103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB2885

Introduced 2/16/2023, by Rep. Justin Slaughter

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

705 IL	CS 405/1-2	from	Ch.	37,	par.	801-2
705 IL	CS 405/1-3	from	Ch.	37,	par.	801-3
705 IL	CS 405/2-10	from	Ch.	37,	par.	802-10
705 IL	CS 405/2-13	from	Ch.	37,	par.	802-13
705 IL	CS 405/2-13.1					
705 IL	CS 405/2-21	from	Ch.	37,	par.	802-21
705 IL	CS 405/2-28	from	Ch.	37,	par.	802-28
705 IL	CS 405/2-31	from	Ch.	37,	par.	802-31
750 IL	CS 50/1	from	Ch.	40,	par.	1501

Amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Changes all references in the General Provisions Article and the Abused, Neglected or Dependent Minors Article of the Act from "reasonable efforts" to "active efforts". Defines "active efforts" as efforts that are affirmative, active, thorough, timely and intended to maintain or reunite a child with the child's family and represent a higher standard of conduct than reasonable efforts. Amends the Adoption Act. Provides that a person shall not be considered an unfit person for the sole reason that the Department of Children and Family Services or its assign has been found to have not made active efforts as defined in the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 during any period during the pendency of the case at hand.

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1 AN ACT concerning courts.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Juvenile Court Act of 1987 is amended by
changing Sections 1-2, 1-3, 2-10, 2-13, 2-13.1, 2-21, 2-28,
and 2-31 as follows:

7 (705 ILCS 405/1-2) (from Ch. 37, par. 801-2)

8 Sec. 1-2. Purpose and policy.

9 (1) The purpose of this Act is to secure for each minor subject hereto such care and guidance, preferably in his or 10 her own home, as will serve the safety and moral, emotional, 11 mental, and physical welfare of the minor and the best 12 13 interests of the community; to preserve and strengthen the 14 minor's family ties whenever possible, removing him or her from the custody of his or her parents only when his or her 15 16 safety or welfare or the protection of the public cannot be 17 adequately safequarded without removal; if the child is removed from the custody of his or her parent, the Department 18 19 of Children and Family Services immediately shall consider concurrent planning, as described in Section 5 of the Children 20 21 and Family Services Act so that permanency may occur at the 22 earliest opportunity; consideration should be given so that if reunification fails or is delayed, the placement made is the 23

1 best available placement to provide permanency for the child; 2 and, when the minor is removed from his or her own family, to 3 secure for him or her custody, care and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should be given by his or her 4 5 parents, and in cases where it should and can properly be done to place the minor in a family home so that he or she may 6 7 become a member of the family by legal adoption or otherwise. 8 Provided that a ground for unfitness under the Adoption Act 9 can be met, it may be appropriate to expedite termination of 10 parental rights:

11 (a) when active reasonable efforts are inappropriate, 12 or have been provided and were unsuccessful, and there are aggravating circumstances including, but not limited to, 13 14 those cases in which (i) the child or another child of that child's parent was (A) abandoned, (B) tortured, or (C) 15 16 chronically abused or (ii) the parent is criminally 17 convicted of (A) first degree murder or second degree murder of any child, (B) attempt or conspiracy to commit 18 19 first degree murder or second degree murder of any child, 20 (C) solicitation to commit murder, solicitation to commit murder for hire, solicitation to commit second degree 21 22 murder of any child, or aggravated assault in violation of 23 subdivision (a) (13) of Section 12-2 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, or (D) aggravated 24 25 criminal sexual assault in violation of Section 26 11-1.40(a)(1) or 12-14.1(a)(1) of the Criminal Code of

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1 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; or

2 (b) when the parental rights of a parent with respect 3 to another child of the parent have been involuntarily 4 terminated; or

5 (c) in those extreme cases in which the parent's 6 incapacity to care for the child, combined with an 7 extremely poor prognosis for treatment or rehabilitation, 8 justifies expedited termination of parental rights.

9 (2) In all proceedings under this Act the court may direct 10 the course thereof so as promptly to ascertain the 11 jurisdictional facts and fully to gather information bearing 12 upon the current condition and future welfare of persons subject to this Act. This Act shall be administered in a spirit 13 14 of humane concern, not only for the rights of the parties, but 15 also for the fears and the limits of understanding of all who 16 appear before the court.

