

**Representative Eric K. Hutchings** proposes the following substitute bill:

**CHILD PROTECTION - GANG ASSOCIATION**

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Eric K. Hutchings**

Senate Sponsor: Ed Mayne

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1996 to provide for the protection of children whose parents permit them to be exposed to illegal gang activity.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ provides that the definition of a neglected child includes a minor whose parent:
  - permits the minor to associate with a gang while the gang, or any member of the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the minor; or
  - associates with a gang in the presence of a minor while the gang, or any member of the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the minor;
- ▶ provides that there is a presumption that reunification services should not be provided to a parent if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the parent:
  - permits the parent's child to associate with a gang while the gang, or any member of the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the minor, or associates with a gang in the presence of the parent's child while the gang, or any member of the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence



26 of the child; and

27 • knew or should have known that the conduct described above was occurring;

28 and

29 ▶ makes technical changes.

30 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

31 None

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33 None

34 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

35 AMENDS:

36 **78-3a-103**, as last amended by Chapter 95, Laws of Utah 2005

37 **78-3a-306**, as last amended by Chapters 131 and 267, Laws of Utah 2003

38 **78-3a-311**, as last amended by Chapter 286, Laws of Utah 2005



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

41 Section 1. Section **78-3a-103** is amended to read:

42 **78-3a-103. Definitions.**

43 (1) As used in this chapter:

44 (a) "Abused child" includes a minor less than 18 years of age who:

45 (i) has suffered or been threatened with nonaccidental physical or mental harm,  
46 negligent treatment, or sexual exploitation; or

47 (ii) has been the victim of any sexual abuse.

48 (b) "Adjudication" means a finding by the court, incorporated in a decree, that the facts  
49 alleged in the petition have been proved.

50 (c) "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or over, except that persons 18 years or  
51 over under the continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 78-3a-121 shall  
52 be referred to as minors.

53 (d) "Board" means the Board of Juvenile Court Judges.

54 (e) "Child placement agency" means:

55 (i) a private agency licensed to receive minors for placement or adoption under this  
56 code; or

57 (ii) a private agency receiving minors for placement or adoption in another state, which  
58 agency is licensed or approved where such license or approval is required by law.

59 (f) "Commit" means to transfer legal custody.

60 (g) "Court" means the juvenile court.

61 (h) "Criminal conduct" means activity that would constitute a misdemeanor or a felony  
62 if committed by an adult.

63 ~~(h)~~ (i) "Dependent child" includes a minor who is homeless or without proper care  
64 through no fault of the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian.

65 ~~(i)~~ (j) "Deprivation of custody" means transfer of legal custody by the court from a  
66 parent or the parents or a previous legal custodian to another person, agency, or institution.

67 ~~(j)~~ (k) "Detention" means home detention and secure detention as defined in Section  
68 62A-7-101 for the temporary care of minors who require secure custody in physically  
69 restricting facilities:

70 (i) pending court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction; or

71 (ii) while under the continuing jurisdiction of the court.

72 ~~(k)~~ (l) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services.

73 ~~(l)~~ (m) "Formal referral" means a written report from a peace officer or other person  
74 informing the court that a minor is or appears to be within the court's jurisdiction and that a  
75 petition may be filed.

76 (n) "Gang" means an ongoing group or association, whether formal or informal in  
77 organization, that:

78 (i) has a common identifying sign, symbol, or name; and

79 (ii) has, as one of the primary activities of the group or association:

80 (A) engaging in criminal conduct; or

81 (B) creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation within the community.

82 ~~(m)~~ (o) "Group rehabilitation therapy" means psychological and social counseling of  
83 one or more persons in the group, depending upon the recommendation of the therapist.

84 ~~(n)~~ (p) "Guardianship of the person" includes the authority to consent to:

85 (i) marriage~~[-to]~~;

86 (ii) enlistment in the armed forces~~[-to]~~;

87 (iii) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment~~[-and to]~~; or

88            (iv) legal custody, if legal custody is not vested in another person, agency, or  
89 institution.

90            [~~(o)~~] (q) "Habitual truant" is a school-age minor who:

91            (i) has received:

92            (A) more than two truancy citations within one school year from the school in which  
93 the minor is or should be enrolled; and

94            (B) eight absences without a legitimate or valid excuse; or

95            (ii) in defiance of efforts on the part of school authorities as required under Section  
96 53A-11-103, refuses to regularly attend school or any scheduled period of the school day.

