

Senator Alvin B. Jackson proposes the following substitute bill:

CHILD WELFARE REVISIONS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Alvin B. Jackson

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends definitions related to child welfare services.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends the definition of "minor."

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

62A-4a-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 75

78A-6-105, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 35

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

Section 1. Section **62A-4a-101** is amended to read:

62A-4a-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:



- 26 (1) "Abuse" is as defined in Section [78A-6-105](#).
- 27 (2) "Adoption services" means:
- 28 (a) placing children for adoption;
- 29 (b) subsidizing adoptions under Section [62A-4a-105](#);
- 30 (c) supervising adoption placements until the adoption is finalized by the court;
- 31 (d) conducting adoption studies;
- 32 (e) preparing adoption reports upon request of the court; and
- 33 (f) providing postadoptive placement services, upon request of a family, for the
- 34 purpose of stabilizing a possible disruptive placement.
- 35 (3) "Child" means, except as provided in Part 7, Interstate Compact on Placement of
- 36 Children, a person under 18 years of age.
- 37 (4) "Consumer" means a person who receives services offered by the division in
- 38 accordance with this chapter.
- 39 (5) "Chronic abuse" means repeated or patterned abuse.
- 40 (6) "Chronic neglect" means repeated or patterned neglect.
- 41 (7) "Custody," with regard to the division, means the custody of a minor in the division
- 42 as of the date of disposition.
- 43 (8) "Day-care services" means care of a child for a portion of the day which is less than
- 44 24 hours:
- 45 (a) in the child's own home by a responsible person; or
- 46 (b) outside of the child's home in a:
- 47 (i) day-care center;
- 48 (ii) family group home; or
- 49 (iii) family child care home.
- 50 (9) "Dependent child" or "dependency" means a child, or the condition of a child, who
- 51 is homeless or without proper care through no fault of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- 52 (10) "Director" means the director of the Division of Child and Family Services.
- 53 (11) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services.
- 54 (12) "Domestic violence services" means:
- 55 (a) temporary shelter, treatment, and related services to:
- 56 (i) a person who is a victim of abuse, as defined in Section [78B-7-102](#); and

57 (ii) the dependent children of a person described in Subsection (12)(a)(i); and
58 (b) treatment services for a person who is alleged to have committed, has been
59 convicted of, or has pled guilty to, an act of domestic violence as defined in Section 77-36-1.

60 (13) "Harm" is as defined in Section 78A-6-105.

61 (14) "Homemaking service" means the care of individuals in their domiciles, and help
62 given to individual caretaker relatives to achieve improved household and family management
63 through the services of a trained homemaker.

64 (15) "Incest" is as defined in Section 78A-6-105.

65 (16) "Minor" means~~[, except as provided in Part 7, Interstate Compact on Placement of~~
66 ~~Children:]~~ a person under 18 years of age.

67 ~~[(a) a child; or~~

68 ~~[(b) a person:]~~

69 ~~[(i) who is at least 18 years of age and younger than 21 years of age; and]~~

70 ~~[(ii) for whom the division has been specifically ordered by the juvenile court to~~
71 ~~provide services.]~~

72 (17) "Molestation" is as defined in Section 78A-6-105.

73 (18) "Natural parent" means a minor's biological or adoptive parent, and includes a
74 minor's noncustodial parent.

75 (19) "Neglect" is as defined in Section 78A-6-105.

76 (20) "Protective custody," with regard to the division, means the shelter of a child by
77 the division from the time the child is removed from the child's home until the earlier of:

78 (a) the shelter hearing; or

79 (b) the child's return home.