17 (3) In all procedures under this Act, the following shall 18 apply:

(a) The procedural rights assured to the minor shall
be the rights of adults unless specifically precluded by
laws which enhance the protection of such minors.

(b) Every child has a right to services necessary to
his or her safety and proper development, including
health, education and social services.

(c) The parents' right to the custody of their childshall not prevail when the court determines that it is

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1 contrary to the health, safety, and best interests of the 2 child.

3 (4) This Act shall be liberally construed to carry out the4 foregoing purpose and policy.

5 (Source: P.A. 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

6 (705 ILCS 405/1-3) (from Ch. 37, par. 801-3)

Sec. 1-3. Definitions. Terms used in this Act, unless the
context otherwise requires, have the following meanings
ascribed to them:

10 (.05) "Active efforts" means efforts that are affirmative, 11 active, thorough, timely and intended to maintain or reunite a 12 child with the child's family and represent a higher standard 13 of conduct than reasonable efforts.

(1) "Adjudicatory hearing" means a hearing to determine 14 15 whether the allegations of a petition under Section 2-13, 3-15 16 or 4-12 that a minor under 18 years of age is abused, neglected or dependent, or requires authoritative intervention, or 17 18 addicted, respectively, are supported by a preponderance of the evidence or whether the allegations of a petition under 19 20 Section 5-520 that a minor is delinquent are proved beyond a 21 reasonable doubt.

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(2) "Adult" means a person 21 years of age or older.

(3) "Agency" means a public or private child care facility
 legally authorized or licensed by this State for placement or
 institutional care or for both placement and institutional

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1 care.

(4) "Association" means any organization, public or
private, engaged in welfare functions which include services
to or on behalf of children but does not include "agency" as
herein defined.

6 (4.05) Whenever a "best interest" determination is 7 required, the following factors shall be considered in the 8 context of the child's age and developmental needs:

9 (a) the physical safety and welfare of the child,
10 including food, shelter, health, and clothing;

11

(b) the development of the child's identity;

12 (c) the child's background and ties, including13 familial, cultural, and religious;

14

(d) the child's sense of attachments, including:

(i) where the child actually feels love,
attachment, and a sense of being valued (as opposed to
where adults believe the child should feel such love,
attachment, and a sense of being valued);

19 (ii) the child's sense of security;

20 (iii) the child's sense of familiarity;

21 (iv) continuity of affection for the child;

(v) the least disruptive placement alternative forthe child;

(e) the child's wishes and long-term goals;
(f) the child's community ties, including church,
school, and friends;

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(q) the child's need for permanence which includes the 1 2 child's need for stability and continuity of relationships 3 with parent figures and with siblings and other relatives; (h) the uniqueness of every family and child; 4 5 (i) the risks attendant to entering and being in 6 substitute care; and 7 (j) the preferences of the persons available to care 8 for the child.

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9 (4.1) "Chronic truant" shall have the definition ascribed10 to it in Section 26-2a of the School Code.

11 (5) "Court" means the circuit court in a session or 12 division assigned to hear proceedings under this Act.

13 (6) "Dispositional hearing" means a hearing to determine 14 whether a minor should be adjudged to be a ward of the court, 15 and to determine what order of disposition should be made in 16 respect to a minor adjudged to be a ward of the court.

17 (6.5) "Dissemination" or "disseminate" means to publish, 18 produce, print, manufacture, distribute, sell, lease, exhibit, 19 broadcast, display, transmit, or otherwise share information 20 in any format so as to make the information accessible to 21 others.

(7) "Emancipated minor" means any minor 16 years of age or
over who has been completely or partially emancipated under
the Emancipation of Minors Act or under this Act.

(7.03) "Expunge" means to physically destroy the recordsand to obliterate the minor's name from any official index,

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1 public record, or electronic database.

2 (7.05) "Foster parent" includes a relative caregiver
3 selected by the Department of Children and Family Services to
4 provide care for the minor.