97            [~~(p)~~] (r) "Legal custody" means a relationship embodying the following rights and  
98 duties:

99            (i) the right to physical custody of the minor;

100            (ii) the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the minor;

101            (iii) the duty to provide the minor with food, clothing, shelter, education, and ordinary  
102 medical care;

103            (iv) the right to determine where and with whom the minor shall live; and

104            (v) the right, in an emergency, to authorize surgery or other extraordinary care.

105            [~~(q)~~] (s) (i) "Minor" means a person under the age of 18 years.

106            (ii) "Minor" includes the term "child" as used in other parts of this chapter.

107            [~~(r)~~] (t) "Natural parent" means a minor's biological or adoptive parent, and includes  
108 the minor's noncustodial parent.

109            [~~(s)~~] (u) (i) "Neglected child" means a minor:

110            (A) whose parent, guardian, or custodian has abandoned the minor, except as provided  
111 in Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Part 8, Safe Relinquishment of a Newborn Child;

112            (B) whose parent, guardian, or custodian has subjected the minor to mistreatment or  
113 abuse;

114            (C) who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of the parent,  
115 guardian, or custodian;

116            (D) whose parent, guardian, or custodian fails or refuses to provide proper or necessary  
117 subsistence, education, or medical care, including surgery or psychiatric services when  
118 required, or any other care necessary for health, safety, morals, or well-being; [~~(t)~~]

119 (E) who is at risk of being a neglected or abused child as defined in this chapter  
120 because another minor in the same home is a neglected or abused child as defined in this  
121 chapter[-]; or

122 (F) whose parent:

123 (I) permits the minor to associate with a gang while the gang, or any member of the  
124 gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the minor; or

125 (II) associates with a gang in the presence of a minor while the gang, or any member of  
126 the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the minor.

127 (ii) The aspect of neglect related to education, described in Subsection (1)[~~(s)~~](u)(i)(D),  
128 means that, after receiving notice that a minor has been frequently absent from school without  
129 good cause, or that the minor has failed to cooperate with school authorities in a reasonable  
130 manner, a parent or guardian fails to make a good faith effort to ensure that the minor receives  
131 an appropriate education.

132 (iii) A parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs and who, for that  
133 reason, does not provide specified medical treatment for a minor, is not guilty of neglect.

134 (iv) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)[~~(s)~~](u)(i), a health care decision made for a child  
135 by the child's parent or guardian does not constitute neglect unless the state or other party to the  
136 proceeding shows, by clear and convincing evidence, that the health care decision is not  
137 reasonable and informed.

138 (v) Nothing in Subsection (1)[~~(s)~~](u)(iv) may prohibit a parent or guardian from  
139 exercising the right to obtain a second health care opinion.

140 [~~(t)~~] (v) "Nonjudicial adjustment" means closure of the case by the assigned probation  
141 officer without judicial determination upon the consent in writing of the minor, the parent,  
142 legal guardian or custodian, and the assigned probation officer.

143 [~~(t)~~] (w) "Probation" means a legal status created by court order following an  
144 adjudication on the ground of a violation of law or under Section 78-3a-104, whereby the  
145 minor is permitted to remain in the minor's home under prescribed conditions and under  
146 supervision by the probation department or other agency designated by the court, subject to  
147 return to the court for violation of any of the conditions prescribed.

148 [~~(v)~~] (x) "Protective supervision" means a legal status created by court order following  
149 an adjudication on the ground of abuse, neglect, or dependency, whereby the minor is permitted

150 to remain in the minor's home, and supervision and assistance to correct the abuse, neglect, or  
151 dependency is provided by the probation department or other agency designated by the court.

152 ~~[(w)]~~ (y) "Residual parental rights and duties" means those rights and duties  
153 remaining with the parent after legal custody or guardianship, or both, have been vested in  
154 another person or agency, including:

- 155 (A) the responsibility for support;
- 156 (B) the right to consent to adoption;
- 157 (C) the right to determine the child's religious affiliation; and
- 158 (D) the right to reasonable parent-time unless restricted by the court.

159 (ii) If no guardian has been appointed, "residual parental rights and duties" also include  
160 the right to consent to:

- 161 (A) marriage;
- 162 (B) enlistment; and
- 163 (C) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment.

164 ~~[(x)]~~ (z) "Secure facility" means any facility operated by or under contract with the  
165 Division of Juvenile Justice Services, that provides 24-hour supervision and confinement for  
166 youth offenders committed to the division for custody and rehabilitation.