80 (21) "Protective services" means expedited services that are provided:

81 (a) in response to evidence of neglect, abuse, or dependency of a child;

82 (b) to a cohabitant who is neglecting or abusing a child, in order to:

83 (i) help the cohabitant develop recognition of the cohabitant's duty of care and of the
84 causes of neglect or abuse; and

85 (ii) strengthen the cohabitant's ability to provide safe and acceptable care; and

86 (c) in cases where the child's welfare is endangered:

87 (i) to bring the situation to the attention of the appropriate juvenile court and law

88 enforcement agency;

89 (ii) to cause a protective order to be issued for the protection of the child, when
90 appropriate; and

91 (iii) to protect the child from the circumstances that endanger the child's welfare
92 including, when appropriate:

93 (A) removal from the child's home;

94 (B) placement in substitute care; and

95 (C) petitioning the court for termination of parental rights.

96 (22) "Severe abuse" is as defined in Section [78A-6-105](#).

97 (23) "Severe neglect" is as defined in Section [78A-6-105](#).

98 (24) "Sexual abuse" is as defined in Section [78A-6-105](#).

99 (25) "Sexual exploitation" is as defined in Section [78A-6-105](#).

100 (26) "Shelter care" means the temporary care of a minor in a nonsecure facility.

101 (27) "State" means:

102 (a) a state of the United States;

103 (b) the District of Columbia;

104 (c) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

105 (d) the Virgin Islands;

106 (e) Guam;

107 (f) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or

108 (g) a territory or possession administered by the United States.

109 (28) "State plan" means the written description of the programs for children, youth, and
110 family services administered by the division in accordance with federal law.

111 (29) "Status offense" means a violation of the law that would not be a violation but for
112 the age of the offender.

113 (30) "Substance abuse" is as defined in Section [78A-6-105](#).

114 (31) "Substantiated" or "substantiation" means a judicial finding based on a
115 preponderance of the evidence that abuse or neglect occurred. Each allegation made or
116 identified in a given case shall be considered separately in determining whether there should be
117 a finding of substantiated.

118 (32) "Substitute care" means:

119 (a) the placement of a minor in a family home, group care facility, or other placement
120 outside the minor's own home, either at the request of a parent or other responsible relative, or
121 upon court order, when it is determined that continuation of care in the minor's own home
122 would be contrary to the minor's welfare;

123 (b) services provided for a minor awaiting placement; and

124 (c) the licensing and supervision of a substitute care facility.

125 (33) "Supported" means a finding by the division based on the evidence available at the
126 completion of an investigation that there is a reasonable basis to conclude that abuse, neglect,
127 or dependency occurred. Each allegation made or identified during the course of the
128 investigation shall be considered separately in determining whether there should be a finding of
129 supported.

130 (34) "Temporary custody," with regard to the division, means the custody of a child in
131 the division from the date of the shelter hearing until disposition.

132 (35) "Transportation services" means travel assistance given to an individual with
133 escort service, if necessary, to and from community facilities and resources as part of a service
134 plan.

135 (36) "Unsubstantiated" means a judicial finding that there is insufficient evidence to
136 conclude that abuse or neglect occurred.

137 (37) "Unsupported" means a finding at the completion of an investigation that there is
138 insufficient evidence to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred. However, a
139 finding of unsupported means also that the division worker did not conclude that the allegation
140 was without merit.

141 (38) "Without merit" means a finding at the completion of an investigation by the
142 division, or a judicial finding, that the alleged abuse, neglect, or dependency did not occur, or
143 that the alleged perpetrator was not responsible for the abuse, neglect, or dependency.

144 Section 2. Section **78A-6-105** is amended to read:

145 **78A-6-105. Definitions.**

146 As used in this chapter:

147 (1) (a) "Abuse" means:

148 (i) nonaccidental harm of a child;

149 (ii) threatened harm of a child;