5 (8) "Guardianship of the person" of a minor means the duty 6 and authority to act in the best interests of the minor, 7 subject to residual parental rights and responsibilities, to 8 make important decisions in matters having a permanent effect 9 on the life and development of the minor and to be concerned 10 with his or her general welfare. It includes but is not 11 necessarily limited to:

(a) the authority to consent to marriage, to enlistment in the armed forces of the United States, or to a major medical, psychiatric, and surgical treatment; to represent the minor in legal actions; and to make other decisions of substantial legal significance concerning the minor;

(b) the authority and duty of reasonable visitation,
except to the extent that these have been limited in the
best interests of the minor by court order;

(c) the rights and responsibilities of legal custody except where legal custody has been vested in another person or agency; and

(d) the power to consent to the adoption of the minor,
but only if expressly conferred on the guardian in
accordance with Section 2-29, 3-30, or 4-27.

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(8.1) "Juvenile court record" includes, but is not limited
 to:

3 (a) all documents filed in or maintained by the
4 juvenile court pertaining to a specific incident,
5 proceeding, or individual;

6 (b) all documents relating to a specific incident, 7 proceeding, or individual made available to or maintained 8 by probation officers;

9 (c) all documents, video or audio tapes, photographs, 10 and exhibits admitted into evidence at juvenile court 11 hearings; or

(d) all documents, transcripts, records, reports, or other evidence prepared by, maintained by, or released by any municipal, county, or State agency or department, in any format, if indicating involvement with the juvenile court relating to a specific incident, proceeding, or individual.

(8.2) "Juvenile law enforcement record" includes records 18 19 arrest, station adjustments, fingerprints, probation of 20 adjustments, the issuance of a notice to appear, or any other 21 records or documents maintained by any law enforcement agency 22 relating to a minor suspected of committing an offense, and 23 records maintained by a law enforcement agency that identifies a juvenile as a suspect in committing an offense, but does not 24 25 include records identifying a juvenile as a victim, witness, 26 or missing juvenile and any records created, maintained, or

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used for purposes of referral to programs relating to
 diversion as defined in subsection (6) of Section 5-105.

(9) "Legal custody" means the relationship created by an 3 order of court in the best interests of the minor which imposes 4 5 on the custodian the responsibility of physical possession of a minor and the duty to protect, train and discipline him and 6 7 to provide him with food, shelter, education and ordinary 8 medical care, except as these are limited by residual parental 9 rights responsibilities and the and rights and 10 responsibilities of the quardian of the person, if any.

11 (9.1) "Mentally capable adult relative" means a person 21 12 years of age or older who is not suffering from a mental 13 illness that prevents him or her from providing the care 14 necessary to safeguard the physical safety and welfare of a 15 minor who is left in that person's care by the parent or 16 parents or other person responsible for the minor's welfare.

17 (10) "Minor" means a person under the age of 21 years18 subject to this Act.

(11) "Parent" means a father or mother of a child and 19 20 includes any adoptive parent. It also includes a person (i) whose parentage is presumed or has been established under the 21 22 law of this or another jurisdiction or (ii) who has registered 23 with the Putative Father Registry in accordance with Section 12.1 of the Adoption Act and whose paternity has not been ruled 24 25 out under the law of this or another jurisdiction. It does not 26 include a parent whose rights in respect to the minor have been

terminated in any manner provided by law. It does not include a 1 2 person who has been or could be determined to be a parent under the Illinois Parentage Act of 1984 or the Illinois Parentage 3 Act of 2015, or similar parentage law in any other state, if 4 5 that person has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to a crime that resulted in the conception of the child under 6 7 Section 11-1.20, 11-1.30, 11-1.40, 11-11, 12-13, 12-14, 8 12-14.1, subsection (a) or (b) (but not subsection (c)) of 9 Section 11-1.50 or 12-15, or subsection (a), (b), (c), (e), or (f) (but not subsection (d)) of Section 11-1.60 or 12-16 of the 10 Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, or similar 11 12 statute in another jurisdiction unless upon motion of any party, other than the offender, to the 13 juvenile court proceedings the court finds it is in the child's best interest 14 15 to deem the offender a parent for purposes of the juvenile 16 court proceedings.

17 (11.1) "Permanency goal" means a goal set by the court as18 defined in subdivision (2) of Section 2-28.

(11.2) "Permanency hearing" means a hearing to set the 19 20 permanency goal and to review and determine (i) the appropriateness of the services contained in the plan and 21 22 whether those services have been provided, (ii) whether active 23 reasonable efforts have been made by all the parties to the service plan to achieve the goal, and (iii) whether the plan 24 25 and goal have been achieved.

