicant has a felony or misdemeanor charge or conviction or a
1049 non-criminal finding.
- 1050 (13)(a) This Subsection (13) applies to an applicant seeking a position in a congregate

1051 care program, an applicant seeking to provide a prospective foster home, an applicant
1052 seeking to provide a prospective adoptive home, and each adult living in the home of
1053 the prospective foster or prospective adoptive home.

1054 (b) As federally required, the office shall:

1055 (i) check the child abuse and neglect registry in each state where each applicant
1056 resided in the five years immediately preceding the day on which the applicant
1057 applied to be a foster or adoptive parent, to determine whether the prospective
1058 foster or adoptive parent is listed in the registry as having a substantiated or
1059 supported finding of child abuse or neglect; and

1060 (ii) except for applicants seeking a position in a congregate care program, check the
1061 child abuse and neglect registry in each state where each adult living in the home
1062 of the prospective foster or adoptive home resided in the five years immediately
1063 preceding the day on which the applicant applied to be a foster or adoptive parent,
1064 to determine whether the adult is listed in the registry as having a substantiated or
1065 supported finding of child abuse or neglect.

1066 (c) The requirements described in Subsection (13)(b) do not apply to the extent that:

1067 (i) federal law or rule permits otherwise; or

1068 (ii) the requirements would prohibit the Division of Child and Family Services or a
1069 court from placing a child with:

1070 (A) a noncustodial parent under Section 80-2a-301, 80-3-302, or 80-3-303; or

1071 (B) a relative, other than a noncustodial parent, under Section 80-2a-301, 80-3-302,
1072 or 80-3-303, pending completion of the background check described in
1073 Subsections (5), (6), and (7).

1074 (d) Notwithstanding Subsections (5) through (10), the office shall deny direct access
1075 qualified status if the applicant has been convicted of:

1076 (i) a felony involving conduct that constitutes any of the following:

1077 (A) child abuse, as described in Sections 76-5-109, 76-5-109.2, and 76-5-109.3;

1078 (B) commission of domestic violence in the presence of a child, as described in
1079 Section 76-5-114;

1080 (C) abuse or neglect of a child with a disability, as described in Section 76-5-110;

1081 (D) intentional aggravated abuse of a vulnerable adult, as described in Section
1082 76-5-111;

1083 (E) endangerment of a child or vulnerable adult, as described in Section
1084 76-5-112.5;

- 1085 (F) aggravated murder, as described in Section 76-5-202;
- 1086 (G) murder, as described in Section 76-5-203;
- 1087 (H) manslaughter, as described in Section 76-5-205;
- 1088 (I) child abuse homicide, as described in Section 76-5-208;
- 1089 (J) homicide by assault, as described in Section 76-5-209;
- 1090 (K) kidnapping, as described in Section 76-5-301;
- 1091 (L) child kidnapping, as described in Section 76-5-301.1;
- 1092 (M) aggravated kidnapping, as described in Section 76-5-302;
- 1093 (N) human trafficking of a child, as described in Section 76-5-308.5;
- 1094 (O) an offense described in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses;
- 1095 (P) sexual exploitation of a minor, as described in Title 76, Chapter 5b, Sexual
- 1096 Exploitation Act;
- 1097 (Q) aggravated exploitation of a minor, as described in Section 76-5b-201.1;
- 1098 (R) aggravated arson, as described in Section 76-6-103;
- 1099 (S) aggravated burglary, as described in Section 76-6-203;
- 1100 (T) aggravated robbery, as described in Section 76-6-302;
- 1101 (U) lewdness involving a child, as described in Section 76-9-702.5;
- 1102 (V) incest, as described in Section 76-7-102; or
- 1103 (W) domestic violence, as described in Section 77-36-1; or
- 1104 (ii) an offense committed outside the state that, if committed in the state, would
- 1105 constitute a violation of an offense described in Subsection (13)(d)(i).
- 1106 (e) Notwithstanding Subsections (5) through (10), the office shall deny direct access
- 1107 qualified status to an applicant if, within the five years from the date on which the
- 1108 office conducts the background check, the applicant was convicted of a felony
- 1109 involving conduct that constitutes a violation of any of the following:
- 1110 (i) aggravated assault, as described in Section 76-5-103;
- 1111 (ii) aggravated assault by a prisoner, as described in Section 76-5-103.5;
- 1112 (iii) mayhem, as described in Section 76-5-105;
- 1113 (iv) an offense described in Title 58, Chapter 37, Utah Controlled Substances Act;
- 1114 (v) an offense described in Title 58, Chapter 37a, Utah Drug Paraphernalia Act;
- 1115 (vi) an offense described in Title 58, Chapter 37b, Imitation Controlled Substances
- 1116 Act;
- 1117 (vii) an offense described in Title 58, Chapter 37c, Utah Controlled Substance
- 1118 Precursor Act; or

