

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 3151

By: Benson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 1991, Section 620.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1992 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 620.3), which relates to agencies required to promulgate uniform rules and procedures for maintenance, transfer and release of confidential information; adding an agency; amending Section 114, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 1997, Section 116, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995, and Section 129, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Sections 7303-1.1, 7303-1.3 and 7303-4.6), which relate to the Oklahoma Juvenile Code; providing that certain children are not considered to be in the custody of the Office of the Juvenile Affairs; authorizing the district attorney to defer filing petitions alleging children to be in need of supervision; authorizing deferral of adjudication proceedings to determine if child is in need of supervision under certain circumstances; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 620.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1992 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 620.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 620.3 A. Prior to April 1, 1991, the following agencies shall promulgate uniform rules and adopt uniform procedures and forms for the maintenance, transfer and release of confidential information:

1. Department of Human Services;
2. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
3. State Department of Health;
4. State Department of Education;
5. State Department of Vocational and Technical Education;
6. Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;
7. J. D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities; ~~and~~
8. Department of Corrections; and
9. Beginning July 1, 1998, the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

B. Private agencies receiving public funds pursuant to a grant or contract with a state agency listed in subsection A of this section and providing institutional, community residential or community-based services, as defined by Section 1101 of ~~Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, to children and families, shall comply with the rules regarding the maintenance, transfer and release of confidential information adopted by the governing board of the state agency or agencies from which they receive funds.

C. The provisions of Sections 620.1 through 620.6 of this act ~~act~~ title shall not apply to court records of juvenile cases maintained by the district courts. The supervising judge of a statutorily-constituted juvenile bureau may establish court rules for the transfer and release of other confidential information

maintained by the juvenile bureau which substantially conform with the rules, forms and procedures promulgated and adopted by state agencies pursuant to the provisions of Sections 620.1 through 620.6 of this act title.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 114, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 1997 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 7303-1.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 7303-1.1 A. A child may be taken into custody prior to the filing of a petition alleging that the child is delinquent or in need of supervision:

1. By a peace officer, without a court order for any criminal offense for which the officer is authorized to arrest an adult without a warrant, or if the child is willfully and voluntarily absent from the home of the child without the consent of the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or other person having custody and control of the child for a substantial length of time or without intent to return, or if the child's surroundings are such as to endanger the welfare of the child;

2. By an employee of the court without a court order, if the child is willfully and voluntarily absent from the home of the child without the consent of the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or other person having custody and control of the child for a substantial length of time or without intent to return, or if the child's surroundings are such as to endanger the welfare of the child;

3. Pursuant to an order of the district court issued on the application of the office of the district attorney. The application presented by the district attorney shall be supported by a sworn affidavit which may be based upon information and belief. The application shall state facts sufficient to demonstrate to the court that there is probable cause to believe the child has committed a

crime or is in violation of the terms of probation, parole or order of the court;

4. By order of the district court pursuant to subsection E of this section when the child is in need of medical or mental health treatment or other action in order to protect the child's health or welfare and the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or other person having custody or control of the child is unwilling or unavailable to consent to such medical or mental health treatment or other action; and

5. Pursuant to an emergency ex parte or a final protective order of the district court issued pursuant to the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act.

Any such child shall not be considered to be in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

B. Whenever a child is taken into custody as a delinquent child or a child in need of supervision ~~prior to the filing of a petition pursuant to subsection A of this section~~, the child ~~shall not be considered to be in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs~~ but shall be detained, held temporarily in the custodial care of a peace officer or other person employed by a police department, or be released to the custody of the child's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, attorney or other responsible adult, upon the written promise of such person to bring the child to the court at the time fixed if a petition is to be filed and to assume responsibility for costs for damages caused by the child if the child commits any delinquent acts after being released regardless of whether or not a petition is to be filed. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to sign the written promise and then fail to comply with the terms of the promise. Any person convicted of violating the terms of the written promise shall be subject to imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months or a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or both such fine and imprisonment. In

addition, if a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, attorney or other responsible adult is notified that the child has been taken into custody, it shall be a misdemeanor for such person to refuse to assume custody of the child within a timely manner. If detained, the child shall be taken immediately before a judge of the district court in the county in which the child is sought to be detained, or to the place of detention or shelter designated by the court. If no judge be available locally, the person having the child in custody shall immediately report the detention of the child to the presiding judge of the judicial administrative district, provided that the child shall not be detained in custody beyond the next judicial day or for good cause shown due to problems of arranging for and transporting the child to and from a secure juvenile detention center, beyond the next two (2) judicial days unless the court shall so order after a detention hearing to determine if there exists probable cause to detain the child. If the latter judge cannot be reached, such detention shall be reported immediately to any judge regularly serving within the judicial administrative district. If detained, a reasonable bond for release shall be set. Pending further disposition of the case, a child whose custody has been assumed by the court may be released to the custody of a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other responsible adult or to any other person appointed by the court, or be detained pursuant to Article IV of the Oklahoma Juvenile Code in such place as shall be designated by the court, subject to further order.

