

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 4302

By: Norwood

6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

7 An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 601.6, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 178,
9 O.S.L. 2025 (10 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 601.6),
10 which relates to the Office of Juvenile System
11 Oversight; authorizing the release of certain
12 information for certain purposes; and providing an
13 effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.6, as
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 178, O.S.L. 2025 (10 O.S. Supp. 2025,
17 Section 601.6), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 601.6. A. For purposes of this section, the term
19 "children and youth service system" shall have the same meaning as
20 it is defined in Section 600 of this title.

21 B. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall have the
22 responsibility of inspecting and investigating misfeasance and
23 malfeasance within the children and youth service system, as
24 directed by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, to
ascertain compliance with established responsibilities.

1 C. The Office shall conduct not less than one but not more than
2 two regular, periodic, unannounced inspections of state-operated
3 children's institutions and facilities annually. The Office is
4 further authorized to inspect privately operated children's
5 institutions and facilities that receive state or federal funding,
6 on a periodic basis or as needed.

7 D. The Office shall investigate complaints filed with the
8 Office regarding the children and youth service system.

9 E. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall have the
10 authority to:

11 1. Access all facilities within the children and youth service
12 system for the purpose of conducting inspections and investigations;

13 2. Examine and copy all records and budgets pertaining to the
14 children and youth service system and to review inspection reports
15 of the State Fire Marshal, State Department of Health, and any other
16 agency that accredits such institutions and facilities;

17 3. Interview the residents of institutions and facilities
18 within the children and youth service system;

19 4. Subpoena witnesses and hold public hearings;

20 5. Establish, in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Act,
21 Sections 1801 through 1813 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a
22 voluntary program for foster parents to mediate complaints
23 concerning the rights of foster parents, as provided for in Section
24 1-9-119 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, that relate to

1 certain actions, inactions or decisions of the Department of Human
2 Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or child-placing
3 agencies that may adversely affect the safety and well-being of
4 children in the custody of the state;

5 6. Receive any complaint alleging that an employee of the
6 Department of Human Services or a child-placing agency has
7 threatened a foster parent with removal of a child from the foster
8 parent, harassed a foster parent, or refused to place a child in a
9 licensed or certified foster home, or disrupted a child placement as
10 retaliation or discrimination towards a foster parent who has:

- 11 a. filed a grievance pursuant to Section 1-9-120 of Title
12 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- 13 b. provided information to any state official or
14 Department employee, or
- 15 c. testified, assisted, or otherwise participated in an
16 investigation, proceeding, or hearing against the
17 Department or child-placing agency.

18 The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall forward the
19 complaints to the Office of Client Advocacy for investigation
20 pursuant to subsection D of Section 1-9-112 of Title 10A of the
21 Oklahoma Statutes. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall
22 work with the Office of Client Advocacy to ensure the complaints are
23 investigated and resolved in accordance with the grievance
24 procedures provided in Section 1-9-120 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma

1 Statutes. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any
2 complaint by a foster parent regarding the result of a criminal,
3 administrative, or civil proceeding for a violation of any law,
4 rule, or contract provision by that foster parent, or the action
5 taken by the Department or a child-placing agency in conformity with
6 the result of any such proceeding;

7 7. Issue reports to the Governor, Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Chief Justice
9 of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, any appropriate
10 prosecutorial agency, the director of the agency under
11 consideration, and other persons as necessary and appropriate; and

12 8. Provide recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on
13 Children and Youth on or before May 1 of each year.

14 F. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall not release
15 information that would identify a person who makes a complaint to
16 the Office, unless a:

17 1. A court of competent jurisdiction orders release of the
18 information for good cause shown; or

19 2. The disclosure of such information to the appropriate law
20 enforcement agency is needed to protect the safety of others when a
21 complainant communicates a threat against an individual or entity.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

23

24 60-2-16765 CMA 02/26/26

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24