

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 1078

By: Ownbey

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; amending 10A O.S. 2011,  
8 Sections 1-1-105, as last amended by Section 3,  
Chapter 353, O.S.L. 2012, 1-4-203, 1-4-704, 1-4-807,  
9 as amended by Section 4, Chapter 105, O.S.L. 2014, 1-  
4-811, 1-7-101, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 172,  
10 O.S.L. 2014, 1-7-105, 1-7-106, 1-9-107 and 1-9-116  
(10A O.S. Supp. 2014, Sections 1-1-105, 1-4-807 and  
11 1-7-101), which relate to the Oklahoma Children's  
Code; adding terms; modifying definitions; listing  
12 additional relatives for the Department to notify  
after removal; updating language; lowering age for  
13 transition planning; setting age restriction on  
planned alternative placement; requiring transition  
14 planning for certain permanency plans; providing  
additional factor for court to consider; directing  
15 court to inquire about transition planning in certain  
cases; modifying permanency plan type; requiring  
Department of Human Services to report steps taken at  
16 each permanency hearing; prescribing court inquire  
and determine certain issues at permanency hearings;  
17 providing additional duty for person or entity  
receiving custody; directing Department promulgate  
18 rules for residential care facilities; listing new  
requirements for rules; describing required training;  
19 adding prescribed policies; including contract  
provision listing possible sanctions; providing  
20 exception for placement preferences; modifying foster  
care placement requirements; changing named act;  
21 reducing age limit for transition services;  
prescribing permanency plan be developed with input  
22 from child; allowing child to choose some case  
planning team members; providing exception; allowing  
23 child to designate an advisor and advocate; including  
a Notice of Rights for the case plan; listing rights  
24 to be described in the notice; requiring child to

1 receive specified list of documents when leaving  
2 care; reducing age eligibility to receive successful  
3 adulthood services; modifying training topics for  
4 foster care providers; directing Department to  
5 establish policies and procedures for children at  
6 risk of sex trafficking; requiring consultation with  
7 outside entities; stating applicability of policies  
8 and procedures; mandating Department report runaway  
9 or missing foster child to specified entities;  
10 prescribing time limitation for report; requiring  
11 Department to develop protocols for runaway or  
12 missing children; mandating report to law enforcement  
13 of any child identified as a sex trafficking victim;  
14 providing for codification; and providing an  
15 effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-1-105, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 353, O.S.L. 2012 (10A O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 1-1-105), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-1-105. When used in the Oklahoma Children's Code, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Abandonment" means:

- a. the willful intent by words, actions, or omissions not to return for a child, or
- b. the failure to maintain a significant parental relationship with a child through visitation or communication in which incidental or token visits or communication are not considered significant, or

1 c. the failure to respond to notice of deprived  
2 proceedings;

3 2. "Abuse" means harm or threatened harm or failure to protect  
4 from harm or threatened harm to the health, safety, or welfare of a  
5 child by a person responsible for the child's health, safety, or  
6 welfare, including but not limited to nonaccidental physical or  
7 mental injury, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation. Provided,  
8 however, that nothing contained in this act shall prohibit any  
9 parent from using ordinary force as a means of discipline including,  
10 but not limited to, spanking, switching, or paddling.

11 a. "Harm or threatened harm to the health or safety of a  
12 child" means any real or threatened physical, mental,  
13 or emotional injury or damage to the body or mind that  
14 is not accidental including but not limited to sexual  
15 abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect, or dependency.

16 b. "Sexual abuse" includes but is not limited to rape,  
17 incest, and lewd or indecent acts or proposals made to  
18 a child, as defined by law, by a person responsible  
19 for the health, safety, or welfare of the child.

20 c. "Sexual exploitation" includes but is not limited to  
21 allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage  
22 in prostitution, as defined by law, by a person  
23 responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of a  
24 child, or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or

1 engaging in the lewd, obscene, or pornographic, as  
2 defined by law, photographing, filming, or depicting  
3 of a child in those acts by a person responsible for  
4 the health, safety, and welfare of the child;

5 3. "Adjudication" means a finding by the court that the  
6 allegations in a petition alleging that a child is deprived are  
7 supported by a preponderance of the evidence;

8 4. "Adjudicatory hearing" means a hearing by the court as  
9 provided by Section 1-4-601 of this title;

10 5. "Age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate" means:

11 a. activities or items that are generally accepted as  
12 suitable for children of the same age or level of  
13 maturity or that are determined to be developmentally  
14 appropriate for a child, based on the development of  
15 cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral  
16 capacities that are typical for an age or age group,  
17 and

18 b. in the case of a specific child, activities or items  
19 that are suitable for that child based on the  
20 developmental stages attained by the child with  
21 respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and  
22 behavioral capacities of the specific child.

23 In the event that any age-related activities have implications  
24 relative to the academic curriculum of a child, nothing in this

1 paragraph shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of  
2 the federal government to mandate, direct, or control a state or  
3 local educational agency, or the specific instructional content,  
4 academic achievement standards and assessments, curriculum, or  
5 program of instruction of a school;

6 6. "Assessment" means a comprehensive review of child safety  
7 and evaluation of family functioning and protective capacities that  
8 is conducted in response to a child abuse or neglect referral that  
9 does not allege a serious and immediate safety threat to a child;

10 ~~6.~~ 7. "Behavioral health" means mental health, substance abuse,  
11 or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse diagnoses, and the  
12 continuum of mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring mental  
13 health and substance abuse treatment;

14 ~~7.~~ 8. "Child" means any unmarried person under eighteen (18)  
15 years of age;

16 ~~8.~~ 9. "Child advocacy center" means a center and the  
17 multidisciplinary child abuse team of which it is a member that is  
18 accredited by the National Children's Alliance or that is completing  
19 a sixth year of reaccreditation. Child advocacy centers shall be  
20 classified, based on the child population of a district attorney's  
21 district, as follows:

- 22 a. nonurban centers in districts with child populations  
23 that are less than sixty thousand (60,000), and  
24

1           b.    midlevel nonurban centers in districts with child  
2                    populations equal to or greater than sixty thousand  
3                    (60,000), but not including Oklahoma and Tulsa  
4                    counties;

5           ~~9.~~ 10. "Child with a disability" means any child who has a  
6           physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more  
7           of the major life activities of the child, or who is regarded as  
8           having such an impairment by a competent medical professional;

9           ~~10.~~ 11. "Child-placing agency" means an agency that arranges  
10           for or places a child in a foster family home, group home, adoptive  
11           home, or ~~independent living~~ a successful adulthood program;

12           ~~11.~~ "~~Commission~~" means ~~the Commission for Human Services~~;

13           12. "Community-based services" or "community-based programs"  
14           means services or programs which maintain community participation or  
15           supervision in their planning, operation, and evaluation.

16           Community-based services and programs may include, but are not  
17           limited to, emergency shelter, crisis intervention, group work, case  
18           supervision, job placement, recruitment and training of volunteers,  
19           consultation, medical, educational, home-based services, vocational,  
20           social, preventive and psychological guidance, training, counseling,  
21           early intervention and diversionary substance abuse treatment,  
22           sexual abuse treatment, transitional living, independent living, and  
23           other related services and programs;

1 13. "Concurrent permanency planning" means, when indicated, the  
2 implementation of two plans for a child entering foster care. One  
3 plan focuses on reuniting the parent and child; the other seeks to  
4 find a permanent out-of-home placement for the child with both plans  
5 being pursued simultaneously;

6 14. "Court-appointed special advocate" or "CASA" means a  
7 responsible adult volunteer who has been trained and is supervised  
8 by a court-appointed special advocate program recognized by the  
9 court, and when appointed by the court, serves as an officer of the  
10 court in the capacity as a guardian ad litem;

11 15. "Court-appointed special advocate program" means an  
12 organized program, administered by either an independent, not-for-  
13 profit corporation, a dependent project of an independent, not-for-  
14 profit corporation or a unit of local government, which recruits,  
15 screens, trains, assigns, supervises and supports volunteers to be  
16 available for appointment by the court as guardians ad litem;

17 16. "Custodian" means an individual other than a parent, legal  
18 guardian or Indian custodian, to whom legal custody of the child has  
19 been awarded by the court. As used in this title, the term  
20 "custodian" shall not mean the Department of Human Services;

21 17. "Day treatment" means a nonresidential program which  
22 provides intensive services to a child who resides in the child's  
23 own home, the home of a relative, group home, a foster home or  
24

1 residential child care facility. Day treatment programs include,  
2 but are not limited to, educational services;

3 18. "Department" means the Department of Human Services;