167 ~~[(y)]~~ (aa) "Shelter" means the temporary care of minors in physically unrestricted  
168 facilities pending court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction.

169 ~~[(z)]~~ (bb) "State supervision" means a disposition that provides a more intensive level  
170 of intervention than standard probation but is less intensive or restrictive than a community  
171 placement with the Division of Juvenile Justice Services.

172 ~~[(aa)]~~ (cc) "Substantiated" ~~[has the same meaning as defined in Subsection]~~ is as  
173 defined in Section 62A-4a-101~~[(29)]~~.

174 ~~[(bb)]~~ (dd) "Supported" ~~[has the same meaning as defined in Subsection]~~ is as defined  
175 in Section 62A-4a-101~~[(31)]~~.

176 ~~[(cc)]~~ (ee) "Termination of parental rights" means the permanent elimination of all  
177 parental rights and duties, including residual parental rights and duties, by court order.

178 ~~[(dd)]~~ (ff) "Therapist" means a person employed by a state division or agency for the  
179 purpose of conducting psychological treatment and counseling of a minor in its custody, or any  
180 other person licensed or approved by the state for the purpose of conducting psychological

181 treatment and counseling.

182 ~~[(cc)]~~ (gg) "Unsubstantiated" ~~[has the same meaning as defined in Subsection]~~ is as  
183 defined in Section 62A-4a-101~~[(34)]~~.

184 ~~[(ff)]~~ (hh) "Without merit" ~~[has the same meaning as defined in Subsection]~~ is as  
185 defined in Section 62A-4a-101~~[(36)]~~.

186 (2) As used in Part 3, Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings, with regard to the  
187 Division of Child and Family Services:

188 (a) "Custody" means the custody of a minor in the Division of Child and Family  
189 Services as of the date of disposition.

190 (b) "Protective custody" means the shelter of a minor by the Division of Child and  
191 Family Services from the time the minor is removed from home until the earlier of:

192 (i) the shelter hearing; or

193 (ii) the minor's return home.

194 (c) "Temporary custody" means the custody of a minor in the Division of Child and  
195 Family Services from the date of the shelter hearing until disposition.

196 Section 2. Section **78-3a-306** is amended to read:

197 **78-3a-306. Shelter hearing.**

198 (1) A shelter hearing shall be held within 72 hours excluding weekends and holidays  
199 after any one or all of the following occur:

200 (a) removal of the child from his home by the Division of Child and Family Services;

201 (b) placement of the child in the protective custody of the Division of Child and Family  
202 Services;

203 (c) emergency kinship placement under Subsection 62A-4a-202.1(4); or

204 (d) as an alternative to removal of the child, a parent has entered a domestic violence  
205 shelter at the request of the Division of Child and Family Services.

206 (2) Upon the occurrence of any of the circumstances described in Subsections (1)(a)  
207 through (1)(d), the division shall issue a notice that contains all of the following:

208 (a) the name and address of the person to whom the notice is directed;

209 (b) the date, time, and place of the shelter hearing;

210 (c) the name of the minor on whose behalf a petition is being brought;

211 (d) a concise statement regarding:

212 (i) the reasons for removal or other action of the division under Subsection (1); and  
213 (ii) the allegations and code sections under which the proceeding has been instituted;  
214 (e) a statement that the parent or guardian to whom notice is given, and the minor, are  
215 entitled to have an attorney present at the shelter hearing, and that if the parent or guardian is  
216 indigent and cannot afford an attorney, and desires to be represented by an attorney, one will be  
217 provided; and

218 (f) a statement that the parent or guardian is liable for the cost of support of the minor  
219 in the protective custody, temporary custody, and custody of the division, and the cost for legal  
220 counsel appointed for the parent or guardian under Subsection (2)(e), according to his financial  
221 ability.

222 (3) That notice shall be personally served as soon as possible, but no later than one  
223 business day after removal of a child from his home, on:

224 (a) the appropriate guardian ad litem; and

225 (b) both parents and any guardian of the minor, unless they cannot be located.

226 (4) The following persons shall be present at the shelter hearing:

227 (a) the child, unless it would be detrimental for the child;

228 (b) the child's parents or guardian, unless they cannot be located, or fail to appear in  
229 response to the notice;

230 (c) counsel for the parents, if one has been requested;

231 (d) the child's guardian ad litem;

232 (e) the caseworker from the Division of Child and Family Services who has been  
233 assigned to the case; and

234 (f) the attorney from the attorney general's office who is representing the division.