26 (12) "Petition" means the petition provided for in Section

2-13, 3-15, 4-12 or 5-520, including any supplemental
 petitions thereunder in Section 3-15, 4-12 or 5-520.

(12.1) "Physically capable adult relative" means a person 3 21 years of age or older who does not have a severe physical 4 5 disability or medical condition, or is not suffering from alcoholism or drug addiction, that prevents him or her from 6 7 providing the care necessary to safeguard the physical safety and welfare of a minor who is left in that person's care by the 8 9 parent or parents or other person responsible for the minor's 10 welfare.

11 (12.2) "Post Permanency Sibling Contact Agreement" has the 12 meaning ascribed to the term in Section 7.4 of the Children and 13 Family Services Act.

(12.3) "Residential treatment center" means a licensed 14 15 setting that provides 24-hour care to children in a group home 16 or institution, including a facility licensed as a child care 17 institution under Section 2.06 of the Child Care Act of 1969, a licensed group home under Section 2.16 of the Child Care Act of 18 1969, a secure child care facility as defined in paragraph 19 20 (18) of this Section, or any similar facility in another state. "Residential treatment center" does not include a 21 22 relative foster home or a licensed foster family home.

(13) "Residual parental rights and responsibilities" means those rights and responsibilities remaining with the parent after the transfer of legal custody or guardianship of the person, including, but not necessarily limited to, the right

to reasonable visitation (which may be limited by the court in the best interests of the minor as provided in subsection (8) (b) of this Section), the right to consent to adoption, the right to determine the minor's religious affiliation, and the responsibility for his support.

6 (14) "Shelter" means the temporary care of a minor in 7 physically unrestricting facilities pending court disposition 8 or execution of court order for placement.

9 (14.05) "Shelter placement" means a temporary or emergency 10 placement for a minor, including an emergency foster home 11 placement.

12 (14.1) "Sibling Contact Support Plan" has the meaning
13 ascribed to the term in Section 7.4 of the Children and Family
14 Services Act.

(14.2) "Significant event report" means a written document 15 16 describing an occurrence or event beyond the customary 17 operations, routines, or relationships in the Department of Children of Family Services, a child care facility, or other 18 19 entity that is licensed or regulated by the Department of 20 Children of Family Services or that provides services for the Department of Children of Family Services under a grant, 21 22 contract, or purchase of service agreement; involving children 23 or youth, employees, foster parents, or relative caregivers; allegations of abuse or neglect or any other incident raising 24 25 a concern about the well-being of a minor under the 26 jurisdiction of the court under Article II of the Juvenile

1 Court Act; incidents involving damage to property, allegations 2 of criminal activity, misconduct, or other occurrences 3 affecting the operations of the Department of Children of 4 Family Services or a child care facility; any incident that 5 could have media impact; and unusual incidents as defined by 6 Department of Children and Family Services rule.

7 (15) "Station adjustment" means the informal handling of8 an alleged offender by a juvenile police officer.

9 (16) "Ward of the court" means a minor who is so adjudged 10 under Section 2-22, 3-23, 4-20 or 5-705, after a finding of the 11 requisite jurisdictional facts, and thus is subject to the 12 dispositional powers of the court under this Act.

13 (17) "Juvenile police officer" means a sworn police 14 officer who has completed a Basic Recruit Training Course, has 15 been assigned to the position of juvenile police officer by 16 his or her chief law enforcement officer and has completed the 17 necessary juvenile officers training as prescribed by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, or in the 18 case of a State police officer, juvenile officer training 19 20 approved by the Director of the Illinois State Police.

(18) "Secure child care facility" means any child care facility licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services to provide secure living arrangements for children under 18 years of age who are subject to placement in facilities under the Children and Family Services Act and who are not subject to placement in facilities for whom standards

are established by the Department of Corrections under Section 1 2 3-15-2 of the Unified Code of Corrections. "Secure child care 3 facility" also means a facility that is designed and operated to ensure that all entrances and exits from the facility, a 4 5 building, or a distinct part of the building are under the 6 exclusive control of the staff of the facility, whether or not 7 the child has the freedom of movement within the perimeter of 8 the facility, building, or distinct part of the building.

9 (Source: P.A. 102-538, eff. 8-20-21.)

10 (705 ILCS 405/2-10) (from Ch. 37, par. 802-10)

Sec. 2-10. Temporary custody hearing. At the appearance of the minor before the court at the temporary custody hearing, all witnesses present shall be examined before the court in relation to any matter connected with the allegations made in the petition.