4 19. "Dependency" means a child who is homeless or without  
5 proper care or guardianship through no fault of his or her parent,  
6 legal guardian, or custodian;

7 20. "Deprived child" means a child:

8 a. who is for any reason destitute, homeless, or  
9 abandoned,

10 b. who does not have the proper parental care or  
11 guardianship,

12 c. who has been abused, neglected, or is dependent,

13 d. whose home is an unfit place for the child by reason  
14 of depravity on the part of the parent or legal  
15 guardian of the child, or other person responsible for  
16 the health or welfare of the child,

17 e. who is a child in need of special care and treatment  
18 because of the child's physical or mental condition,  
19 and the child's parents, legal guardian, or other  
20 custodian is unable or willfully fails to provide such  
21 special care and treatment. As used in this  
22 paragraph, a child in need of special care and  
23 treatment includes, but is not limited to, a child who  
24 at birth tests positive for alcohol or a controlled



- 1 dangerous substance and who, pursuant to a drug or  
2 alcohol screen of the child and an assessment of the  
3 parent, is determined to be at risk of harm or  
4 threatened harm to the health or safety of a child,
- 5 f. who is a child with a disability deprived of the  
6 nutrition necessary to sustain life or of the medical  
7 treatment necessary to remedy or relieve a life-  
8 threatening medical condition in order to cause or  
9 allow the death of the child if such nutrition or  
10 medical treatment is generally provided to similarly  
11 situated children without a disability or children  
12 with disabilities; provided that no medical treatment  
13 shall be necessary if, in the reasonable medical  
14 judgment of the attending physician, such treatment  
15 would be futile in saving the life of the child,
- 16 g. who, due to improper parental care and guardianship,  
17 is absent from school as specified in Section 10-106  
18 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, if the child is  
19 subject to compulsory school attendance,
- 20 h. whose parent, legal guardian or custodian for good  
21 cause desires to be relieved of custody,
- 22 i. who has been born to a parent whose parental rights to  
23 another child have been involuntarily terminated by  
24 the court and the conditions which led to the making

1 of the finding, which resulted in the termination of  
2 the parental rights of the parent to the other child,  
3 have not been corrected, or

4 j. whose parent, legal guardian, or custodian has  
5 subjected another child to abuse or neglect or has  
6 allowed another child to be subjected to abuse or  
7 neglect and is currently a respondent in a deprived  
8 proceeding.

9 Nothing in the Oklahoma Children's Code shall be construed to  
10 mean a child is deprived for the sole reason the parent, legal  
11 guardian, or person having custody or control of a child, in good  
12 faith, selects and depends upon spiritual means alone through  
13 prayer, in accordance with the tenets and practice of a recognized  
14 church or religious denomination, for the treatment or cure of  
15 disease or remedial care of such child.

16 Nothing contained in this paragraph shall prevent a court from  
17 immediately assuming custody of a child and ordering whatever action  
18 may be necessary, including medical treatment, to protect the  
19 child's health or welfare;

20 21. "Dispositional hearing" means a hearing by the court as  
21 provided by Section 1-4-706 of this title;

22 22. "Drug-endangered child" means a child who is at risk of  
23 suffering physical, psychological or sexual harm as a result of the  
24 use, possession, distribution, manufacture or cultivation of

1 controlled substances, or the attempt of any of these acts, by a  
2 person responsible for the health, safety or welfare of the child,  
3 as defined in paragraph ~~51~~ 50 of this section. This term includes  
4 circumstances wherein the substance abuse of the person responsible  
5 for the health, safety or welfare of the child interferes with that  
6 person's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing  
7 environment for the child. The term also includes newborns who test  
8 positive for a controlled dangerous substance, with the exception of  
9 those substances administered under the care of a physician;

10 23. "Emergency custody" means the custody of a child prior to  
11 adjudication of the child following issuance of an order of the  
12 district court pursuant to Section 1-4-201 of this title or  
13 following issuance of an order of the district court pursuant to an  
14 emergency custody hearing, as specified by Section 1-4-203 of this  
15 title;

16 24. "Facility" means a place, an institution, a building or  
17 part thereof, a set of buildings, or an area whether or not  
18 enclosing a building or set of buildings used for the lawful custody  
19 and treatment of children;

20 25. "Foster care" or "foster care services" means continuous  
21 twenty-four-hour care and supportive services provided for a child  
22 in foster placement including, but not limited to, the care,  
23 supervision, guidance, and rearing of a foster child by the foster  
24 parent;

1           26. "Foster family home" means the private residence of a  
2 foster parent who provides foster care services to a child. Such  
3 term shall include a nonkinship foster family home, a therapeutic  
4 foster family home, or the home of a relative or other kinship care  
5 home;

6           27. "Foster parent eligibility assessment" includes a criminal  
7 background investigation including, but not limited to, a national  
8 criminal history records search based upon the submission of  
9 fingerprints, home assessments, and any other assessment required by  
10 the Department of Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or  
11 any child-placing agency pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
12 Child Care Facilities Licensing Act;

13           28. "Guardian ad litem" means a person appointed by the court  
14 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-4-306 of this title having  
15 those duties and responsibilities as set forth in that section. The  
16 term "guardian ad litem" shall refer to a court-appointed special  
17 advocate as well as to any other person appointed pursuant to the  
18 provisions of Section 1-4-306 of this title to serve as a guardian  
19 ad litem;

20           29. "Guardian ad litem of the estate of the child" means a  
21 person appointed by the court to protect the property interests of a  
22 child pursuant to Section 1-8-109 of this title;  
23  
24

1           30. "Group home" means a residential facility licensed by the  
2 Department to provide full-time care and community-based services  
3 for more than five but fewer than thirteen children;

4           31. "Harm or threatened harm to the health or safety of a  
5 child" means any real or threatened physical, mental, or emotional  
6 injury or damage to the body or mind that is not accidental  
7 including, but not limited to, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation,  
8 neglect, or dependency;

9           32. "Heinous and shocking abuse" includes, but is not limited  
10 to, aggravated physical abuse that results in serious bodily,  
11 mental, or emotional injury. "Serious bodily injury" means injury  
12 that involves:

- 13           a. a substantial risk of death,
- 14           b. extreme physical pain,
- 15           c. protracted disfigurement,
- 16           d. a loss or impairment of the function of a body member,  
17               organ, or mental faculty,
- 18           e. an injury to an internal or external organ or the  
19               body,
- 20           f. a bone fracture,
- 21           g. sexual abuse or sexual exploitation,
- 22           h. chronic abuse including, but not limited to, physical,  
23               emotional, or sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation  
24               which is repeated or continuing,

- 1 i. torture that includes, but is not limited to,  
2 inflicting, participating in or assisting in  
3 inflicting intense physical or emotional pain upon a  
4 child repeatedly over a period of time for the purpose  
5 of coercing or terrorizing a child or for the purpose  
6 of satisfying the craven, cruel, or prurient desires  
7 of the perpetrator or another person, or  
8 j. any other similar aggravated circumstance;

9 33. "Heinous and shocking neglect" includes, but is not limited  
10 to:

- 11 a. chronic neglect that includes, but is not limited to,  
12 a persistent pattern of family functioning in which  
13 the caregiver has not met or sustained the basic needs  
14 of a child which results in harm to the child,  
15 b. neglect that has resulted in a diagnosis of the child  
16 as a failure to thrive,  
17 c. an act or failure to act by a parent that results in  
18 the death or near death of a child or sibling, serious  
19 physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, sexual  
20 exploitation, or presents an imminent risk of serious  
21 harm to a child, or  
22 d. any other similar aggravating circumstance;

23 34. ~~"Independent living program" means a program specifically~~  
24 ~~designed to assist a child to enhance those skills and abilities~~

1 ~~necessary for successful adult living. An independent living~~  
2 ~~program may include, but shall not be limited to, such features as~~  
3 ~~minimal direct staff supervision, and the provision of supportive~~  
4 ~~services to assist children with activities necessary for finding an~~  
5 ~~appropriate place of residence, completing an education or~~  
6 ~~vocational training, obtaining employment, or obtaining other~~  
7 ~~similar services;~~

8       ~~35.~~ "Individualized service plan" means a document written  
9 pursuant to Section 1-4-704 of this title that has the same meaning  
10 as "service plan" or "treatment plan" where those terms are used in  
11 the Oklahoma Children's Code;

12       ~~36.~~ 35. "Infant" means a child who is twelve (12) months of age  
13 or younger;

14       ~~37.~~ 36. "Institution" means a residential facility offering  
15 care and treatment for more than twenty residents;

16       ~~38.~~ 37.