- 150 (iii) sexual exploitation; or
151 (iv) sexual abuse.
152 (v) that a child's natural parent:
153 (A) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes the death of another parent of the
154 child;
155 (B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as the primary suspect in an investigation
156 for intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing the death of another parent of the child; or
157 (C) is being prosecuted for or has been convicted of intentionally, knowingly, or
158 recklessly causing the death of another parent of the child.
159 (b) "Abuse" does not include:
160 (i) reasonable discipline or management of a child, including withholding privileges;
161 (ii) conduct described in Section 76-2-401; or
162 (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint or force on a child:
163 (A) in self-defense;
164 (B) in defense of others;
165 (C) to protect the child; or
166 (D) to remove a weapon in the possession of a child for any of the reasons described in
167 Subsections (1)(b)(iii)(A) through (C).
168 (2) "Abused child" means a child who has been subjected to abuse.
169 (3) "Adjudication" means a finding by the court, incorporated in a decree, that the facts
170 alleged in the petition have been proved. A finding of not competent to proceed pursuant to
171 Section 78A-6-1302 is not an adjudication.
172 (4) "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or over, except that a person 18 years or
173 over under the continuing jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 78A-6-120 shall
174 be referred to as a minor.
175 (5) "Board" means the Board of Juvenile Court Judges.
176 (6) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.
177 (7) "Child placement agency" means:
178 (a) a private agency licensed to receive a child for placement or adoption under this
179 code; or
180 (b) a private agency that receives a child for placement or adoption in another state,

181 which agency is licensed or approved where such license or approval is required by law.

182 (8) "Clandestine laboratory operation" is as defined in Section 58-37d-3.

183 (9) "Commit" means, unless specified otherwise:

184 (a) with respect to a child, to transfer legal custody; and

185 (b) with respect to a minor who is at least 18 years of age, to transfer custody.

186 (10) "Court" means the juvenile court.

187 (11) "Dependent child" includes a child who is homeless or without proper care
188 through no fault of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

189 (12) "Deprivation of custody" means transfer of legal custody by the court from a
190 parent or the parents or a previous legal custodian to another person, agency, or institution.

191 (13) "Detention" means home detention and secure detention as defined in Section
192 62A-7-101 for the temporary care of a minor who requires secure custody in a physically
193 restricting facility:

194 (a) pending court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction; or

195 (b) while under the continuing jurisdiction of the court.

196 (14) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services.

197 (15) "Formal referral" means a written report from a peace officer or other person
198 informing the court that a minor is or appears to be within the court's jurisdiction and that a
199 petition may be filed.

200 (16) "Group rehabilitation therapy" means psychological and social counseling of one
201 or more persons in the group, depending upon the recommendation of the therapist.

202 (17) "Guardianship of the person" includes the authority to consent to:

203 (a) marriage;

204 (b) enlistment in the armed forces;

205 (c) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment; or

206 (d) legal custody, if legal custody is not vested in another person, agency, or institution.

207 (18) "Habitual truant" is as defined in Section 53A-11-101.

208 (19) "Harm" means:

209 (a) physical, emotional, or developmental injury or damage;

210 (b) sexual abuse; or

211 (c) sexual exploitation.

212 (20) (a) "Incest" means engaging in sexual intercourse with a person whom the
213 perpetrator knows to be the perpetrator's ancestor, descendant, brother, sister, uncle, aunt,
214 nephew, niece, or first cousin.

215 (b) The relationships described in Subsection (20)(a) include:

216 (i) blood relationships of the whole or half blood, without regard to legitimacy;

217 (ii) relationships of parent and child by adoption; and

218 (iii) relationships of stepparent and stepchild while the marriage creating the
219 relationship of a stepparent and stepchild exists.

220 (21) "Intellectual disability" means:

221 (a) significantly subaverage intellectual functioning, an IQ of approximately 70 or
222 below on an individually administered IQ test, for infants, a clinical judgment of significantly
223 subaverage intellectual functioning;

224 (b) concurrent deficits or impairments in present adaptive functioning, the person's
225 effectiveness in meeting the standards expected for his or her age by the person's cultural
226 group, in at least two of the following areas: communication, self-care, home living,
227 social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-direction, functional academic
228 skills, work, leisure, health, and safety; and

229 (c) the onset is before the person reaches the age of 18 years.