(1) If the court finds that there is not probable cause to
believe that the minor is abused, neglected or dependent it
shall release the minor and dismiss the petition.

(2) If the court finds that there is probable cause to believe that the minor is abused, neglected or dependent, the court shall state in writing the factual basis supporting its finding and the minor, his or her parent, guardian, custodian and other persons able to give relevant testimony shall be examined before the court. The Department of Children and Family Services shall give testimony concerning indicated

reports of abuse and neglect, of which they are aware through 2 the central registry, involving the minor's parent, guardian 3 or custodian. After such testimony, the court may, consistent with the health, safety and best interests of the minor, enter 4 5 an order that the minor shall be released upon the request of parent, quardian or custodian if the parent, quardian or 6 custodian appears to take custody. If it is determined that a 7 8 parent's, quardian's, or custodian's compliance with critical 9 services mitigates the necessity for removal of the minor from 10 his or her home, the court may enter an Order of Protection 11 setting forth reasonable conditions of behavior that a parent, 12 guardian, or custodian must observe for a specified period of time, not to exceed 12 months, without a violation; provided, 13 14 however, that the 12-month period shall begin anew after any 15 violation. "Custodian" includes the Department of Children and 16 Family Services, if it has been given custody of the child, or 17 any other agency of the State which has been given custody or wardship of the child. If it is consistent with the health, 18 19 safety and best interests of the minor, the court may also prescribe shelter care and order that the minor be kept in a 20 21 suitable place designated by the court or in a shelter care 22 facility designated by the Department of Children and Family 23 Services or a licensed child welfare agency; however, on and after January 1, 2015 (the effective date of Public Act 24 25 98-803) and before January 1, 2017, a minor charged with a

criminal offense under the Criminal Code of 1961 or the

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Criminal Code of 2012 or adjudicated delinguent shall not be 1 2 placed in the custody of or committed to the Department of 3 Children and Family Services by any court, except a minor less than 16 years of age and committed to the Department of 4 5 Children and Family Services under Section 5-710 of this Act or a minor for whom an independent basis of abuse, neglect, or 6 7 dependency exists; and on and after January 1, 2017, a minor charged with a criminal offense under the Criminal Code of 8 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012 or adjudicated delinquent 9 10 shall not be placed in the custody of or committed to the 11 Department of Children and Family Services by any court, 12 except a minor less than 15 years of age and committed to the Department of Children and Family Services under Section 5-710 13 of this Act or a minor for whom an independent basis of abuse, 14 15 neglect, or dependency exists. An independent basis exists 16 when the allegations or adjudication of abuse, neglect, or 17 dependency do not arise from the same facts, incident, or circumstances which give rise to a charge or adjudication of 18 19 delinguency.

In placing the minor, the Department or other agency shall, to the extent compatible with the court's order, comply with Section 7 of the Children and Family Services Act. In determining the health, safety and best interests of the minor to prescribe shelter care, the court must find that it is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the safety and protection of the minor or of the person or property of another

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that the minor be placed in a shelter care facility or that he 1 2 or she is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court, and 3 must further find that active reasonable efforts have been made or that, consistent with the health, safety and best 4 5 interests of the minor, no efforts reasonably can be made to prevent or eliminate the necessity of removal of the minor 6 7 from his or her home. The court shall require documentation 8 from the Department of Children and Family Services as to the 9 active reasonable efforts that were made to prevent or 10 eliminate the necessity of removal of the minor from his or her 11 home or the reasons why no efforts reasonably could be made to 12 prevent or eliminate the necessity of removal. When a minor is placed in the home of a relative, the Department of Children 13 and Family Services shall complete a preliminary background 14 15 review of the members of the minor's custodian's household in 16 accordance with Section 4.3 of the Child Care Act of 1969 17 within 90 days of that placement. If the minor is ordered placed in a shelter care facility of the Department of 18 Children and Family Services or a licensed child welfare 19 20 agency, the court shall, upon request of the appropriate Department or other agency, appoint the Department of Children 21 22 and Family Services Guardianship Administrator or other 23 appropriate agency executive temporary custodian of the minor 24 and the court may enter such other orders related to the 25 temporary custody as it deems fit and proper, including the 26 provision of services to the minor or his family to ameliorate

1 the causes contributing to the finding of probable cause or to 2 the finding of the existence of immediate and urgent 3 necessity.