17       a. "Investigation" means a response to an allegation of  
18 abuse or neglect that involves a serious and immediate  
19 threat to the safety of the child, making it necessary  
20 to determine:

21               (1) the current safety of a child and the risk of  
22                       subsequent abuse or neglect, and  
23  
24

1 (2) whether child abuse or neglect occurred and  
2 whether the family needs prevention- and  
3 intervention-related services.

4 b. "Investigation" results in a written response stating  
5 one of the following findings:

6 (1) "substantiated" means the Department has  
7 determined, after an investigation of a report of  
8 child abuse or neglect and based upon some  
9 credible evidence, that child abuse or neglect  
10 has occurred. When child abuse or neglect is  
11 substantiated, the Department may recommend:

12 (a) court intervention if the Department finds  
13 the health safety, or welfare of the child  
14 is threatened, or

15 (b) child abuse and neglect prevention and  
16 intervention-related services for the child,  
17 parents or persons responsible for the care  
18 of the child if court intervention is not  
19 determined to be necessary,

20 (2) "unsubstantiated ~~— Services recommended~~" means  
21 the Department has determined, after an  
22 investigation of a report of child abuse or  
23 neglect, that insufficient evidence exists to  
24 fully determine whether child abuse or neglect



1 has occurred. If child abuse or neglect is  
2 unsubstantiated, the Department may recommend,  
3 when determined to be necessary, that the parents  
4 or persons responsible for the care of the child  
5 obtain child abuse and neglect prevention- and  
6 intervention-related services, or

7 (3) "ruled out" means a report in which a child  
8 protective services specialist has determined,  
9 after an investigation of a report of child abuse  
10 or neglect, that no child abuse or neglect has  
11 occurred;

12 ~~39.~~ 38. "Kinship care" means full-time care of a child by a  
13 kinship relation;

14 ~~40.~~ 39. "Kinship guardianship" means a permanent guardianship  
15 as defined in this section;

16 ~~41.~~ 40. "Kinship relation" or "kinship relationship" means  
17 relatives, stepparents, or other responsible adults who have a bond  
18 or tie with a child and/or to whom has been ascribed a family  
19 relationship role with the child's parents or the child; provided,  
20 however, in cases where the Indian Child Welfare Act applies, the  
21 definitions contained in 25 U.S.C., Section 1903 shall control;

22 ~~42.~~ 41. "Mental health facility" means a mental health or  
23 substance abuse treatment facility as defined by the Inpatient  
24 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment of Minors Act;

1       ~~43.~~ 42. "Minor" means the same as the term "child" as defined  
2 in this section;

3       ~~44.~~ 43. "Minor in need of treatment" means a child in need of  
4 mental health or substance abuse treatment as defined by the  
5 Inpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment of Minors Act;

6       ~~45.~~ 44. "Multidisciplinary child abuse team" means any team  
7 established pursuant to Section 1-9-102 of this title of three or  
8 more persons who are trained in the prevention, identification,  
9 investigation, prosecution, and treatment of physical and sexual  
10 child abuse and who are qualified to facilitate a broad range of  
11 prevention and intervention-related services and services related to  
12 child abuse. For purposes of this definition, "freestanding" means  
13 a team not used by a child advocacy center for its accreditation;

14       ~~46.~~ 45. "Near death" means a child is in serious or critical  
15 condition, as certified by a physician, as a result of abuse or  
16 neglect;

17       ~~47.~~ 46. "Neglect" means:

18           a. the failure or omission to provide any of the  
19 following:

- 20               (1) adequate nurturance and affection, food,  
21                clothing, shelter, sanitation, hygiene, or  
22                appropriate education,  
23               (2) medical, dental, or behavioral health care,  
24               (3) supervision or appropriate caretakers, or

1 (4) special care made necessary by the physical or  
2 mental condition of the child,

3 b. the failure or omission to protect a child from  
4 exposure to any of the following:

5 (1) the use, possession, sale, or manufacture of  
6 illegal drugs,

7 (2) illegal activities, or

8 (3) sexual acts or materials that are not age-  
9 appropriate, or

10 c. abandonment.

11 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to mean a child is  
12 abused or neglected for the sole reason the parent, legal guardian  
13 or person having custody or control of a child, in good faith,  
14 selects and depends upon spiritual means alone through prayer, in  
15 accordance with the tenets and practice of a recognized church or  
16 religious denomination, for the treatment or cure of disease or  
17 remedial care of such child. Nothing contained in this paragraph  
18 shall prevent a court from immediately assuming custody of a child,  
19 pursuant to the Oklahoma Children's Code, and ordering whatever  
20 action may be necessary, including medical treatment, to protect the  
21 child's health or welfare;

22 ~~48.~~ 47. "Permanency hearing" means a hearing by the court  
23 pursuant to Section 1-4-811 of this title;

1       ~~49.~~ 48. "Permanent custody" means the court-ordered custody of  
2 an adjudicated deprived child when a parent-child relationship no  
3 longer exists due to termination of parental rights or due to the  
4 death of a parent or parents;

5       ~~50.~~ 49. "Permanent guardianship" means a judicially created  
6 relationship between a child, a kinship relation of the child, or  
7 other adult established pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-4-  
8 709 of this title;

9       ~~51.~~ 50. "Person responsible for a child's health, safety, or  
10 welfare" includes a parent; a legal guardian; custodian; a foster  
11 parent; a person eighteen (18) years of age or older with whom the  
12 child's parent cohabitates or any other adult residing in the home  
13 of the child; an agent or employee of a public or private  
14 residential home, institution, facility or day treatment program as  
15 defined in Section 175.20 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or  
16 an owner, operator, or employee of a child care facility as defined  
17 by Section 402 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18       ~~52.~~ 51. "Protective custody" means custody of a child taken by  
19 a law enforcement officer or designated employee of the court  
20 without a court order;

21       ~~53.~~ 52. "Putative father" means an alleged father as that term  
22 is defined in Section 7700-102 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

23       53. "Reasonable and prudent parent standard" means the standard  
24 characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that

1 maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at  
2 the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of  
3 the child. This standard shall be used by the child's caregiver  
4 when determining whether to allow a child to participate in  
5 extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. For  
6 purposes of this definition, the term "caregiver" means a foster  
7 parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed, a  
8 representative of a group home where a child has been placed or a  
9 designated official for a residential child care facility where a  
10 child in foster care has been placed;

11 54. "Relative" means a grandparent, great-grandparent, brother  
12 or sister of whole or half blood, aunt, uncle or any other person  
13 related to the child;

14 55. "Residential child care facility" means a twenty-four-hour  
15 residential facility where children live together with or are  
16 supervised by adults who are not their parents or relatives;

17 56. "Review hearing" means a hearing by the court pursuant to  
18 Section 1-4-807 of this title;

19 57. "Risk" means the likelihood that an incident of child abuse  
20 or neglect will occur in the future;

21 58. "Safety threat" means the threat of serious harm due to  
22 child abuse or neglect occurring in the present or in the very near  
23 future and without the intervention of another person, a child would  
24

1 likely or in all probability sustain severe or permanent disability  
2 or injury, illness, or death;

3 59. "Safety analysis" means action taken by the Department in  
4 response to a report of alleged child abuse or neglect that may  
5 include an assessment or investigation based upon an analysis of the  
6 information received according to priority guidelines and other  
7 criteria adopted by the Department;

8 60. "Safety evaluation" means evaluation of a child's situation  
9 by the Department using a structured, evidence-based tool to  
10 determine if the child is subject to a safety threat;

11 61. "Secure facility" means a facility which is designed and  
12 operated to ensure that all entrances and exits from the facility  
13 are subject to the exclusive control of the staff of the facility,  
14 whether or not the juvenile being detained has freedom of movement  
15 within the perimeter of the facility, or a facility which relies on  
16 locked rooms and buildings, fences, or physical restraint in order  
17 to control behavior of its residents;

18 62. "Sibling" means a biologically or legally related brother  
19 or sister of a child;

20 63. "Specialized foster care" means foster care provided to a  
21 child in a foster home or agency-contracted home which:

- 22 a. has been certified by the Developmental Disabilities  
23 Services Division of the Department of Human Services,  
24 b. is monitored by the Division, and

1 c. is funded through the Home- and Community-Based Waiver  
2 Services Program administered by the Division;

3 64. "Successful adulthood program" means a program specifically  
4 designed to assist a child to enhance those skills and abilities  
5 necessary for successful adult living. A successful adulthood  
6 program may include, but shall not be limited to, such features as  
7 minimal direct staff supervision, and the provision of supportive  
8 services to assist children with activities necessary for finding an  
9 appropriate place of residence, completing an education or  
10 vocational training, obtaining employment, or obtaining other  
11 similar services;