230 (22) "Legal custody" means a relationship embodying the following rights and duties:

231 (a) the right to physical custody of the minor;

232 (b) the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the minor;

233 (c) the duty to provide the minor with food, clothing, shelter, education, and ordinary
234 medical care;

235 (d) the right to determine where and with whom the minor shall live; and

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

237 (23) "Mental disorder" means a serious emotional and mental disturbance that severely
238 limits a minor's development and welfare over a significant period of time.

239 (24) "Minor" means[:] a person under 18 years of age.

240 [~~(a) a child; or~~]

241 [~~(b) a person who is:~~]

242 [~~(i) at least 18 years of age and younger than 21 years of age; and~~]

243 [~~(ii) under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.~~]

244 (25) "Molestation" means that a person, with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual
245 desire of any person:

246 (a) touches the anus or any part of the genitals of a child;

247 (b) takes indecent liberties with a child; or

248 (c) causes a child to take indecent liberties with the perpetrator or another.

249 (26) "Natural parent" means a minor's biological or adoptive parent, and includes the
250 minor's noncustodial parent.

251 (27) (a) "Neglect" means action or inaction causing:

252 (i) abandonment of a child, except as provided in Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Part 8, Safe
253 Relinquishment of a Newborn Child;

254 (ii) lack of proper parental care of a child by reason of the fault or habits of the parent,
255 guardian, or custodian;

256 (iii) failure or refusal of a parent, guardian, or custodian to provide proper or necessary
257 subsistence, education, or medical care, or any other care necessary for the child's health,
258 safety, morals, or well-being; or

259 (iv) a child to be at risk of being neglected or abused because another child in the same
260 home is neglected or abused.

261 (b) The aspect of neglect relating to education, described in Subsection (27)(a)(iii),
262 means that, after receiving a notice of compulsory education violation under Section
263 [53A-11-101.5](#), or notice that a parent or guardian has failed to cooperate with school
264 authorities in a reasonable manner as required under Subsection [53A-11-101.7\(5\)\(a\)](#), the parent
265 or guardian fails to make a good faith effort to ensure that the child receives an appropriate
266 education.

267 (c) A parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs and who, for that
268 reason, does not provide specified medical treatment for a child, is not guilty of neglect.

269 (d) (i) Notwithstanding Subsection (27)(a), a health care decision made for a child by
270 the child's parent or guardian does not constitute neglect unless the state or other party to the
271 proceeding shows, by clear and convincing evidence, that the health care decision is not
272 reasonable and informed.

273 (ii) Nothing in Subsection (27)(d)(i) may prohibit a parent or guardian from exercising

274 the right to obtain a second health care opinion.

275 (28) "Neglected child" means a child who has been subjected to neglect.

276 (29) "Nonjudicial adjustment" means closure of the case by the assigned probation
277 officer without judicial determination upon the consent in writing of:

278 (a) the assigned probation officer; and

279 (b) (i) the minor; or

280 (ii) the minor and the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian.

281 (30) "Not competent to proceed" means that a minor, due to a mental disorder,
282 intellectual disability, or related condition as defined, lacks the ability to:

283 (a) understand the nature of the proceedings against them or of the potential disposition
284 for the offense charged; or

285 (b) consult with counsel and participate in the proceedings against them with a
286 reasonable degree of rational understanding.

287 (31) "Physical abuse" means abuse that results in physical injury or damage to a child.

288 (32) "Probation" means a legal status created by court order following an adjudication
289 on the ground of a violation of law or under Section 78A-6-103, whereby the minor is
290 permitted to remain in the minor's home under prescribed conditions and under supervision by
291 the probation department or other agency designated by the court, subject to return to the court
292 for violation of any of the conditions prescribed.