Where the Department of Children and Family Services 4 5 Guardianship Administrator is appointed as the executive temporary custodian, the Department of Children and Family 6 7 Services shall file with the court and serve on the parties a 8 parent-child visiting plan, within 10 days, excluding weekends 9 and holidays, after the appointment. The parent-child visiting 10 plan shall set out the time and place of visits, the frequency 11 of visits, the length of visits, who shall be present at the 12 visits, and where appropriate, the minor's opportunities to have telephone and mail communication with the parents. 13

Where the Department of Children and Family Services 14 15 Guardianship Administrator is appointed as the executive 16 temporary custodian, and when the child has siblings in care, 17 the Department of Children and Family Services shall file with the court and serve on the parties a sibling placement and 18 19 contact plan within 10 days, excluding weekends and holidays, 20 after the appointment. The sibling placement and contact plan 21 shall set forth whether the siblings are placed together, and 22 if they are not placed together, what, if any, efforts are 23 being made to place them together. If the Department has determined that it is not in a child's best interest to be 24 25 placed with a sibling, the Department shall document in the sibling placement and contact plan the basis for 26 its

determination. For siblings placed separately, the sibling 1 2 placement and contact plan shall set the time and place for 3 visits, the frequency of the visits, the length of visits, who shall be present for the visits, and where appropriate, the 4 5 child's opportunities to have contact with their siblings in addition to in person contact. If the Department determines it 6 is not in the best interest of a sibling to have contact with a 7 8 sibling, the Department shall document in the sibling 9 placement and contact plan the basis for its determination. 10 The sibling placement and contact plan shall specify a date 11 for development of the Sibling Contact Support Plan, under 12 subsection (f) of Section 7.4 of the Children and Family 13 Services Act, and shall remain in effect until the Sibling 14 Contact Support Plan is developed.

15 For good cause, the court may waive the requirement to 16 file the parent-child visiting plan or the sibling placement 17 and contact plan, or extend the time for filing either plan. Any party may, by motion, request the court to review the 18 19 parent-child visiting plan to determine whether it is 20 reasonably calculated to expeditiously facilitate the 21 achievement of the permanency goal. A party may, by motion, 22 request the court to review the parent-child visiting plan or 23 the sibling placement and contact plan to determine whether it is consistent with the minor's best interest. The court may 24 25 refer the parties to mediation where available. The frequency, 26 duration, and locations of visitation shall be measured by the

needs of the child and family, and not by the convenience of 1 2 Department personnel. Child development principles shall be 3 considered by the court in its analysis of how frequent visitation should be, how long it should last, where it should 4 5 take place, and who should be present. If upon motion of the party to review either plan and after receiving evidence, the 6 7 court determines that the parent-child visiting plan is not 8 reasonably calculated to expeditiously facilitate the 9 achievement of the permanency goal or that the restrictions 10 placed on parent-child contact or sibling placement or contact 11 are contrary to the child's best interests, the court shall 12 put in writing the factual basis supporting the determination and enter specific findings based on the evidence. The court 13 14 shall enter an order for the Department to implement changes 15 to the parent-child visiting plan or sibling placement or 16 contact plan, consistent with the court's findings. At any 17 stage of proceeding, any party may by motion request the court to enter any orders necessary to implement the parent-child 18 19 visiting plan, sibling placement or contact plan or 20 subsequently developed Sibling Contact Support Plan. Nothing under this subsection (2) shall restrict the court from 21 22 granting discretionary authority to the Department to increase 23 opportunities for additional parent-child contacts or sibling 24 contacts, without further court orders. Nothing in this 25 subsection (2) shall restrict the Department from immediately 26 restricting or terminating parent-child contact or sibling

contacts, without either amending the parent-child visiting 1 2 plan or the sibling contact plan or obtaining a court order, 3 where the Department or its assigns reasonably believe there is an immediate need to protect the child's health, safety, 4 5 and welfare. Such restrictions or terminations must be based 6 on available facts to the Department and its assigns when 7 viewed in light of the surrounding circumstances and shall 8 only occur on an individual case-by-case basis. The Department 9 shall file with the court and serve on the parties any 10 amendments to the plan within 10 days, excluding weekends and 11 holidays, of the change of the visitation.