12 65. "Temporary custody" means court-ordered custody of an  
13 adjudicated deprived child;

14 ~~65.~~ 66. "Therapeutic foster family home" means a foster family  
15 home which provides specific treatment services, pursuant to a  
16 therapeutic foster care contract, which are designed to remedy  
17 social and behavioral problems of a foster child residing in the  
18 home;

19 ~~66.~~ 67. "Trafficking in persons" means sex trafficking or  
20 severe forms of trafficking in persons as described in Section 7102  
21 of Title 22 of the United States Code:

22 a. "sex trafficking" means the recruitment, harboring,  
23 transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person  
24 for the purpose of a commercial sex act,

1           b. "severe forms of trafficking in persons" means:

- 2           (1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is  
3           induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which  
4           the person induced to perform such act has not  
5           attained eighteen (18) years of age, or  
6           (2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation,  
7           provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or  
8           services, through the use of force, fraud, or  
9           coercion for the purpose of subjection to  
10           involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or  
11           slavery;

12           68. "Transitional living program" means a residential program  
13           that may be attached to an existing facility or operated solely for  
14           the purpose of assisting children to develop the skills and  
15           abilities necessary for successful adult living. The program may  
16           include, but shall not be limited to, reduced staff supervision,  
17           vocational training, educational services, employment and employment  
18           training, and other appropriate independent living skills training  
19           as a part of the transitional living program; and

20           ~~67.~~ 69. "Voluntary foster care placement" means the temporary  
21           placement of a child by the parent, legal guardian or custodian of  
22           the child in foster care pursuant to a signed placement agreement  
23           between the Department or a child-placing agency and the child's  
24           parent, legal guardian or custodian.



1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-4-203, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 1-4-203. A. Within the next two (2) judicial days  
4 following the child being taken into protective or emergency  
5 custody, the court shall conduct an emergency custody hearing. At  
6 the hearing, information may be provided to the court in the form of  
7 oral or written reports, affidavits or testimony. Any information  
8 having probative value may be received by the court regardless of  
9 its admissibility under the Oklahoma Evidence Code. At the hearing  
10 the court shall:

11 1. Determine whether facts exist that are sufficient to  
12 demonstrate to the court there is reasonable suspicion that the  
13 child is in need of immediate protection due to abuse or neglect, or  
14 that the circumstances or surroundings of the child are such that  
15 continuation of the child in the child's home or in the care or  
16 custody of the parent, legal guardian, or custodian would present an  
17 imminent danger to the child;

18 2. Advise the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child  
19 in writing of the following:

- 20 a. any right of the parent, legal guardian, or custodian  
21 to testify and present evidence at court hearings,  
22 b. the right to be represented by an attorney at court  
23 hearings,  
24

- c. the consequences of failure to attend any hearings which may be held, and
- d. the right to appeal and procedure for appealing an order of the court;

3. Determine custody of the child and order one of the following:

- a. release of the child to the custody of the child's parent, legal guardian, or custodian from whom the child was removed under any conditions the court finds reasonably necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the child, or
- b. placement of the child in the custody of a responsible adult or licensed child-placing agency under any conditions the court finds reasonably necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the child, or
- c. whether to continue the child in or to place the child into the emergency custody of the Department of Human Services;

4. Order the parent, legal guardian, or custodian to complete an affidavit listing the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any parent, whether known or alleged, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, half-sibling, and first cousin and any comments concerning the appropriateness of the potential placement of the child with the

1 relative. If no such relative exists, the court shall require the  
2 parent, legal guardian, or custodian to list any other relatives or  
3 persons with whom the child has had a substantial relationship or  
4 who may be a suitable placement for the child;

5 5. Direct the parent, legal guardian, or custodian to furnish  
6 the Department with a copy of the child's birth certificate within  
7 fifteen (15) days from the hearing if a petition is filed, unless  
8 otherwise extended by the court; and

9 6. In accordance with the safety or well-being of any child,  
10 determine whether reasonable efforts have been made to:

- 11 a. place siblings, who have been removed, together in the  
12 same foster care, guardianship, or adoptive placement,  
13 and  
14 b. provide for frequent visitation or other ongoing  
15 interaction in the case of siblings who have been  
16 removed and who are not placed together.

17 B. The office of the State Court Administrator shall create an  
18 affidavit form and make it available to each court responsible for  
19 conducting emergency custody hearings. The affidavit form shall  
20 contain a notice to the parent, legal guardian, or custodian that  
21 failure to identify a parent or relative in a timely manner may  
22 result in the child being permanently placed outside of the home of  
23 the child's parent or relative. The affidavit form shall also  
24 advise the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the penalties

1 associated with perjury and contempt of court. The original  
2 completed affidavit shall be filed with the court clerk no later  
3 than five (5) days after the hearing or as otherwise directed by the  
4 court and a copy shall be provided to the Department.

5 C. 1. The Department shall, within thirty (30) days of the  
6 removal of a child, exercise due diligence to identify relatives.  
7 Notice shall be provided by the Department to the following adult  
8 relatives: all grandparents, all parents of a sibling of the child,  
9 where the parent has legal custody of the sibling, and to such other  
10 adult relatives of the child, including relatives suggested by the  
11 parents, as the court directs. The notice shall advise the  
12 relatives:

- 13 a. the child has been or is being removed from the  
14 custody of the parent or parents of the child,
- 15 b. of the options under applicable law to participate in  
16 the care and placement of the child, including any  
17 options that may be lost by failing to respond to the  
18 notice, and
- 19 c. of the requirements to become a foster family home and  
20 the additional services and supports available for  
21 children placed in the home.

22 2. Relatives shall not be notified if notification would not be  
23 in the best interests of a child due to past or current family or  
24

1 domestic violence. The Department may promulgate rules in  
2 furtherance of the provisions of this subsection.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-4-704, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 1-4-704. A. The Department of Human Services or  
6 licensed child-placing agency shall prepare and maintain a written  
7 individualized service plan for any child that has been adjudicated  
8 to be a deprived child.

9 B. The plan shall be furnished to the court within thirty (30)  
10 days after the adjudication of the child and shall be made available  
11 to counsel for the parties and any applicable tribe by the  
12 Department or the licensed child-placing agency having custody of  
13 the child or responsibility for the supervision of the case.

14 C. 1. The individualized service plan shall be based upon a  
15 comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the child and family and  
16 shall be developed with the participation of the parent, legal  
17 guardian, or legal custodian of the child, the attorney for the  
18 child, the guardian ad litem for the child, if any, the child's  
19 tribe, and the child, if appropriate. The health and safety of the  
20 child shall be the paramount concern in the development of the plan.

21 2. If any part of the plan is disputed or not approved by the  
22 court, an evidentiary hearing may be held and at its conclusion, the  
23 court shall determine the content of the individualized service plan  
24

1 in accord with the evidence presented and the best interests of the  
2 child.

3 3. When approved by the court, each individualized service plan  
4 shall be incorporated and made a part of the dispositional order of  
5 the court.

6 4. The plan shall be signed by:

- 7 a. the parent or parents or legal guardian of the child,
- 8 b. the attorney for the parent or parents or legal  
9 guardian of the child,
- 10 c. the child's attorney,
- 11 d. the guardian ad litem of the child, which may be a  
12 court-appointed special advocate,
- 13 e. a representative of the child's tribe,
- 14 f. the child, if possible, and
- 15 g. the Department or other responsible agency.

16 D. 1. Every service plan prepared shall be individualized and  
17 specific to each child and the family of the child.

18 2. The individualized service plan shall be written in simple  
19 and clear English. If English is not the principal language of the  
20 parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child, and such person  
21 is unable to read or comprehend the English language, to the extent  
22 possible the plan shall be written in the principal language of the  
23 person.  
24

1           3. The individualized service plan may be modified based on  
2 changing circumstances consistent with the correction of the  
3 conditions that led to the adjudication of the child or other  
4 conditions inconsistent with the health, safety, or welfare of the  
5 child.

6           4. The individualized service plan shall be measurable,  
7 realistic and consistent with the requirements of other court  
8 orders.