- 1119 (viii) an offense described in Title 58, Chapter 37d, Clandestine Drug Lab Act.
- 1120 (f) In addition to the circumstances described in Subsection (6), the office shall conduct
- 1121 a comprehensive review of an applicant's background check under this section if the
- 1122 applicant:
- 1123 (i) has an offense described in Subsection (5)(a);
- 1124 (ii) has an infraction conviction entered on a date that is no more than three years
- 1125 before the date on which the office conducts the background check;
- 1126 (iii) has a listing in the Division of Child and Family Services' Licensing Information
- 1127 System described in Section 80-2-1002;
- 1128 (iv) has a listing in the Division of Aging and Adult Services' vulnerable adult,
- 1129 neglect, or exploitation database described in Section 26B-2-210;
- 1130 (v) has a substantiated finding of severe child abuse or neglect under Section
- 1131 80-3-404 or 80-3-504; or
- 1132 (vi) has a listing on the registry check described in Subsection (13)(b) as having a
- 1133 substantiated or supported finding of a severe type of child abuse or neglect, as
- 1134 defined in Section 80-1-102.
- 1135 (14) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
- 1136 office may make rules, consistent with this part, to:
- 1137 (a) establish procedures for, and information to be examined in, the comprehensive
- 1138 review described in Subsections (6), (7), and (13); and
- 1139 (b) determine whether to consider an offense or incident that occurred while an
- 1140 individual was in the custody of the Division of Child and Family Services or the
- 1141 Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for purposes of granting or denying
- 1142 direct access qualified status to an applicant.
- 1143 Section 8. Section **26B-2-124** is amended to read:
- 1144 **26B-2-124 . Congregate care program requirements -- Admissions criteria --**
- 1145 **Costs incurred at health care facilities.**
- 1146 [~~(1) As used in this section, "disruption plan" means a child-specific plan used:]~~
- 1147 [~~(a) when the private-placement child stops receiving services from a congregate care~~
- 1148 ~~program; and]~~
- 1149 [~~(b) for transporting a private-placement child to a parent or guardian or to another~~
- 1150 ~~congregate care program.]~~
- 1151 (1) As used in this section:
- 1152 (a) "Admissions criteria" means the risk factors that must be present in the life of a child

- 1153 in order for a congregate care program to admit the child to the program.
- 1154 (b) "Approved admissions criteria" means the admissions criteria that the committee has
1155 approved pursuant to Section 26B-2-124.1.
- 1156 (c) "Critical incident" means an occurrence of any of the following:
- 1157 (i) a self-harm, or a suicide emergency, as defined in Section 78B-4-516;
- 1158 (ii) a practice that is prohibited under Section 26B-2-123;
- 1159 (iii) a restraint, seclusion, or emergency safety intervention under Section 26B-2-123
1160 occurring at the program, whether it:
- 1161 (A) complies with Section 26B-2-123; or
- 1162 (B) fails to comply with Section 26B-2-123;
- 1163 (iv) a child's request for medical attention, except:
- 1164 (A) medical attention that is part of the child's treatment plan; or
- 1165 (B) when the medical attention requested does not require professional attention;
- 1166 (v) a denial or an unreasonable delay of required medical attention to a child in the
1167 program;
- 1168 (vi) an admittance or a transport of a child in the program to or from a medical
1169 facility;
- 1170 (vii) an incident or allegation of abuse or harm to a child while in the program;
- 1171 (viii) an unauthorized departure or attempted unauthorized departure of a child from
1172 the program;
- 1173 (ix) a use of force, coercion, or deception in transporting a child to or from the
1174 program;
- 1175 (x) a child in the program who is in crisis;
- 1176 (xi) a police report or investigation involving:
- 1177 (A) a child; or
- 1178 (B) an individual who has had access to the program; and
- 1179 (xii) a physical condition of the program's facility that jeopardizes the health, safety,
1180 or well-being of a child.
- 1181 (d) "Disruption plan" means instructions and a predetermined protocol, specific to an
1182 individual child, that a congregate care program implements:
- 1183 (i) if the child:
- 1184 (A) is in crisis; or
- 1185 (B) stops receiving services at a congregate care program; or
- 1186 (ii) for transporting a child to:

- 1187 (A) a parent or guardian;
- 1188 (B) another congregate care program; or
- 1189 (C) a health care facility, as that term is defined in Section 78B-3-403.
- 1190 (e) "Qualified candidate" means, for an individual congregate care program's approved
- 1191 admissions criteria, a child who meets the program's approved admissions criteria.
- 1192 (f)(i) "Risk factors" means objectively identifiable characteristics, elements, or a
- 1193 combination of characteristics or elements of a child's life that, if present,
- 1194 evidence an ongoing emotional or behavioral concern that a congregate care
- 1195 program can safely address.
- 1196 (ii) "Risk factors" include:
- 1197 (A) diagnoses defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical
- 1198 Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association; and
- 1199 (B) any other characteristic, element, or combination of characteristics or elements
- 1200 of a child's life that the committee defines and establishes.
- 1201 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this part, a congregate care program may not admit a
- 1202 child who the program is unqualified or unable to:
- 1203 (a) safely serve; and
- 1204 (b) protect from reasonably foreseeable harm.
- 1205 ~~[(2)] (3) A congregate care program shall~~~~[keep the following for a private-placement child~~
- 1206 ~~whose parent or guardian lives outside the state]:~~
- 1207 ~~[(a) regularly updated contact information for the parent or guardian that lives outside~~
- 1208 ~~the state; and]~~
- 1209 ~~[(b) a disruption plan.]~~
- 1210 (a) for each child who is admitted to the program:
- 1211 (i) collect and maintain:
- 1212 (A) contact information for each individual who the child's parent, guardian, or
- 1213 sending government or private agency identifies as an authorized contact; and
- 1214 (B) accurate contact information for the child's parent or guardian;
- 1215 (ii) prepare a disruption plan tailored to the child; and
- 1216 (iii) prepare a suicide prevention plan tailored to the child;
- 1217 (b) develop proposed admissions criteria that, if approved by the office:
- 1218 (i) prescribe with specificity the criteria by which the program shall determine
- 1219 whether a child is a qualified candidate;
- 1220 (ii) are appropriate given the program's facilities, staffing, programming, policies,

- 1221 procedures, and any other elements of the program designed to safely and
1222 effectively serve the children who are admitted to the program;
- 1223 (iii) subject to Subsection (2), are the determining criteria against which the program
1224 shall consider and determine whether a child is a qualified candidate; and
- 1225 (iv) the program shall utilize to determine whether any child:
- 1226 (A) meets the admissions criteria, and therefore is a qualified candidate for the
1227 program; or
- 1228 (B) does not meet the admissions criteria, and therefore is not a qualified
1229 candidate for the program;
- 1230 (c) submit proposed admissions criteria in accordance with Subsection (3)(b) with each
1231 application for licensure or renewal of licensure;
- 1232 (d) decline to admit a child who does not meet the program's approved admissions
1233 criteria;
- 1234 (e) document and report each critical incident no later than 24 hours after the time at
1235 which the incident begins, to:
- 1236 (i) the parent or guardian of each child affected by the critical incident; and
1237 (ii) the ombudsman under Section 26B-2-124.2;
- 1238 (f) post a conspicuous notice:
- 1239 (i) in a common area that is frequently used and generally accessible to each child
1240 who is admitted to the program;
- 1241 (ii) in a bold font that is not less than 1 inch in height; and
1242 (iii) that includes the information and statement described in Subsection (5)(b)(i);
- 1243 (g) provide a clearly designated and dedicated telephone:
- 1244 (i) that is affixed in a common area and accessible to each child in the program;
1245 (ii) from which a child in the program, staff, or any other individual, may place a
1246 direct call to the ombudsman under Subsection 26B-2-124.2:
- 1247 (A) at any time;
- 1248 (B) without prior approval;
- 1249 (C) without interference;
- 1250 (D) with sufficient privacy to preclude another individual from hearing the
1251 conversation; and
- 1252 (E) subject to the whistleblower protections offered under Section 26B-2-124.3;
1253 and
- 1254 (h) maintain a dedicated business telephone number that directly connects a caller to an