12 Acceptance of services shall not be considered an admission of any allegation in a petition made pursuant to 13 this Act, nor may a referral of services be considered as 14 15 evidence in any proceeding pursuant to this Act, except where 16 the issue is whether the Department has made active reasonable 17 efforts to reunite the family. In making its findings that it is consistent with the health, safety and best interests of 18 19 the minor to prescribe shelter care, the court shall state in 20 writing (i) the factual basis supporting its findings 21 concerning the immediate and urgent necessity for the 22 protection of the minor or of the person or property of another 23 and (ii) the factual basis supporting its findings that active 24 reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the 25 removal of the minor from his or her home or that no efforts 26 reasonably could be made to prevent or eliminate the removal

of the minor from his or her home. The parents, guardian, custodian, temporary custodian and minor shall each be furnished a copy of such written findings. The temporary custodian shall maintain a copy of the court order and written findings in the case record for the child. The order together with the court's findings of fact in support thereof shall be entered of record in the court.

8 Once the court finds that it is a matter of immediate and 9 urgent necessity for the protection of the minor that the 10 minor be placed in a shelter care facility, the minor shall not 11 be returned to the parent, custodian or guardian until the 12 court finds that such placement is no longer necessary for the 13 protection of the minor.

If the child is placed in the temporary custody of the 14 15 Department of Children and Family Services for his or her 16 protection, the court shall admonish the parents, guardian, 17 custodian or responsible relative that the parents must cooperate with the Department of Children and Family Services, 18 comply with the terms of the service plans, and correct the 19 20 conditions which require the child to be in care, or risk termination of their parental rights. The court shall ensure, 21 22 by inquiring in open court of each parent, quardian, custodian 23 or responsible relative, that the parent, guardian, custodian or responsible relative has had the opportunity to provide the 24 25 Department with all known names, addresses, and telephone 26 numbers of each of the minor's living maternal and paternal

adult relatives, including, but not limited to, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. The court shall advise the parents, guardian, custodian or responsible relative to inform the Department if additional information regarding the minor's adult relatives becomes available.

(3) If prior to the shelter care hearing for a minor 6 7 described in Sections 2-3, 2-4, 3-3 and 4-3 the moving party is 8 unable to serve notice on the party respondent, the shelter 9 care hearing may proceed ex parte. A shelter care order from an 10 ex parte hearing shall be endorsed with the date and hour of 11 issuance and shall be filed with the clerk's office and 12 entered of record. The order shall expire after 10 days from the time it is issued unless before its expiration it is 13 14 renewed, at a hearing upon appearance of the party respondent, 15 or upon an affidavit of the moving party as to all diligent 16 efforts to notify the party respondent by notice as herein 17 prescribed. The notice prescribed shall be in writing and shall be personally delivered to the minor or the minor's 18 attorney and to the last known address of the other person or 19 20 persons entitled to notice. The notice shall also state the nature of the allegations, the nature of the order sought by 21 22 the State, including whether temporary custody is sought, and 23 the consequences of failure to appear and shall contain a 24 notice that the parties will not be entitled to further 25 written notices or publication notices of proceedings in this 26 case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion

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to terminate parental rights, except as required by Supreme Court Rule 11; and shall explain the right of the parties and the procedures to vacate or modify a shelter care order as provided in this Section. The notice for a shelter care hearing shall be substantially as follows:

6 NOTICE TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN 7 OF SHELTER CARE HEARING On at, before the Honorable 8 9, (address:), the State of Illinois will present evidence (1) that (name of child 10 11 or children) are abused, neglected 12 or dependent for the following reasons: 13 and (2)

14 whether there is "immediate and urgent necessity" to 15 remove the child or children from the responsible 16 relative.

17 YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING MAY RESULT IN 18 PLACEMENT of the child or children in foster care until a 19 trial can be held. A trial may not be held for up to 90 20 days. You will not be entitled to further notices of 21 proceedings in this case, including the filing of an 22 amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

23 At the shelter care hearing, parents have the 24 following rights:

To ask the court to appoint a lawyer if they
 cannot afford one.

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2. To ask the court to continue the hearing to
 allow them time to prepare.

3. To present evidence concerning:

3

4 a. Whether or not the child or children were5 abused, neglected or dependent.