9           E. The individualized service plan shall include, but not be  
10 limited to:

11           1. A history of the child and family, including identification  
12 of the problems or conditions leading to the deprived child  
13 adjudication and the changes the parent or parents must make in  
14 order for the child to safely remain in or return to the home;

15           2. Identification of time-limited reunification services to be  
16 provided to the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian,  
17 stepparent, other adult person living in the home, or other family  
18 members;

19           3. Identification of the specific services to be provided to  
20 the child including, but not limited to, educational, vocational  
21 educational, medical, drug or alcohol abuse treatment, or counseling  
22 or other treatment services. The most recent available health and  
23 educational records of the child shall be provided to the court upon  
24 the court's request including:

- a. the names and addresses of the child's health and educational providers,
- b. the child's grade-level performance,
- c. the child's school record,
- d. a record of the child's immunizations,
- e. the child's known medical problems, including any known communicable diseases,
- f. the child's medications, and
- g. any other relevant health and education information;

4. A schedule of the frequency of services and the means by which delivery of the services will be assured or, as necessary, the proposed means by which support services or other assistance will be provided to enable the parent or the child to obtain the services;

5. The name of the social worker assigned to the case;

6. A projected date for the completion of the individualized service plan;

7. Performance criteria that will measure the progress of the child and family toward completion of the individualized service plan including, but not limited to, time frames for achieving objectives and addressing the identified problems;

8. The name and business address of the attorney representing the child;

9. If the child is placed outside the home, the individualized service plan shall further provide:



- 1 a. the sequence and time frame for services to be  
2 provided to the parent, the child, and if the child is  
3 placed in foster care, the foster parent, to  
4 facilitate the child's return home or to another  
5 permanent placement,
- 6 b. a description of the child's placement and explanation  
7 about whether the placement is the least restrictive,  
8 most family-like setting available and in as close  
9 proximity as possible to the home of the parent or  
10 parents or legal guardian of the child when the case  
11 plan is reunification, and how the placement is  
12 consistent with the best interests and special needs  
13 of the child,
- 14 c. a description of any services or resources that were  
15 requested by the child or the parent or legal guardian  
16 of the child since the date of the child's placement,  
17 and whether those services or resources were provided  
18 and if not, the basis for the denial of the services  
19 or resources,
- 20 d. efforts to be made by the parent of the child and the  
21 Department to enable the child to return to his or her  
22 home,
- 23 e. a description of the ~~independent living plan~~  
24 transition planning for a successful adulthood for a

1 child age ~~sixteen (16)~~ fourteen (14) or older that  
2 includes how the following objectives will be met:

3 (1) education, vocational, or employment planning,

4 (2) health care planning and medical coverage,

5 (3) transportation including, where appropriate,

6 assisting the child in obtaining a driver

7 license,

8 (4) money management,

9 (5) planning for housing,

10 (6) social and recreational skills, and

11 (7) establishing and maintaining connections with the

12 child's family and community,

13 f. for a child in placement due solely or in part to the

14 child's behavioral health or medical health issues,

15 diagnostic and assessment information, specific

16 services relating to meeting the applicable behavioral

17 health and medical care needs of the child, and

18 desired treatment outcomes,

19 g. a plan and schedule for regular and frequent

20 visitation for the child and the child's parent or

21 parents or legal guardian and siblings, unless the

22 court has determined that visitation, even if

23 supervised, would be harmful to the child, and

1 h. a plan for ensuring the educational stability of the  
2 child while in out-of-home placement, including:

3 (1) assurances that the placement of the child  
4 considers the appropriateness of the current  
5 educational setting and the proximity to the  
6 school in which the child was enrolled at the  
7 time of placement, and

8 (2) where appropriate, an assurance that the  
9 Department has coordinated with appropriate local  
10 educational agencies to ensure that the child  
11 remains in the school in which the child was  
12 enrolled at the time of placement, or

13 (3) if remaining in the school in which the child was  
14 enrolled at the time of placement is not in the  
15 best interests of the child, assurances by the  
16 Department and the local educational agencies to  
17 provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a  
18 new school with all of the educational records of  
19 the child provided to the school; and

20 10. The permanency plan for the child, the reason for selection  
21 of that plan and a description of the steps being taken by the  
22 Department to finalize the plan. ~~If~~

23 a. When the permanency plan is adoption or legal  
24 guardianship, the Department shall describe, at a

1 minimum, child-specific recruitment efforts such as  
2 relative searches conducted and the use of state,  
3 regional, and national adoption exchanges to  
4 facilitate the orderly and timely placement of the  
5 child, whether in or outside of the state.

6 b. When the child is age fourteen (14) or older, the  
7 permanency plan and any revision or addition to the  
8 plan, shall include planning for the transition of the  
9 child to a successful adulthood.

10 F. Each individualized service plan shall specifically provide  
11 for the safety of the child, in accordance with state and federal  
12 law, and clearly define what actions or precautions will, or may, be  
13 necessary to provide for the safety and protection of the child.

14 G. The individualized service plan shall include the following  
15 statement:

16 TO THE PARENT: THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT. ITS PURPOSE  
17 IS TO HELP YOU PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH A SAFE HOME WITHIN THE  
18 REASONABLE PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THE PLAN. IF YOU ARE UNWILLING OR  
19 UNABLE TO PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH A SAFE HOME OR ATTEND COURT  
20 HEARINGS, YOUR PARENTAL AND CUSTODIAL DUTIES AND RIGHTS MAY BE  
21 RESTRICTED OR TERMINATED OR YOUR CHILD MAY NOT BE RETURNED TO YOU.

22 H. Whenever a child who is subject to the provisions of this  
23 section is committed for inpatient behavioral health or substance  
24 abuse treatment pursuant to the Inpatient Mental Health and

1 Substance Abuse Treatment of Minors Act, the individualized service  
2 plan shall be amended as necessary and appropriate, including, but  
3 not limited to, identification of the treatment and services to be  
4 provided to the child and the child's family upon discharge of the  
5 child from inpatient behavioral health or substance abuse treatment.

6 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-4-807, as  
7 amended by Section 4, Chapter 105, O.S.L. 2014 (10A O.S. Supp. 2014,  
8 Section 1-4-807), is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 1-4-807. A. 1. Every case regarding a child alleged  
10 or adjudicated to be deprived shall be reviewed by the court at a  
11 hearing no later than six (6) months from the date of the child's  
12 removal from the home and at least once every six (6) months  
13 thereafter until permanency is achieved or the court otherwise  
14 terminates jurisdiction except as otherwise set forth in paragraph 2  
15 of this subsection. A review hearing may be held concurrently with  
16 a permanency hearing.

17 2. When the Department of Human Services has documented a  
18 compelling reason why a petition to terminate parental rights to a  
19 child is not in the best interests of the child that is based upon a  
20 consideration that the child is presently not capable of functioning  
21 in a family setting, the court shall reevaluate the status of the  
22 child every ninety (90) days until there is a final determination  
23 that the child cannot be placed in a family setting.  
24

1           3. At any time during the pendency of the case, any party may  
2 request the court to review the case. If granted, the requesting  
3 party shall serve notice on all parties of the date and time of the  
4 hearing.

5           B. If a foster parent, group home, preadoptive parent, or  
6 relative is currently providing care for a child, the Department  
7 shall give the foster parent, group home, preadoptive parent, or  
8 relative notice of a proceeding concerning the child. A foster  
9 parent, group home representative, preadoptive parent, or relative  
10 providing care for a child has the right to be heard at the  
11 proceeding. Except when allowed to intervene, the foster parent,  
12 group home, preadoptive parent, or relative providing care for the  
13 child is not considered a party to the juvenile court proceeding  
14 solely because of notice and the right to be heard at the  
15 proceeding.

16           C. The court shall receive all evidence helpful in deciding the  
17 issues before the court including, but not limited to, oral and  
18 written reports, which may be admitted and relied upon to the extent  
19 of their probative value, even though not competent for purposes of  
20 an adjudicatory hearing. All service provider progress reports and  
21 critical incident reports shall be submitted to the court and shall  
22 also be delivered to the District Attorney, the attorney or  
23 attorneys representing the parents or group home, the child's  
24

1 attorney and guardian ad litem, if applicable, and the relevant  
2 tribe or tribes, if applicable.