235 (5) (a) At the shelter hearing, the court shall provide an opportunity for the minor's  
236 parent or guardian, if present, and any other person having relevant knowledge, to provide  
237 relevant testimony. The court may also provide an opportunity for the minor to testify.

238 (b) The court may consider all relevant evidence, in accordance with the Utah Rules of  
239 Juvenile Procedure. The court shall hear relevant evidence presented by the minor, his parent  
240 or guardian, the requesting party, or their counsel, but may in its discretion limit testimony and  
241 evidence to only that which goes to the issues of removal and the child's need for continued  
242 protection.



243 (6) If the child is in the protective custody of the division, the division shall report to  
244 the court:

- 245 (a) the reasons why the minor was removed from the parent's or guardian's custody;
- 246 (b) any services provided to the child and his family in an effort to prevent removal;
- 247 (c) the need, if any, for continued shelter;
- 248 (d) the available services that could facilitate the return of the minor to the custody of  
249 his parent or guardian; and
- 250 (e) whether the child has any relatives who may be able and willing to take temporary  
251 custody.

252 (7) The court shall consider all relevant evidence provided by persons or entities  
253 authorized to present relevant evidence pursuant to this section.

254 (8) If necessary to protect the child, preserve the rights of a party, or for other good  
255 cause shown, the court may grant no more than one time-limited continuance, not to exceed  
256 five judicial days.

257 (9) If the child is in the protective custody of the division, the court shall order that the  
258 minor be released from the protective custody of the division unless it finds, by a  
259 preponderance of the evidence, that any one of the following exist:

260 (a) there is a substantial danger to the physical health or safety of the minor and the  
261 minor's physical health or safety may not be protected without removing him from his parent's  
262 custody. If a minor has previously been adjudicated as abused, neglected, or dependent and a  
263 subsequent incident of abuse, neglect, or dependency occurs, that fact constitutes prima facie  
264 evidence that the child cannot safely remain in the custody of his parent;

265 (b) (i) the minor is suffering emotional damage, as may be indicated by, but is not  
266 limited to, extreme anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or negative aggressive behavior toward  
267 self or others[;]; and

268 (ii) there are no reasonable means available by which the minor's emotional health may  
269 be protected without removing the minor from the custody of his parent;

270 (c) the minor or another minor residing in the same household has been physically or  
271 sexually abused, or is considered to be at substantial risk of being physically or sexually  
272 abused, by a parent, a member of the parent's household, or other person known to the parent.  
273 If a parent has received actual notice that physical or sexual abuse by a person known to the

274 parent has occurred, and there is evidence that the parent has allowed the child to be in the  
275 physical presence of the alleged abuser, that fact constitutes prima facie evidence that the child  
276 is at substantial risk of being physically or sexually abused;

277 (d) the parent is unwilling to have physical custody of the child;

278 (e) the minor has been left without any provision for his support;

279 (f) a parent who has been incarcerated or institutionalized has not or cannot arrange for  
280 safe and appropriate care for the minor;

281 (g) (i) a relative or other adult custodian with whom the minor has been left by the  
282 parent is unwilling or unable to provide care or support for the minor[;];

283 (ii) the whereabouts of the parent are unknown[;]; and

284 (iii) reasonable efforts to locate ~~him~~ the parent have been unsuccessful;

285 (h) the minor is in immediate need of medical care;

286 (i) the physical environment or the fact that the child is left unattended poses a threat to  
287 the child's health or safety;

288 (j) the minor or another minor residing in the same household has been neglected;

289 (k) the parent, or an adult residing in the same household as the parent, has been  
290 charged or arrested pursuant to Title 58, Chapter 37d, Clandestine Drug Lab Act, and any  
291 clandestine laboratory operation, as defined in Section 58-37d-3, was located in the residence  
292 or on the property where the child resided; or

293 (l) the child's welfare is otherwise endangered.

294 (10) (a) (i) The court shall also make a determination on the record as to whether  
295 reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the minor from  
296 his home and whether there are available services that would prevent the need for continued  
297 removal.

298 (ii) If the court finds that the minor can be safely returned to the custody of his parent  
299 or guardian through the provision of those services, ~~it~~ the court shall place the minor with his  
300 parent or guardian and order that those services be provided by the division.