- 1255 individual who:
- 1256 (i) is physically present at the congregate care program; and
- 1257 (ii) who has been trained to and will comply with Subsection (4).
- 1258 (4) If a child is in crisis, a congregate care program shall:
- 1259 (a) notify each of the child's authorized contacts under Subsection (3)(a)(i)(A) within
- 1260 one hour of the time at which the child's state of crisis first begins; and
- 1261 (b) make every reasonable effort to connect a child by telephone to an authorized contact
- 1262 who:
- 1263 (i) attempts to contact the child by calling the program's telephone number described
- 1264 in Subsection (3)(h); and
- 1265 (ii) is an authorized contact under Subsection 26B-2-124(2)(a)(ii).
- 1266 (5)(a) A congregate care program shall provide the following information to the persons
- 1267 identified in Subsection (5)(b):
- 1268 (i) the name, telephone number, email, and address of the ombudsman established
- 1269 under Section 26B-2-124.2, immediately below a statement:
- 1270 (A) in bold font that is not less than one inch in height; and
- 1271 (B) stating "ANY PERSON WHO HAS A COMPLAINT OR A CONCERN
- 1272 REGARDING THIS CONGREGATE CARE PROGRAM MAY CONTACT
- 1273 THE CONGREGATE CARE OMBUDSMAN:";
- 1274 (ii) a list of the child's authorized contacts, including name, contact information, and
- 1275 relationship to the child to:
- 1276 (A) the child's parent or guardian;
- 1277 (B) any other individual designated by the child's parent or guardian as an
- 1278 authorized contact; and
- 1279 (C) the ombudsman under Section 26B-2-124; and
- 1280 (iii) on the list described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii):
- 1281 (A) a copy of the division rule regarding a child who is in crisis, made pursuant to
- 1282 Subsection (11)(a)(iii);
- 1283 (B) a notice that the program will notify each authorized contact if the program
- 1284 determines that the child is in crisis; and
- 1285 (C) a notice that an authorized contact may contact the child by telephone if the
- 1286 child is in crisis.
- 1287 (b) A congregate care program shall provide the information described in Subsection
- 1288 (5)(a) to:

- 1289 (i) each child who is admitted to the program;
- 1290 (ii) the child's sending government or private agency; and
- 1291 (iii) the child's parent or guardian.
- 1292 [(3)] (6) If a [~~private-placement child~~] child whose parent or guardian resides outside the
- 1293 state leaves a congregate care program without following the child's disruption plan, the
- 1294 congregate care program shall:
- 1295 (a) notify the parent or guardian, office, and local law enforcement authorities;
- 1296 (b) assist the state in locating the [~~private-placement child~~] child; and
- 1297 (c) after the child is located, transport the [~~private-placement child~~] child:
- 1298 (i) to a parent or guardian;
- 1299 (ii) back to the [~~congregate care~~] program; or
- 1300 (iii) to another [~~congregate care~~] program.
- 1301 (7) A congregate care program may not solicit or accept payment from or on behalf of a
- 1302 child, unless:
- 1303 (a) the child meets the program's admissions criteria; and
- 1304 (b) the child's parent or guardian has executed a contract for the program's services.
- 1305 (8)(a) The payment provisions under this Subsection (8) apply if:
- 1306 (i) a child is transported to a health care facility; and
- 1307 (ii) the child's parent or guardian resides outside the state.
- 1308 (b) A health care facility that provides services to a child who was transported from a
- 1309 congregate care program to the facility is entitled to payment in accordance with this
- 1310 Subsection (8).
- 1311 (c)(i) The child's private or public health insurance policy or policies are responsible
- 1312 for and shall pay all amounts owed and for which there is coverage.
- 1313 (ii) The health care facility shall bill the private or public health insurance policy or
- 1314 policies, if any, for which there may be coverage, prior to seeking payment from
- 1315 any other person.
- 1316 (d) The program at which the child was most recently admitted prior to admittance at the
- 1317 health care facility is liable for and shall pay:
- 1318 (i) all amounts owed to the health care facility after any insurance payments received
- 1319 under Subsection (8)(b)(i)(A); and
- 1320 (ii) a fine of \$100, to the office, for each day the child receives care at the health care
- 1321 facility.
- 1322 (e) If a child is admitted to a health care facility for inpatient behavioral health services,

1323 the residential treatment program described in Subsection (8)(b)(ii) shall pay a flat
 1324 daily inpatient rate equal to the inpatient rates on the fee schedule, utilized by the
 1325 Public Employees Health Plan, as of the first date that services were provided to the
 1326 child.