3 D. At each review hearing the court shall:

4 1. Determine and include the following in its orders:

- 5 a. whether the individualized service plan, services, and  
6 placement meet the special needs and best interests of  
7 the child with the child's health, safety, and  
8 educational needs specifically addressed,
- 9 b. whether there is a need for the continued placement of  
10 the child,
- 11 c. whether the current permanency plan for the child  
12 remains the appropriate plan to meet the health,  
13 safety, and best interests of the child,
- 14 d. whether the services set forth in the individualized  
15 service plan and the responsibilities of the parties  
16 need to be clarified or modified due to the  
17 availability of additional information or changed  
18 circumstances or as the court determines to be in the  
19 best interests of the child and necessary for the  
20 correction of the conditions that led to the  
21 adjudication of the child,
- 22 e. whether the terms of visitation need to be modified,  
23 including the visitation with siblings if separated,
- 24

- 1 f. the time frame that should be followed to achieve  
2 reunification or other permanent plan for the child,
- 3 g. whether reasonable efforts have been made to provide  
4 for the safe return of the child to the child's own  
5 home. If the court determines or has previously  
6 determined that reasonable efforts are not required  
7 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-4-809 of this  
8 title, or that continuation of reasonable efforts to  
9 reunite the child with the child's family is  
10 inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child,  
11 the court shall determine if reasonable efforts are  
12 being made to place the child in a timely manner in  
13 accordance with the permanency plan and determine the  
14 steps necessary to finalize permanency for the child,
- 15 h. where appropriate, when the child is ~~sixteen (16)~~  
16 fourteen (14) years of age or older, whether services  
17 are being provided that will assist the child in  
18 making the transition from foster care to ~~independent~~  
19 living a successful adulthood. The court shall  
20 inquire or cause inquiry to be made of the child  
21 regarding any proposed independent living plan,
- 22 i. whether the nature and extent of services being  
23 provided the child and parent or parents of the child  
24 are adequate and shall order that additional services



1 be provided or studies, assessments, or evaluations be  
2 conducted, if necessary, to ensure the safety of the  
3 child and to protect the child from further physical,  
4 mental, or emotional harm, or to correct the  
5 conditions that led to the adjudication,

6 j. whether, in accordance with the safety or well-being  
7 of any child, reasonable efforts have been made to:

8 (1) place siblings, who have been removed, together  
9 in the same foster care, guardianship, or  
10 adoptive placement, and

11 (2) provide for frequent visitation or other ongoing  
12 interaction in the case of siblings who have been  
13 removed and who are not placed together, and

14 k. whether, during the ninety-day period immediately  
15 prior to the date on which the child in the custody of  
16 the Department will attain eighteen (18) years of age,  
17 the Department and, as appropriate, other  
18 representatives of the child are providing the child  
19 with assistance and support in developing an  
20 appropriate transition plan that is personalized at  
21 the direction of the child, that includes specific  
22 options on housing, health insurance, education, local  
23 opportunities for mentors and continuing support  
24

1 services, and work force supports and employment

2 services, and is as detailed as the child may elect;

3 2. Consider in-state and out-of-state placement options for the  
4 child; and

5 3. Determine the safety of the child and consider fully all  
6 relevant prior and current information including, but not limited  
7 to, the report or reports submitted pursuant to Sections 1-4-805 and  
8 1-4-808 of this title.

9 E. In making its findings, the court shall consider the  
10 following:

11 1. Whether compliance with the individualized service plan has  
12 occurred, including whether the Department has provided care that is  
13 consistent with the health, safety, and educational needs of the  
14 child while in an out-of-home placement;

15 2. Whether the Department is taking appropriate steps to ensure  
16 that the foster family follows the reasonable and prudent parent  
17 standard and whether the child has regular opportunities to engage  
18 in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities;

19 3. The extent of progress that has been made toward alleviating  
20 or correcting the conditions that caused the child to be adjudicated  
21 deprived;

22 ~~3.~~ 4. Whether the child should be returned to a parent or  
23 parents and whether or not the health, safety, and welfare of the  
24 child can be protected by a parent or parents if returned home; and

1       4. 5. An appropriate permanency plan for the child, including  
2 concurrent planning when applicable, pursuant to Section 1-4-706 of  
3 this title; provided, a permanency plan for a planned alternative  
4 permanent placement shall be limited to a child age sixteen (16) or  
5 older.

6           SECTION 5.        AMENDATORY        10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-4-811, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8           Section 1-4-811. A. 1. The court shall conduct a permanency  
9 hearing to determine the appropriate permanency goal for the child  
10 and to order completion of all steps necessary to finalize the  
11 permanent plan. The hearing shall be held no later than:

- 12           a. six (6) months after placing the child in out-of-home  
13 placement and every six (6) months thereafter, and
- 14           b. thirty (30) days after a determination by the court  
15 that reasonable efforts to return a child to either  
16 parent are not required pursuant to the provisions of  
17 Section 1-4-809 of this title.

18           2. A child shall be considered to have entered out-of-home  
19 placement on the earlier of:

- 20           a. the adjudication date, or
- 21           b. the date that is sixty (60) days after the date on  
22 which the child is removed from the home.

23           3. Subsequent permanency hearings shall be held at least every  
24 six (6) months for any child who continues to be in an out-of-home

1 placement. At the request of a party, the Department of Human  
2 Services, or on the motion of the court, the initial and subsequent  
3 permanency hearings may be held more frequently.

4 4. At each permanency hearing, the court may consider testimony  
5 of any person who has relevant information about the status of the  
6 child or the status of the treatment plan. All parties shall have  
7 the opportunity to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses.  
8 The rules of evidence shall not apply to permanency hearings and all  
9 evidence helpful in determining the proper permanency goal shall be  
10 considered including, but not limited to, oral and written reports,  
11 which may be admitted and may be relied upon to the extent of their  
12 probative value, even though not competent for the purposes of the  
13 adjudicatory hearing.

14 B. A permanency hearing may be held concurrently with a  
15 dispositional or review hearing.

16 C. If a foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative is  
17 currently providing care for a child, the Department shall give the  
18 foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative notice of a  
19 proceeding concerning the child. A foster parent, preadoptive  
20 parent, or relative providing care for a child has the right to be  
21 heard at the proceeding. Except when allowed to intervene, the  
22 foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative providing care for  
23 the child is not considered a party to the juvenile court proceeding  
24

1 solely because of notice and the right to be heard at the  
2 proceeding.

3 D. At the hearing, the court shall determine or review the  
4 continued appropriateness of the permanency plan of the child and  
5 whether a change in the plan is necessary; the date by which the  
6 goal of permanency for the child is scheduled to be achieved, and  
7 whether the current placement of the child continues to be the most  
8 suitable for the health, safety, and welfare of the child. The  
9 court shall also, in an age-appropriate manner, inquire or cause  
10 inquiry to be made of the child regarding the proposed permanency  
11 plan and if the child is age ~~sixteen (16)~~ fourteen (14) or older,  
12 the ~~independent living plan~~ planning for the transition of the child  
13 to a successful adulthood.

14 E. A transcript shall be made of each permanency hearing or the  
15 proceeding shall be memorialized by appropriate written findings of  
16 facts, and the court having considered all relevant information  
17 shall order one of the following permanency plans for the child:

18 1. Reunification with the parent, parents, or legal guardian of  
19 the child where:

20 a. reunification can be expected to occur within an  
21 established time frame that is consistent with the  
22 developmental needs of the child, and

23 b. the health and safety of the child can be adequately  
24 safeguarded if returned home;

1           2. Placement for adoption after the rights of the parents have  
2 been terminated or after a petition has been filed to terminate  
3 parental rights;

4           3. Placement with a person who will be the permanent guardian  
5 of the child and is able to adequately and appropriately safeguard  
6 the health, safety, and welfare of the child; or

7           4. a. Placement in the legal custody of the Department under  
8 a planned alternative permanent living arrangement  
9 placement, provided that the child is age sixteen (16)  
10 or older and there are compelling reasons documented by  
11 the Department and presented to the court that none of  
12 the above described plans is appropriate for the  
13 health, safety, and welfare of the child at each  
14 permanency hearing that include the intensive, ongoing  
15 and, as of the date of the hearing, unsuccessful  
16 efforts made to:

17           (1) return the child home, or

18           (2) place the child with a fit and willing relative,  
19 including adult siblings, a legal guardian, or an  
20 adoptive parent, and

21           (3) find biological family members for the child  
22 utilizing search technology, including social  
23 media.  
24

1        b. The Department shall also document at each permanency  
2        hearing the steps taken, including inquiry of the  
3        child in an age-appropriate manner, to ensure that:

- 4        (1) the foster family home of the child or facility  
5        where the child is placed is following the  
6        reasonable and prudent parent standard, and  
7        (2) the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to  
8        engage in age-appropriate or developmentally  
9        appropriate activities.

10       c. When a planned alternative permanent placement is the  
11       court-ordered permanency plan for the child, the court  
12       shall at each permanency hearing:

- 13       (1) ask the child about the permanency outcome the  
14       child desires, and  
15       (2) make a judicial determination, as of the date of  
16       the hearing, why a planned alternative permanent  
17       placement is the best permanency plan for the  
18       child and provide compelling reasons why it  
19       continues to not be in the best interests of the  
20       child to return home or be placed for adoption  
21       with a legal guardian or with a fit and willing  
22       relative.