301 (b) In making ~~that~~ the determination described in Subsection (10)(a), and in ordering  
302 and providing services, the child's health, safety, and welfare shall be the paramount concern,  
303 in accordance with federal law.

304 (11) Where the division's first contact with the family occurred during an emergency

305 situation in which the child could not safely remain at home, the court shall make a finding that  
306 any lack of preplacement preventive efforts was appropriate.

307 (12) In cases where actual sexual abuse or abandonment, or serious physical abuse or  
308 neglect are involved, neither the division nor the court has any duty to make "reasonable  
309 efforts" or to, in any other way, attempt to maintain a child in his home, return a child to his  
310 home, provide reunification services, or attempt to rehabilitate the offending parent or parents.

311 (13) The court may not order continued removal of a minor solely on the basis of  
312 educational neglect as described in Subsection 78-3a-103(1)(~~s~~)(u)(ii).

313 (14) (a) Whenever a court orders continued removal of a minor under this section, [it]  
314 the court shall state the facts on which that decision is based.

315 (b) If no continued removal is ordered and the minor is returned home, the court shall  
316 state the facts on which that decision is based.

317 (15) If the court finds that continued removal and temporary custody are necessary for  
318 the protection of a child because harm may result to the child if [~~he~~] the child were returned  
319 home, [~~it~~] the court shall order continued removal regardless of:

320 (a) any error in the initial removal of the child[~~;~~];

321 (b) the failure of a party to comply with notice provisions[~~;~~]; or

322 (c) any other procedural requirement of this chapter or Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Child  
323 and Family Services.

324 Section 3. Section **78-3a-311** is amended to read:

325 **78-3a-311. Dispositional hearing -- Reunification services -- Exceptions.**

326 (1) The court may:

327 (a) make any of the dispositions described in Section 78-3a-118;

328 (b) place the minor in the custody or guardianship of any:

329 (i) individual; or

330 (ii) public or private entity or agency; or

331 (c) order:

332 (i) protective supervision;

333 (ii) family preservation;

334 (iii) medical or mental health treatment; or

335 (iv) other services.

336 (2) (a) (i) Whenever the court orders continued removal at the dispositional hearing,  
337 and that the minor remain in the custody of the division, the court shall first:

338 (A) establish a primary permanency goal for the minor; and

339 (B) determine whether, in view of the primary permanency goal, reunification services  
340 are appropriate for the minor and the minor's family, pursuant to Subsection (3).

341 (ii) Subject to Subsection (2)(b), if the court determines that reunification services are  
342 appropriate for the minor and the minor's family, the court shall provide for reasonable  
343 parent-time with the parent or parents from whose custody the minor was removed, unless  
344 parent-time is not in the best interest of the minor.

345 (iii) (A) In cases where obvious sexual abuse, abandonment, or serious physical abuse  
346 or neglect are involved, neither the division nor the court has any duty to make "reasonable  
347 efforts" or to, in any other way, attempt to provide reunification services, or to attempt to  
348 rehabilitate the offending parent or parents.

349 (B) In all cases, the minor's health, safety, and welfare shall be the court's paramount  
350 concern in determining whether reasonable efforts to reunify should be made.

351 (b) (i) For purposes of Subsection (2)(a)(ii), parent-time is in the best interests of a  
352 minor unless the court makes a finding that it is necessary to deny parent-time in order to:

353 (A) protect the physical safety of the minor;

354 (B) protect the life of the minor; or

355 (C) prevent the minor from being traumatized by contact with the parent due to the  
356 minor's fear of the parent in light of the nature of the alleged abuse or neglect.

357 (ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(ii), a court may not deny parent-time based  
358 solely on a parent's failure to:

359 (A) prove that the parent has not used legal or illegal substances; or

360 (B) comply with an aspect of the child and family plan that is ordered by the court.

361 (c) (i) In addition to the primary permanency goal, the court shall establish a concurrent  
362 permanency goal that shall include:

363 (A) a representative list of the conditions under which the primary permanency goal  
364 will be abandoned in favor of the concurrent permanency goal; and

365 (B) an explanation of the effect of abandoning or modifying the primary permanency  
366 goal.

367 (ii) A permanency hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Subsection  
368 78-3a-312(1)(b) within 30 days if something other than reunification is initially established as a  
369 minor's primary permanency goal.

370 (iii) (A) The court may amend a minor's primary permanency goal before the  
371 establishment of a final permanency plan under Section 78-3a-312.