C. When any child is taken into custody pursuant to this title and it reasonably appears to the peace officer, employee of the court or person acting pursuant to court order that the child is in need of medical treatment to preserve the health of the child, any peace officer, any employee of the court or person acting pursuant to court order shall have the authority to authorize medical examination and medical treatment for any child found to be in need

of medical treatment as diagnosed by a competent medical authority in the absence of the child's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody and control of the child who is competent to authorize medical treatment. The officer or the employee of the court or person acting pursuant to court order shall authorize said medical treatment only after exercising due diligence to locate the child's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person legally competent to authorize said medical treatment. The child's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody and control shall be responsible for such medical expenses as ordered by the court. No peace officer, any employee of the court or person acting pursuant to court order authorizing such treatment in accordance with the provisions of this section for any child found in need of such medical treatment shall have any liability, civil or criminal, for giving such authorization.

D. A child who has been taken into custody as otherwise provided by this Code who appears to be a child in need of mental health treatment may be admitted to a mental health facility on an emergency psychiatric basis or for an inpatient mental health evaluation or inpatient mental health treatment only in accordance with the provisions of the Inpatient Mental Health Treatment of Children Act. The child's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody and control shall be responsible for such mental health expenses as ordered by the court. No peace officer, any employee of the court or person acting pursuant to court order authorizing such treatment in accordance with the provisions of this section for any child found in need of such mental health evaluation or treatment shall have any liability, civil or criminal, for giving such authorization.

E. 1. A child may be taken into custody pursuant to an order of the court specifying that the child is in need of medical treatment or other action to protect the child's health or welfare

and the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other responsible adult having custody or control of a child is unwilling or unavailable to consent to such medical treatment or other action.

2. If the child is in need of immediate medical treatment or other action to protect the child's health or welfare, the court may issue an emergency ex parte order upon application of the district attorney of the county in which the child is located. The application for an ex parte order may be verbal or in writing and shall be supported by facts sufficient to demonstrate to the court that there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is in need of immediate medical treatment or other action to protect the child's health or welfare. The emergency ex parte order shall be in effect until a full hearing is conducted. A copy of the application, notice for full hearing and a copy of any ex parte order issued by the court shall be served upon such parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other responsible adult having custody or control of the child. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the filing of the application the court shall schedule a full hearing on the application, regardless of whether an emergency ex parte order had been issued or denied.

3. Except as otherwise provided by paragraph 2 of this section, whenever a child is in need of medical treatment to protect the child's health or welfare, or whenever any other action is necessary to protect the child's health or welfare, and the child's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody or control of the child is unwilling or unavailable to consent to such medical treatment or other action, the court, upon application of the district attorney of the county in which the child is located, shall hold a full hearing within five (5) days of filing the application. Notice of the hearing and a copy of the application shall be served upon the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody or control of the child.

4. At any hearing held pursuant to this subsection, the court may grant any order or require such medical treatment or other action as is necessary to protect the health or welfare of the child.

5. a. The parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having custody or control of the child shall be responsible for such medical expenses as ordered by the court.

b. No peace officer, any employee of the court or person acting pursuant to court order authorizing such treatment in accordance with the provisions of this subsection for any child found in need of such medical treatment shall have any liability, civil or criminal.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 116, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 7303-1.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 7303-1.3 A. The court may provide by rule who shall make a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the interests of the public or of the child who is within the purview of the Oklahoma Juvenile Code require that further court action be taken. Provided, that where intake is to be provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice under contract with the Supreme Court, or under the provision of rules issued by the Supreme Court, the preliminary inquiry shall follow the uniform contractual procedures as agreed to by the Supreme Court and the Department. If it is determined by the preliminary inquiry that no further action be taken and if agreed to by the district attorney, said person or the court may make such informal adjustment as is practicable without a petition.

B. A petition in a juvenile proceeding may be filed by the district attorney to determine if further action is necessary. The proceeding shall be entitled "In the matter of _____, an

alleged (delinquent) or (a child alleged to be in need of supervision)".