23       F. In addition to the findings required under subsection E of  
24       this section, the court shall also make written findings related to:

1           1. Whether the Department has made reasonable efforts to  
2 finalize the permanency plan that is in effect for the child and a  
3 summary of the efforts the Department has made; or, in the case of  
4 an Indian child, whether the Department has made active efforts to  
5 provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs as required by  
6 25 U.S.C., Section 1912(d);

7           2. If the permanency plan is for the child to remain in out-of-  
8 home care, whether the child's out-of-home placement continues to be  
9 appropriate and in the best interests of the child;

10          3. If the current placement is not expected to be permanent,  
11 the court's projected timetable for return home or for placement in  
12 an adoptive home with a guardian, or another planned permanent  
13 living arrangement; and

14          4. Whether reasonable efforts, in accordance with the safety or  
15 well-being of any child, have been made to:

16           a. place siblings, who have been removed, together in the  
17 same foster care, guardianship, or adoptive placement,  
18 and

19           b. provide for frequent visitation or other ongoing  
20 interaction in the case of siblings who have been  
21 removed and who are not placed together.

22          G. The court may make appropriate orders to ensure timely  
23 implementation of the permanency plan and shall order the plan to be  
24 accomplished within a specified period of time.



1 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-7-101, as  
2 amended by Section 4, Chapter 172, O.S.L. 2014 (10A O.S. Supp. 2014,  
3 Section 1-7-101), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 1-7-101. A. This section applies to persons,  
5 institutions, or agencies, other than the Department of Human  
6 Services, which receive custody of a child pursuant to a court order  
7 as provided by the Oklahoma Children's Code.

8 B. 1. The person, institution, or agency receiving custody  
9 shall have the right to, and shall be responsible for, the care and  
10 control of the child, and shall have the duty and authority to  
11 provide the following for the child:

- 12 a. food, clothing, and shelter,
- 13 b. medical care as authorized by the court, ~~and~~
- 14 c. education and discipline, and
- 15 d. encouragement of the emotional and developmental growth  
16 of the child by allowing the child to participate in  
17 age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate  
18 extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social  
19 activities, using a reasonable and prudent parent  
20 standard.

21 2. The person, institution, or agency may provide or arrange  
22 for the emergency admission, inpatient evaluation, or inpatient  
23 treatment of a child only pursuant to the Inpatient Mental Health  
24 and Substance Abuse Treatment of Minors Act. Nothing in this

1 subsection shall be interpreted to prohibit or preclude the  
2 provision of outpatient behavioral health services, including an  
3 outpatient examination, counseling, educational, rehabilitative or  
4 other similar services to such child, as necessary and appropriate,  
5 in the absence of a specific court order for such services.

6 3. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to:

- 7 a. relieve a parent of the obligation to provide for the  
8 support of the child as otherwise provided by law, or
- 9 b. limit the authority of the court to order a parent to  
10 make support payments or to make payments or  
11 reimbursements for medical care or treatment,  
12 including behavioral health care or treatment, to the  
13 person, institution, or agency having custody of the  
14 child, or
- 15 c. abrogate the right of the child to any benefits  
16 provided through public funds for which the child is  
17 otherwise eligible.

18 4. No person, agency, or institution shall be liable in a civil  
19 suit for damages for authorizing or not authorizing medical care, as  
20 determined by competent medical authority.

21 C. 1. If the child is placed in the custody of a person,  
22 institution, or agency, whether in emergency, temporary, or  
23 permanent custody, the person, institution, or agency shall ensure  
24 the child is not returned to the care or supervision of any person

1 from whom the child was removed or to any person the court has  
2 previously ordered not to have contact with the child without  
3 specific authorization from the court.

4 2. The person, institution, or agency having legal custody of a  
5 child pursuant to an order of the court shall receive notice of  
6 court proceedings regarding the child and shall be allowed to  
7 intervene upon application as a party to all court proceedings  
8 pertaining to the care and custody of the child.

9 D. This section shall not apply when a parent or legal  
10 custodian executes a power of attorney to delegate parental or legal  
11 authority as authorized by Section ~~±~~ 700 of ~~this act~~ Title 10 of the  
12 Oklahoma Statutes.

13 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-7-105, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 1-7-105. A. The Department of Human Services shall  
16 promulgate written rules, policies, and procedures governing the  
17 operation of those residential care facilities, including group  
18 homes, operated by or under contract with the Department wherein  
19 ~~children~~ a child may be placed, requiring assurance that at least  
20 one employee of the facility is designated and authorized to apply  
21 the reasonable and prudent parent standard to decisions involving  
22 the participation of a child in age-appropriate or developmentally  
23 appropriate activities. The authorized employee shall be provided  
24

1 with training on how to use and apply the reasonable and prudent  
2 parent standard.

3 B. The policies prescribed shall, at a minimum, ensure that:

4 1. A child shall not be punished by physical force, deprivation  
5 of nutritious meals or family visits, or solitary confinement;

6 2. A child shall have the opportunity to participate in  
7 physical exercise each day;

8 3. A child shall be allowed daily access to showers;

9 4. A child shall be allowed his or her own clothing or  
10 individualized clothing which is clean;

11 5. A child shall have constant access to writing materials and  
12 may send mail without limitation, censorship, or prior reading, and  
13 may receive mail without prior reading, except that mail may be  
14 opened in the presence of the child, without being read, to inspect  
15 for contraband or if authorized by the court for the protection of  
16 the child;

17 6. A child shall have a right to communicate and to visit with  
18 his or her family on a regular basis, and to communicate with  
19 persons in the community provided the communication or visitation is  
20 in the best interests of the child;

21 7. A child shall have timely access to medical care as needed;

22 8. A child in the custody or care of the Department shall be  
23 provided access to an education including teaching, educational  
24 materials, and books;

1 9. A child shall have a right to access to the child's  
2 attorney;

3 10. A child shall be afforded a grievance procedure, including  
4 an appeal procedure;

5 11. ~~A child's~~ The behavioral health needs of the child shall be  
6 met, protected, and served through provision of guidance,  
7 counseling, and treatment programs, staffed by competent,  
8 professionally qualified persons; ~~and~~

9 12. The emotional and developmental growth of the child shall  
10 be encouraged by allowing the child to participate in age-  
11 appropriate and developmentally appropriate extracurricular,  
12 enrichment, cultural, and social activities, using a reasonable and  
13 prudent parent standard; and

14 13. Use of physical force, when authorized, shall be the least  
15 force necessary under the circumstances and shall be permitted only  
16 under the following circumstances:

- 17 a. for self-protection,
- 18 b. to separate children who are fighting,
- 19 c. to restrain children in danger of inflicting harm to  
20 themselves or others, or
- 21 d. to deter children who are in the process of leaving  
22 the facility without authorization.

23 C. Any contract or agreement entered into by the Department for  
24 the residential care and treatment of children in the custody of the

1 Department shall provide that ~~the contractor~~ a failure to comply  
2 with the provisions of subsections A and B of this section may  
3 result in a termination or cancellation of the contract or other  
4 appropriate sanction.

5 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-7-106, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 1-7-106. A. When a child is placed into foster care,  
8 the child shall, when possible, be placed with relatives, or other  
9 persons having a kinship relationship with the child, who are  
10 determined to be suitable, capable and willing to serve as  
11 caretakers for the child; provided however, if the child is  
12 determined to be an Indian child, as defined by the federal and  
13 state Indian Child Welfare Acts, the placement preferences specified  
14 by Section 1915 of Title 25 of the United States Code and Section  
15 40.2 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall apply.

16 B. A foster care placement shall be made that ~~meets:~~

17 1. Meets the treatment needs of the foster child and supports  
18 the ~~case~~ permanency plan goals for that child and the family of that  
19 child, ~~and is;~~

20 2. Follows the reasonable and prudent parent standard of care  
21 for the foster child while at the same time encouraging the  
22 emotional and developmental growth of the child when determining  
23 whether to allow the child to participate in extracurricular,  
24 enrichment, cultural, and social activities;

1        3. Is in the best interests of the child; ~~provided however, if~~  
2 ~~the child is determined to be an Indian Child, as defined by the~~  
3 ~~federal and state Indian Child Welfare Acts, the placement~~  
4 ~~preferences specified by Section 1915 of Title 25 of the United~~  
5 ~~States Code and Section 40.2 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~  
6 ~~shall apply and~~

7        4. Complies with all requirements of this section, subject to  
8 an appropriate sanction for noncompliance.

9        SECTION 9.        AMENDATORY        10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-9-107, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11        Section 1-9-107. A. This section shall be known and may be  
12 cited as the "~~Independent Living~~ Successful Adulthood Act".