1327 (f) The residential program at which the child was most recently admitted prior to
 1328 admittance at the health care facility is liable for and shall pay, to a health care
 1329 facility that provided transport services to the child or that otherwise incurred an
 1330 additional cost due to the transport of the child, all amounts owed under this
 1331 Subsection (8)(b), including the reasonable costs of transport services from the health
 1332 care facility to:

1333 (i) the child's home state residence;

1334 (ii) another residential or inpatient care facility or program; or

1335 (iii) any other lawful destination.

1336 (g) Nothing in this Subsection (8) may be construed to limit a health care facility's right
 1337 to collect payment for health care services provided.

1338 ~~[(4)]~~ (9) This section does not apply to a guardian that is a state or agency.

1339 ~~[(5)]~~ (10) The office shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
 1340 Administrative Rulemaking Act[;] :

1341 (a) describing:

1342 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) additional mandatory provisions for a disruption plan;[-]

1343 (ii) additional mandatory provisions for a discharge plan;

1344 (iii) objective criteria that a congregate care program shall apply in determining
 1345 whether a child is in crisis; and

1346 ~~[(b)]~~ (iv) how a congregate care program shall notify the office when a [
 1347 private-placement child] child begins receiving services[-] ; and

1348 (b) defining key terms and establishing rules and procedures to implement and enforce
 1349 this section.

1350 Section 9. Section **26B-2-124.1** is enacted to read:

1351 **26B-2-124.1 . Congregate care admissions committee.**

1352 (1)(a) For purposes of this section:

1353 (i) "Level of congregate care" means a designation of:

1354 (A) "standard congregate care," as defined by the committee pursuant to this
 1355 section; or

1356 (B) "intensive congregate care," as defined by the committee pursuant to this

- 1357 section.
- 1358 (ii) "Minimum safety requirements" means, with respect to a level of congregate care,
 1359 the set of minimum required policies, procedures, staffing, programming, or other
 1360 elements of the program that the committee determines are necessary for a
 1361 program of that particular level to safely serve a child who qualifies for
 1362 admittance under the program's admissions criteria.
- 1363 (iii) "Risk factors" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-1-124.
- 1364 (2) The Congregate Care Admissions Committee created in Section 26B-1-204 shall be
 1365 composed of seven members, who the office appoints, as follows:
- 1366 (a) a physician who is licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or
 1367 Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
- 1368 (b) a psychologist licensed under Title 58, Chapter 61, Psychologist Licensing Act;
- 1369 (c) four individuals, each of whom is a clinical social worker, certified social worker, or
 1370 professional counselor, licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health
 1371 Professional Practice Act; and
- 1372 (d) a community representative, who the office designates and who has experience in the
 1373 congregate care industry as:
- 1374 (i) a child who has formerly been an admitted child at a congregate care program;
- 1375 (ii) a parent or guardian of a child who has formerly been an admitted child at a
 1376 congregate care program; or
- 1377 (iii) a current or former owner or staff member of a congregate care program.
- 1378 (3) The committee is authorized to and shall:
- 1379 (a) define the levels of congregate care;
- 1380 (b) in accordance with Subsection (4), for each defined level of congregate care,
 1381 establish a set of applicable minimum safety requirements for each respective level of
 1382 congregate care program; and
- 1383 (c) for each application for licensure or renewal of licensure:
- 1384 (i) review and consider the applicant's proposed admissions criteria;
- 1385 (ii) deny a program's proposed admissions criteria if the criteria:
- 1386 (A) are inconsistent with the definitions of the levels of care that the committee
 1387 makes pursuant to Subsection (3)(a); or
- 1388 (B) would fail to preclude the admittance of a child for whom the program is not
 1389 designed to address;
- 1390 (iii) approve a program's proposed admissions criteria if the criteria are not denied