372 (B) The court is not limited to the terms of the concurrent permanency goal in the event  
373 that the primary permanency goal is abandoned.

374 (C) If, at any time, the court determines that reunification is no longer a minor's  
375 primary permanency goal, the court shall conduct a permanency hearing in accordance with  
376 Section 78-3a-312 on or before the earlier of:

377 (I) 30 days from the day on which the court makes the determination described in this  
378 Subsection (2)(c)(iii)(C); or

379 (II) 12 months from the day on which the minor was first removed from the minor's  
380 home.

381 (d) (i) (A) If the court determines that reunification services are appropriate, it shall  
382 order that the division make reasonable efforts to provide services to the minor and the minor's  
383 parent for the purpose of facilitating reunification of the family, for a specified period of time.

384 (B) In providing the services described in Subsection (2)(d)(i)(A), the minor's health,  
385 safety, and welfare shall be the division's paramount concern, and the court shall so order.

386 (ii) The court shall:

387 (A) determine whether the services offered or provided by the division under the child  
388 and family plan constitute "reasonable efforts" on the part of the division;

389 (B) determine and define the responsibilities of the parent under the child and family  
390 plan in accordance with Subsection 62A-4a-205(6)(e); and

391 (C) identify on the record the responsibilities described in Subsection (2)(d)(ii)(B), for  
392 the purpose of assisting in any future determination regarding the provision of reasonable  
393 efforts, in accordance with state and federal law.

394 (iii) (A) The time period for reunification services may not exceed 12 months from the  
395 date that the minor was initially removed from the minor's home.

396 (B) Nothing in this section may be construed to entitle any parent to an entire 12  
397 months of reunification services.

398 (iv) If reunification services are ordered, the court may terminate those services at any  
399 time.

400 (v) If, at any time, continuation of reasonable efforts to reunify a minor is determined  
401 to be inconsistent with the final permanency plan for the minor established pursuant to  
402 Subsection 78-3a-312, then measures shall be taken, in a timely manner, to:

403 (A) place the minor in accordance with the permanency plan; and

404 (B) complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the  
405 minor.

406 (e) Any physical custody of the minor by the parent or a relative during the period  
407 described in Subsection (2)(d) does not interrupt the running of the period.

408 (f) (i) If reunification services are ordered, a permanency hearing shall be conducted by  
409 the court in accordance with Section 78-3a-312 at the expiration of the time period for  
410 reunification services.

411 (ii) The permanency hearing shall be held no later than 12 months after the original  
412 removal of the minor.

413 (iii) If reunification services are not ordered, a permanency hearing shall be conducted  
414 within 30 days, in accordance with Section 78-3a-312.

415 (g) With regard to a minor who is 36 months of age or younger at the time the minor is  
416 initially removed from the home, the court shall:

417 (i) hold a permanency hearing eight months after the date of the initial removal,  
418 pursuant to Section 78-3a-312; and

419 (ii) order the discontinuance of those services after eight months from the initial  
420 removal of the minor from the home if the parent or parents have not made substantial efforts  
421 to comply with the child and family plan.

422 (h) With regard to a minor in the custody of the division whose parent or parents are  
423 ordered to receive reunification services but who have abandoned that minor for a period of six  
424 months from the date that reunification services were ordered:

425 (i) the court shall terminate reunification services; and

426 (ii) the division shall petition the court for termination of parental rights.

427 (3) (a) Because of the state's interest in and responsibility to protect and provide  
428 permanency for minors who are abused, neglected, or dependent, the Legislature finds that a

429 parent's interest in receiving reunification services is limited.

430 (b) The court may determine that:

431 (i) efforts to reunify a minor with the minor's family are not reasonable or appropriate,  
432 based on the individual circumstances; and

433 (ii) reunification services should not be provided.

434 (c) In determining "reasonable efforts" to be made with respect to a minor, and in  
435 making "reasonable efforts," the minor's health, safety, and welfare shall be the paramount  
436 concern.