13        B. The purpose of the ~~Independent Living~~ Successful Adulthood  
14 Act shall be:

15        1. To ensure that eligible individuals, who have been or are in  
16 the foster care program of the Department of Human Services or a  
17 federally recognized Indian tribe with whom the Department has a  
18 contract, due to abuse or neglect, receive the protection and  
19 support necessary to allow those individuals to become self-reliant  
20 and productive citizens through the provision of requisite services  
21 that include, but are not limited to, transitional planning,  
22 housing, medical coverage, and education; provided, that  
23 eligibility for tuition waivers shall be as set forth in Section  
24 3230 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

1           2. To break the cycle of abuse and neglect that obligates the  
2 state to assume custody of children.

3           C. An individual is eligible to receive ~~independent living~~  
4 services for the transition of the child to a successful adulthood  
5 from the age of ~~sixteen (16)~~ fourteen (14) until the age of eighteen  
6 (18), during the time the individual is in the custody of the  
7 Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe and in an out-of-  
8 home placement.

9           D. ~~Independent living~~ The permanency plan for the child in  
10 transition to a successful adulthood shall be developed in  
11 consultation with the child and, at the option of the child, with up  
12 to two members of the permanency planning team to be chosen by the  
13 child, excluding the foster parent and caseworker for the child  
14 subject to the following provisions:

15           1. One individual selected by the child may be designated to be  
16 the advisor and, as necessary, advocate of the child, with respect  
17 to the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to  
18 the child; and

19           2. The Department may reject an individual selected by the  
20 child to be a member of the permanency planning team at any time if  
21 the Department has good cause to believe that the selected  
22 individual would not act in the best interests of the child.

23           E. 1. Each child in foster care under the responsibility of  
24 the Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe and in an out-



1 of-home placement, who has attained fourteen (14) years of age shall  
2 be given a written Notice of Rights that describes the following  
3 specific rights of the child:

4 a. the rights of the child with respect to education,  
5 health, visitation, and court participation,

6 b. the right to be provided with the documents specified  
7 in subsection F of this section, and

8 c. the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

9 2. The child shall sign an acknowledgment stating that the  
10 child has been provided with a copy of the Notice of Rights and that  
11 the rights described in the notice have been explained to the child  
12 in an age-appropriate way.

13 F. A child about to leave foster care by reason of having  
14 attained eighteen (18) years of age and who has been in foster care  
15 for at least six (6) months shall be given the following documents  
16 pertaining to the child:

17 1. An official or certified copy of the United States birth  
18 certificate;

19 2. A social security card issued by the Commissioner of Social  
20 Security;

21 3. Health insurance information;

22 4. A copy of the medical records of the child; and

23 5. A state-issued driver license or identification card.

1        G. Successful adulthood services may continue to the age of  
2 twenty-one (21), provided the individual is in the custody of the  
3 Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe due to abuse or  
4 neglect and is in an out-of-home placement at the time of the  
5 individual's eighteenth birthday.

6        ~~E. H.~~ Individuals who are ~~sixteen (16)~~ fourteen (14) years of  
7 age or older, who have been released from the custody of the  
8 Department or federally recognized Indian tribe due to the entry of  
9 an adoption decree or guardianship order are eligible to receive  
10 ~~independent living~~ successful adulthood services until the age of  
11 twenty-one (21).

12        ~~F. I.~~ Individuals who are eligible for services pursuant to the  
13 ~~Independent Living~~ Successful Adulthood Act and who are between  
14 eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) years of age shall be eligible for  
15 Medicaid coverage, provided such individuals were also in the  
16 custody of the Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe on  
17 the date they reached eighteen (18) years of age and meet Medicaid  
18 financial eligibility guidelines.

19        SECTION 10.        AMENDATORY        10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-9-116,  
20 is amended to read as follows:

21        Section 1-9-116. A. The Department of Human Services and each  
22 child-placing agency shall develop:

23        1. A foster care education program to provide training for  
24 persons intending to furnish foster care services; and

1 2. Continuing educational programs for foster parents.

2 B. 1. In addition to any other conditions and requirements  
3 specified by the state agency or child-placing agency, as  
4 applicable, prior to placement of a child in foster placement other  
5 than kinship care, each foster parent shall have completed the  
6 training approved by the Department or the child-placing agency, as  
7 appropriate.

8 2. A foster parent providing kinship foster care shall, if  
9 possible, complete the training developed by the Department for  
10 kinship foster care prior to placement or at such other times as  
11 required by the Department; provided, however, in no event shall  
12 training take place later than one hundred twenty (120) days after  
13 placement of the child with the kinship foster parent. Until a  
14 kinship foster parent receives final approval from the Department to  
15 provide foster care services to a child, the kinship foster parent  
16 shall not be eligible to receive any payment for providing foster  
17 care services.

18 3. Approved training shall require a minimum of twelve (12)  
19 hours of study related, but not limited, to physical care,  
20 education, learning disabilities, procedures for referral to and  
21 receipt of necessary professional services, behavioral assessment  
22 and modification, ~~independent-living~~ transition to successful  
23 adulthood skills, and procedures for biological parent contact.  
24 Such training shall relate to the area of parental substitute

1 authority, the reasonable and prudent parent standard relative to  
2 child participation in age-appropriate or developmentally  
3 appropriate activities, behavioral management techniques including,  
4 but not limited to, parent-child conflict resolution techniques,  
5 stress management, and any other appropriate technique to teach the  
6 foster parent how to manage the child's behavior in a manner  
7 appropriate to the age and development of the foster child.

8 4. The foster parent or person intending to provide foster care  
9 services may complete the training as part of an approved training  
10 program offered by a public or private agency with expertise in the  
11 provision of child foster care or in related subject areas.

12 C. In order to assist persons providing kinship foster care,  
13 the Department shall immediately refer kinship foster parents and  
14 the child for assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy  
15 Families Program until the certification and training requirements  
16 have been completed.

17 D. Foster parent training programs may include, but not be  
18 limited to, in-service training, workshops and seminars developed by  
19 the state agency; seminars and courses offered through public or  
20 private education agencies; and workshops, seminars and courses  
21 pertaining to behavioral and developmental disabilities and to the  
22 development of mutual support services for foster parents.

1 E. The Department and each child-placing agency shall provide  
2 statewide training, education, and continuing education programs for  
3 foster parents.

4 F. The Department or each child-placing agency shall notify a  
5 foster parent at least ten (10) business days in advance of the  
6 statewide scheduling of education, continuing education or foster  
7 parent training occurring near the vicinity of the home of a foster  
8 parent.

9 G. The Department may also provide additional foster care  
10 training to a foster parent. A foster parent may request in writing  
11 to the Department that additional foster parent training be  
12 provided.

13 SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-9-123 of Title 10A, unless  
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. 1. The Department of Human Services shall, in consultation  
17 with state and local law enforcement, juvenile justice systems,  
18 health care providers, education agencies, and organizations with  
19 experience in dealing with at-risk children and youth, establish  
20 policies and procedures, including relevant training for  
21 caseworkers, for identifying, documenting in agency records and  
22 determining appropriate services for children and youth at risk of  
23 sex trafficking.  
24

1           2. The policies and procedures shall be developed for every  
2 child or youth over whom the Department has responsibility for  
3 placement, care or supervision and shall apply when the Department  
4 has reasonable cause to believe a child or youth is currently, or is  
5 at risk of being, a victim of sex trafficking, including a child or  
6 youth:

- 7           a. for whom the Department has an open case file, but who  
8           has not been removed from the home,
- 9           b. who has run away from foster care and who has not  
10           attained eighteen (18) years of age, or
- 11           c. who is not in foster care but is receiving services.

12           B. When notified a child or youth has run away or is missing  
13 from a foster placement the Department shall, within twenty-four  
14 (24) hours of notification, report such status of the child or youth  
15 to local law enforcement, the National Crime Information Center, and  
16 to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

17           C. The Department shall develop and implement specific  
18 protocols to:

19           1. Expeditiously locate any child or youth missing from foster  
20 care;

21           2. Determine the primary factors that contributed to the child  
22 or youth running away or otherwise being absent from foster care;

23           3. Respond, to the extent possible and appropriate, to those  
24 factors that contributed to the absence from care or runaway

1 behaviors in the current and subsequent placements of the child or  
2 youth; and

3 4. Determine what the child or youth experienced while absent  
4 from care, that would include an appropriate screening to determine  
5 if the child or youth is a possible victim of sex trafficking.

6 D. The Department shall report to law enforcement authorities  
7 immediately, and in no case later than twenty-four (24) hours, after  
8 receiving information on a child or youth who has been identified as  
9 being a sex trafficking victim as defined by Section 1-1-105 of  
10 Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 SECTION 12. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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