- 1391 under Subsection (3)(c)(ii); and
- 1392 (d) designate the program as a standard congregate care program or an intensive
- 1393 congregate care program, based on the program's approved admissions criteria.
- 1394 (4) The minimum safety requirements under Subsection (3)(b) shall describe the minimum
- 1395 operating and safety practices that a program of that level shall maintain, in terms of:
- 1396 (a) services;
- 1397 (b) programming;
- 1398 (c) facilities;
- 1399 (d) staffing;
- 1400 (e) policies;
- 1401 (f) procedures;
- 1402 (g) funding;
- 1403 (h) ownership; or
- 1404 (i) any other element or characteristic of a congregate care program that the committee
- 1405 determines impacts the safety of the children who are admitted.
- 1406 (5) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum, and a vote of the majority of the
- 1407 members present constitutes an action of the committee.
- 1408 (6) The committee shall appoint a chair from the committee's membership.
- 1409 (7)(a) The committee shall meet at least monthly until the committee has:
- 1410 (i) defined the levels of congregate care programs pursuant to Subsection (3)(a); and
- 1411 (ii) established applicable minimum safety requirements pursuant to Subsection (3)(b).
- 1412 (b) The committee shall meet at least once per quarter after the completion of Subsection
- 1413 (7)(a)(i) and (ii).
- 1414 (8) A member of the committee:
- 1415 (a) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service may receive per
- 1416 diem reimbursement and travel expenses in accordance with:
- 1417 (i) Section 63A-3-106;
- 1418 (ii) Section 63A-3-107; and
- 1419 (iii) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Section 63A-3-106 or
- 1420 63A-3-107.
- 1421 (9) The division shall provide staffing to support the committee.
- 1422 (10) The office shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
- 1423 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to implement and enforce this section.
- 1424 Section 10. Section **26B-2-124.2** is enacted to read:

1425 **26B-2-124.2 . Congregate care ombudsman.**

1426 (1) As used in this section:

1427 (a) "Ombudsman" means the congregate care ombudsman created under this section.

1428 (b) "Report" means a communication received by the ombudsman and containing
 1429 information that the ombudsman determines warrants further investigation.

1430 (2) There is created within the department the title and position of congregate care
 1431 ombudsman.

1432 (3) The core roles and functions of the ombudsman include:

1433 (a) serving as a resource and advocate for children admitted to congregate care
 1434 programs; and

1435 (b) receiving and investigating individual reports or complaints pertaining to a
 1436 congregate care program or staff.

1437 (4) The ombudsman shall have the following authority and duties:

1438 (a) to receive and consider communications pertaining to:

1439 (i) a congregate care program; and

1440 (ii) any individual who has accessed a congregate care program;

1441 (b) to investigate each report received by:

1442 (i) interviewing:

1443 (A) any child admitted to a congregate care program;

1444 (B) the parent or guardian of a child admitted to a congregate care program;

1445 (C) any individual staff of a congregate care program;

1446 (D) a sending or receiving agency or program, whether public or private; or

1447 (E) any individual who has entered a program within the last year;

1448 (ii) entering or inspecting any area of a program's facilities;

1449 (iii) accessing, copying, or inspecting a program's records, including
 1450 communications; and

1451 (iv) observing a program's operations, programming, or facilities;

1452 (c) to enter or inspect any area of a program;

1453 (d) to access, copy, or inspect any records, including communications, of a program; and

1454 (e) to pursue an appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent a child, if the
 1455 ombudsman determines that the appointment would be in the best interest of a child.

1456 (5) The office shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
 1457 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to implement and enforce this section.

1458 Section 11. Section **26B-2-124.3** is enacted to read:

1459 **26B-2-124.3 . Whistleblower protections.**

1460 (1) A congregate care program may not take any adverse action against a child or any other
1461 individual for:

1462 (a) communicating with the ombudsman;

1463 (b) cooperating with the ombudsman; or

1464 (c) facilitating an investigation of the ombudsman.

1465 (2) An adverse action under Subsection (1) includes:

1466 (a) a termination;

1467 (b) a demotion;

1468 (c) a suspension;

1469 (d) a reduction in hours;

1470 (e) harassment;

1471 (f) intimidation;

1472 (g) creating a hostile work environment;

1473 (h) threatening to report an employee to licensing agencies or law enforcement without
1474 cause;

1475 (i) a reduction in pay, benefits, or access to opportunities; or

1476 (j) any other action that would deter a reasonable employee from performing any action
1477 described in Subsection (1).

1478 Section 12. **Effective Date.**

1479 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.