293 (33) "Protective supervision" means a legal status created by court order following an
294 adjudication on the ground of abuse, neglect, or dependency, whereby the minor is permitted to
295 remain in the minor's home, and supervision and assistance to correct the abuse, neglect, or
296 dependency is provided by the probation department or other agency designated by the court.

297 (34) "Related condition" means a condition closely related to intellectual disability in
298 accordance with 42 C.F.R. Part 435.1010 and further defined in Rule R539-1-3, Utah
299 Administrative Code.

300 (35) (a) "Residual parental rights and duties" means those rights and duties remaining
301 with the parent after legal custody or guardianship, or both, have been vested in another person
302 or agency, including:

303 (i) the responsibility for support;

304 (ii) the right to consent to adoption;

- 305 (iii) the right to determine the child's religious affiliation; and
306 (iv) the right to reasonable parent-time unless restricted by the court.
307 (b) If no guardian has been appointed, "residual parental rights and duties" also include
308 the right to consent to:
309 (i) marriage;
310 (ii) enlistment; and
311 (iii) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment.
312 (36) "Secure facility" means any facility operated by or under contract with the
313 Division of Juvenile Justice Services, that provides 24-hour supervision and confinement for
314 youth offenders committed to the division for custody and rehabilitation.
315 (37) "Severe abuse" means abuse that causes or threatens to cause serious harm to a
316 child.
317 (38) "Severe neglect" means neglect that causes or threatens to cause serious harm to a
318 child.
319 (39) "Sexual abuse" means:
320 (a) an act or attempted act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, incest, or molestation
321 directed towards a child; or
322 (b) engaging in any conduct with a child that would constitute an offense under any of
323 the following, regardless of whether the person who engages in the conduct is actually charged
324 with, or convicted of, the offense:
325 (i) Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses;
326 (ii) child bigamy, Section 76-7-101.5;
327 (iii) incest, Section 76-7-102;
328 (iv) lewdness, Section 76-9-702;
329 (v) sexual battery, Section 76-9-702.1;
330 (vi) lewdness involving a child, Section 76-9-702.5; or
331 (vii) voyeurism, Section 76-9-702.7.
332 (40) "Sexual exploitation" means knowingly:
333 (a) employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any child to:
334 (i) pose in the nude for the purpose of sexual arousal of any person; or
335 (ii) engage in any sexual or simulated sexual conduct for the purpose of photographing,

336 filming, recording, or displaying in any way the sexual or simulated sexual conduct;

337 (b) displaying, distributing, possessing for the purpose of distribution, or selling
338 material depicting a child:

339 (i) in the nude, for the purpose of sexual arousal of any person; or

340 (ii) engaging in sexual or simulated sexual conduct; or

341 (c) engaging in any conduct that would constitute an offense under Section [76-5b-201](#),
342 Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, regardless of whether the person who engages in the conduct is
343 actually charged with, or convicted of, the offense.

344 (41) "Shelter" means the temporary care of a child in a physically unrestricted facility
345 pending court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction.

346 (42) "State supervision" means a disposition that provides a more intensive level of
347 intervention than standard probation but is less intensive or restrictive than a community
348 placement with the Division of Juvenile Justice Services.

349 (43) "Substance abuse" means the misuse or excessive use of alcohol or other drugs or
350 substances.

351 (44) "Substantiated" is as defined in Section [62A-4a-101](#).

352 (45) "Supported" is as defined in Section [62A-4a-101](#).

353 (46) "Termination of parental rights" means the permanent elimination of all parental
354 rights and duties, including residual parental rights and duties, by court order.

355 (47) "Therapist" means:

356 (a) a person employed by a state division or agency for the purpose of conducting
357 psychological treatment and counseling of a minor in its custody; or

358 (b) any other person licensed or approved by the state for the purpose of conducting
359 psychological treatment and counseling.

360 (48) "Unsubstantiated" is as defined in Section [62A-4a-101](#).

361 (49) "Without merit" is as defined in Section [62A-4a-101](#).