

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1909

By: Jett

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Children's Code;
8 requiring certain selection process for medical
9 evaluators; directing the Office of the
10 Administrative Director of the Courts to implement
11 certain system and policies; requiring maintenance of
12 certain audit system; authorizing civil, criminal,
13 and administrative enforcement; requiring certain
14 annual review and certification; amending 10A O.S.
15 2021, Section 1-4-603, which relates to order of
16 adjudication finding child to be deprived; modifying
17 certain standard; providing for codification; and
18 providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-3-105 of Title 10A, unless
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. To promote fair and objective determinations in cases
20 involving allegations of child abuse or neglect and prevent
21 potential bias or doctor shopping by the Department of Human
22 Services, all proceedings under the Oklahoma Children's Code that
23 necessitate a medical evaluator shall use a blind, randomized
24 selection process for medical evaluators.

1 B. The Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts
2 shall establish a blind, randomized selection process for medical
3 evaluators. The office shall implement a blind, random assignment
4 system from a statewide pool of qualified, independent medical
5 professionals, including consulting pediatricians and child abuse
6 specialists. The office shall implement policies and procedures to
7 ensure impartial evaluations and unbiased medical findings.

8 C. The Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts
9 shall maintain a comprehensive audit system documenting all
10 interactions between Department of Human Services personnel,
11 consulting pediatricians, and child abuse specialists. This shall
12 include records of consultation frequency, instances where medical
13 opinions supported the Department's positions versus parental
14 defenses, and justifications for any deviations from randomization.

15 D. The Attorney General shall investigate violations of the
16 blind, randomized selection process, may bring civil actions to
17 enforce this section, and may criminally prosecute violations of
18 this section. In addition to civil and criminal penalties, the
19 court may impose sanctions to enforce this section. Licensure
20 boards may impose disciplinary action on licensees who violate this
21 section.

22 E. All medical evaluators involved in child abuse evaluations
23 shall complete annual review and certification by the Office of the
24 Administrative Director of the Courts, to include a course

1 emphasizing the paramount importance of parental rights, the
2 seriousness of arbitrary or capricious child removals, and adherence
3 to evidence-based practices that prioritize family preservation when
4 safe and appropriate.

5 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-4-603, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 1-4-603. A. If the court finds that:

8 1. The factual allegations in a petition filed by the state
9 alleging that a child is deprived are supported by ~~a preponderance~~
10 ~~of the evidence~~ proof beyond a reasonable doubt;

11 2. Such allegations are sufficient to support a finding that
12 the child is deprived; and

13 3. It is in the best interests of the child that the child be
14 declared to be a deprived child and made a ward of the court,
15 then the court shall sustain the petition, and shall make an order
16 of adjudication finding the child to be deprived and shall adjudge
17 the child as a ward of the court.

18 B. The order of adjudication shall include a statement that
19 advises the parent that failure to appear at any subsequent hearing
20 or comply with any requirements of the court may result in the
21 termination of parental rights to the child.

22 C. When a child has been adjudicated deprived, the court shall
23 enter a dispositional order pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-
24 4-707 of this title.

1 D. When a child has been adjudicated deprived, the parent or
2 other legal custodian shall register with the court clerk within two
3 (2) days of the adjudication and provide a valid, current address or
4 other place where the parent or other legal custodian may be served
5 with a summons. In the event that the address or place where the
6 parent or legal custodian may be served a summons changes during the
7 course of the litigation, the parent or other legal custodian shall
8 have the obligation of filing a change of address form with the
9 clerk. In the event that an amended petition or motion is filed,
10 the address listed on the form of the court clerk shall constitute
11 the last-known address of the parent or other legal custodian unless
12 the state has actual knowledge of the parent or other legal
13 custodian's location.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.
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