The petition shall be verified and may be upon information and belief. It shall set forth:

1. With particularity facts which bring the child within the purview of the Oklahoma Juvenile Code;
2. The name, age and residence of the child;
3. The names and residences of the parents of the child;
4. The name and residence of the legal guardian of the child, if applicable;
5. The name and residence of the person or persons having custody or control of the child;
6. The name and residence of the nearest known relative, if no parent or guardian can be found;
7. The relief requested; and
8. The specific federal law, state law or municipal ordinance under which the child is charged, and an endorsement of witnesses intended to be called by the petitioner, where the child is sought to be adjudged a delinquent child.

If a termination of parental rights is desired, it must be stated in the petition and summons, and if an order for the payment of funds for the care and maintenance of the child is desired, it must be stated in the petition and summons. If any of the facts herein required are not known by the petitioner, the petition shall so state, along with the reasons why said facts are not known to petitioner.

C. A petition alleging a child to be a child in need of treatment shall be filed by a district attorney pursuant to the Inpatient Mental Health Treatment of Children Act.

D. A copy of the petition shall be attached to and delivered with the summons.

E. A district attorney may defer filing a petition alleging a child to be delinquent or in need of supervision for a period of ninety (90) days if the child participates in a teen court program or a first-time offender program, as defined in Section 7303-4.6 of ~~Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title. If the child successfully completes the program, the district attorney shall not file the petition. The records of a case for which a petition is not filed shall be subject to the provisions of Article VII of the Oklahoma Juvenile Code.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 129, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 7303-4.6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 7303-4.6 A. If the court finds that the allegations of a petition alleging a child to be delinquent or in need of supervision are supported by the evidence, the court shall sustain the petition, and shall make an order of adjudication setting forth whether the child is delinquent or in need of supervision and shall adjudge the child as a ward of the court.

B. A court may defer delinquency adjudication proceedings or proceedings to determine if a child is in need of supervision for ninety (90) days if the child:

1. Is alleged to have committed or attempted to commit a delinquent offense that if committed by an adult would be a misdemeanor or that if committed by an adult would be grand larceny of property valued at One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or less;

2. Waives the privilege against self-incrimination and testifies, under oath, that the allegations are true;

3. Has not been previously adjudicated a delinquent; and

4. Presents to the court an oral or written request to attend a Teen Court program.

C. The Teen Court program must be approved by the court.

D. The court shall dismiss the case with prejudice at the conclusion of the deferral period if the child presents satisfactory evidence that the Teen Court program has been successfully completed.

E. The court may require a child who requests a Teen Court program to pay a fee, as determined by the court, not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) to cover the costs of administration. The fee shall be deposited in the court clerk's official depository account. Eighty percent (80%) of the costs so paid shall be distributed to the organization sponsoring the Teen Court to be used for Teen Court operating expenses. The remaining twenty percent (20%) of said cost shall be paid by the court clerk to the court fund.

F. A court may defer delinquency proceedings or proceedings to determine if a child is in need of supervision for ninety (90) days for any child that has not been previously adjudicated delinquent, if the child and, if required by the court, the parent or legal guardian of the child agree to participate in an alternative diversion program for first-time offenders that has been approved by the court. The court shall dismiss the case with prejudice at the conclusion of the deferral period if the child presents satisfactory evidence that the alternative diversion program for first-time offenders has been successfully completed. The records of a case dismissed pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of Article VII of the Oklahoma Juvenile Code.

G. A court may defer delinquency proceedings for ninety (90) days for any child that has not been previously adjudicated delinquent, if the child agrees to participate in a military mentor program that has been approved by the court. The court shall dismiss the case with prejudice at the conclusion of the deferral period if the child presents satisfactory evidence that the military mentor program has been successfully completed. The records of a

case dismissed pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of Article VII of the Oklahoma Juvenile Code.

H. As used in this section:

1. "Alternative diversion programs for first-time offenders" means programs for juveniles who have been identified by law enforcement personnel, the district attorney, or the court as having committed acts which are not serious enough to warrant adjudication through the juvenile court process, but which do indicate a need for intervention to prevent further development toward juvenile delinquency. The program shall be administered, pursuant to contact with the Department of Juvenile Justice, by organizations designated as youth services agencies in accordance with Section 7302-3.6 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. "Teen Court program" means a program which provides an alternative judicial forum for cases involving juvenile offenders, in which teenage participants, under the supervision of an adult coordinator, may serve in various capacities within the courtroom, including jurors, lawyers, bailiffs and judges. Such program also may include participation by volunteer adult attorneys. The Teen Court hears cases involving juvenile offenders who are referred to the Teen Court by the district attorney or the district court and assesses sentences such as participation in community work projects, counseling or rehabilitation programs; and

3. "Military mentor program" means a program administered by the Oklahoma Military Department as provided in Section 7303-5.3 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

46-2-8424

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