

SHORT TITLE: Children; expanding list of entities that may take a child into protective custody. Effective date.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE BILL NO. 1335

By: Weedn

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1107, as last amended by Section 10, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995, and as renumbered by Section 199, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 7003-2.1), which relates to custody and court proceedings; expanding list of entities that may take a child into protective custody prior to the filing of a petition; and providing and effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1107, as last amended by Section 10, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995, and as renumbered by Section 199, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 7003-2.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 7003-2.1 A. A child may be taken into protective custody prior to the filing of a petition:

1. By a determination by a licensed mental health professional that a child is a danger to self or others;

2. By a peace officer or employee of the court, without a court order if the child's surroundings are such as to endanger the welfare of the child;

~~2.~~ 3. By an order of the district court issued upon the application of the office of the district attorney. The application presented by the district attorney may 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 reasonable suspicion to believe the child is in need of protection due to abandonment, abuse or neglect, or is in surroundings that are such as to endanger the welfare of the child. The application may be verbal, which shall be supported by facts sufficient to demonstrate to the court that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the child is in need of protection due to abandonment, abuse or neglect or is in surroundings that are such as to endanger the welfare of the child. If verbal, a written application shall be submitted to the district court no later than the close of the next day that the court is open for business; and

~~3.~~ 4. By order of the district court when the child is in need of medical treatment or mental health treatment in order 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 or mental health treatment or other action pursuant to this article.

B. Whenever a child is taken into protective custody:

1. Such child may be taken to a children's shelter located within the county where protective custody is assumed or, if there is no children's shelter within the county, to a children's shelter designated by the court;

2. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, such child may be taken before a judge of the district court for the purpose of obtaining an order for protective custody. The child may be placed in the custody of the Department, if ordered by the court, for placement in a relative's home or in foster care

if such placement is determined by the Department to meet the needs of the child;

3. Such child may be taken directly to or retained in a health care facility for medical treatment, when it reasonably appears to the peace officer or court employee that the child is in need of immediate medical treatment to preserve the child's health, or as otherwise directed by the court; or

4. Such child may be taken directly to or retained in a mental health facility for mental health care, or inpatient mental health evaluation or inpatient mental health treatment, in accordance with the provisions of the Inpatient Mental Health Treatment of Children Act, when it reasonably appears to the peace officer or court employee that the child is in need of emergency mental health care to preserve the child's health, or as otherwise directed by the court; and

5. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, the district court of the county where the protective custody is assumed shall be immediately notified, verbally or in writing, that the child has been taken into protective custody. If notification is verbal, written notification shall be sent to the district court by the close of business on the next day that the court is open for business.

C. The court may provide, in an order issued pursuant to this section or by a standing order or rule, for the disposition of children taken into protective custody and notification of the protective custody. Such order or rule shall be consistent with the provisions of subsection B of this section, but may also:

1. Designate a licensed child care facility other than a children's shelter appropriate for the temporary care of deprived children if such facility is willing to provide care;

2. Authorize the release of a child from protective custody in accord with such criteria as the court specifies or the placement of

a child with such responsible persons as the court may designate and who are willing to provide care for the child pending further proceedings; and

3. Require such notice to the court concerning the assumption of protective custody and the disposition of children taken into protective custody as the court may direct.

D. No child taken into protective custody pursuant to this section shall be confined in any jail, adult lockup, or adult or juvenile detention facility. No child shall be transported or detained in a secure facility in association with delinquent, criminal, vicious, or dissolute persons.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.

46-2-2198

CJ