437 (d) (i) There is a presumption that reunification services should not be provided to a  
438 parent if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that any of the following  
439 circumstances exist:

440 (A) the whereabouts of the parents are unknown, based upon a verified affidavit  
441 indicating that a reasonably diligent search has failed to locate the parent;

442 (B) subject to Subsection (3)(d)(ii), the parent is suffering from a mental illness of such  
443 magnitude that it renders the parent incapable of utilizing reunification services;

444 (C) the minor was previously adjudicated as an abused child due to physical or sexual  
445 abuse, and following the adjudication the minor:

446 (I) was removed from the custody of the minor's parent;

447 (II) was subsequently returned to the custody of the parent; and

448 (III) is being removed due to additional physical or sexual abuse;

449 (D) the parent:

450 (I) caused the death of another minor through abuse or neglect; or

451 (II) committed, aided, abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit:

452 (Aa) murder or manslaughter of a child; or

453 (Bb) child abuse homicide;

454 (E) the minor suffered severe abuse by the parent or by any person known by the  
455 parent, if the parent knew or reasonably should have known that the person was abusing the  
456 minor;

457 (F) the minor is adjudicated an abused child as a result of severe abuse by the parent,  
458 and the court finds that it would not benefit the minor to pursue reunification services with the  
459 offending parent;

460 (G) the parent's rights are terminated with regard to any other minor;

461 (H) the minor is removed from the minor's home on at least two previous occasions  
462 and reunification services were offered or provided to the family at those times;

463 (I) the parent has abandoned the minor for a period of six months or longer; [or]  
464 [~~(J) any other circumstance that the court determines should preclude reunification~~  
465 ~~efforts or services.~~]

466 (J) the parent:

467 (I) permits the parent's child to associate with a gang while the gang, or any member of  
468 the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the child; and

469 (II) knew or should have known that the parent's child associated with the gang, or any  
470 member of the gang, while the gang, or member of the gang, was engaged in criminal conduct  
471 in the presence of the child;

472 (K) the parent:

473 (I) associates with a gang in the presence of the parent's child while the gang, or any  
474 member of the gang, is engaged in criminal conduct in the presence of the child; and

475 (II) knew or should have known that the parent associated with a gang in the presence  
476 of the parent's child while the gang, or any member of the gang, was engaged in criminal  
477 conduct in the presence of the child; or

478 (L) any other circumstance that the court determines should preclude reunification  
479 efforts or services.

480 (ii) The finding under Subsection (3)(d)(i)(B) shall be based on competent evidence  
481 from mental health professionals establishing that, even with the provision of services, the  
482 parent is not likely to be capable of adequately caring for the minor within 12 months from the  
483 day on which the court finding is made.

484 (4) In determining whether reunification services are appropriate, the court shall take  
485 into consideration:

486 (a) failure of the parent to respond to previous services or comply with a previous child  
487 and family plan;

488 (b) the fact that the minor was abused while the parent was under the influence of  
489 drugs or alcohol;

490 (c) any history of violent behavior;



491 (d) whether a parent continues to live with an individual who abused the minor;  
492 (e) any patterns of the parent's behavior that have exposed the minor to repeated abuse;  
493 (f) testimony by a competent professional that the parent's behavior is unlikely to be  
494 successful; and  
495 (g) whether the parent has expressed an interest in reunification with the minor.  
496 (5) (a) If reunification services are not ordered pursuant to Subsection (3)(a), and the  
497 whereabouts of a parent become known within six months of the out-of-home placement of the  
498 minor, the court may order the division to provide reunification services.  
499 (b) The time limits described in Subsection (2) are not tolled by the parent's absence.  
500 (6) (a) If a parent is incarcerated or institutionalized, the court shall order reasonable  
501 services unless it determines that those services would be detrimental to the minor.  
502 (b) In making the determination described in Subsection (6)(a), the court shall  
503 consider:  
504 (i) the age of the minor;  
505 (ii) the degree of parent-child bonding;  
506 (iii) the length of the sentence;  
507 (iv) the nature of the treatment;  
508 (v) the nature of the crime or illness;  
509 (vi) the degree of detriment to the minor if services are not offered;  
510 (vii) for a minor ten years of age or older, the minor's attitude toward the  
511 implementation of family reunification services; and  
512 (viii) any other appropriate factors.  
513 (c) Reunification services for an incarcerated parent are subject to the 12-month  
514 limitation imposed in Subsection (2).  
515 (d) Reunification services for an institutionalized parent are subject to the 12-month  
516 limitation imposed in Subsection (2), unless the court determines that continued reunification  
517 services would be in the minor's best interest.  
518 (7) If, pursuant to Subsections (3)(d)(i)(B) through [~~F~~] (L), the court does not order  
519 reunification services, a permanency hearing shall be conducted within 30 days, in accordance  
520 with Section 78-3a-312.