6 b. Whether or not there is "immediate and 7 urgent necessity" to remove the child from home 8 (including: their ability to care for the child, 9 conditions in the home, alternative means of 10 protecting the child other than removal).

c. The best interests of the child.
 4. To cross examine the State's witnesses.

13 The Notice for rehearings shall be substantially as 14 follows:

15NOTICE OF PARENT'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS16TO REHEARING ON TEMPORARY CUSTODY

If you were not present at and did not have adequate 17 18 notice of the Shelter Care Hearing at which temporary 19 custody of was awarded to 20, you have the right to request a full 21 rehearing on whether the State should have temporary 22 custody of To request this rehearing, you must file with the Clerk of the Juvenile Court 23 24 (address): by 25 mailing a statement (affidavit) setting forth the

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1 following: 2 1. That you were not present at the shelter care 3 hearing. 2. That you did not get adequate notice 4 5 (explaining how the notice was inadequate). 3. Your signature. 6 4. Signature must be notarized. 7 8 The rehearing should be scheduled within 48 hours of 9 your filing this affidavit. 10 At the rehearing, your rights are the same as at the 11 initial shelter care hearing. The enclosed notice explains 12 those rights. 13 At the Shelter Care Hearing, children have the 14 following rights: 15 1. To have a guardian ad litem appointed. 16 2. To be declared competent as a witness and to 17 present testimony concerning: Whether they are abused, neglected or 18 a. 19 dependent. 20 b. Whether there is "immediate and urgent necessity" to be removed from home. 21 22 c. Their best interests. 23 3. To cross examine witnesses for other parties. 4. To obtain an explanation of any proceedings and 24 25 orders of the court. (4) If the parent, guardian, legal custodian, responsible 26

relative, minor age 8 or over, or counsel of the minor did not have actual notice of or was not present at the shelter care hearing, he or she may file an affidavit setting forth these facts, and the clerk shall set the matter for rehearing not later than 48 hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, after the filing of the affidavit. At the rehearing, the court shall proceed in the same manner as upon the original hearing.

8 (5) Only when there is reasonable cause to believe that 9 the minor taken into custody is a person described in 10 subsection (3) of Section 5-105 may the minor be kept or 11 detained in a detention home or county or municipal jail. This 12 Section shall in no way be construed to limit subsection (6).

13 (6) No minor under 16 years of age may be confined in a 14 jail or place ordinarily used for the confinement of prisoners 15 in a police station. Minors under 18 years of age must be kept 16 separate from confined adults and may not at any time be kept 17 in the same cell, room, or yard with adults confined pursuant 18 to the criminal law.

(7) If the minor is not brought before a judicial officer within the time period as specified in Section 2-9, the minor must immediately be released from custody.

(8) If neither the parent, guardian or custodian appears within 24 hours to take custody of a minor released upon request pursuant to subsection (2) of this Section, then the clerk of the court shall set the matter for rehearing not later than 7 days after the original order and shall issue a summons

directed to the parent, guardian or custodian to appear. At the same time the probation department shall prepare a report on the minor. If a parent, guardian or custodian does not appear at such rehearing, the judge may enter an order prescribing that the minor be kept in a suitable place designated by the Department of Children and Family Services or a licensed child welfare agency.

8 (9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section 9 any interested party, including the State, the temporary 10 custodian, an agency providing services to the minor or family 11 under a service plan pursuant to Section 8.2 of the Abused and 12 Neglected Child Reporting Act, foster parent, or any of their 13 representatives, on notice to all parties entitled to notice, may file a motion that it is in the best interests of the minor 14 15 to modify or vacate a temporary custody order on any of the 16 following grounds:

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18

(a) It is no longer a matter of immediate and urgent necessity that the minor remain in shelter care; or

(b) There is a material change in the circumstances of the natural family from which the minor was removed and the child can be cared for at home without endangering the child's health or safety; or

(c) A person not a party to the alleged abuse, neglect or dependency, including a parent, relative or legal guardian, is capable of assuming temporary custody of the minor; or

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1 (d) Services provided by the Department of Children 2 and Family Services or a child welfare agency or other 3 service provider have been successful in eliminating the 4 need for temporary custody and the child can be cared for 5 at home without endangering the child's health or safety.

In ruling on the motion, the court shall determine whether 6 it is consistent with the health, safety and best interests of 7 8 the minor to modify or vacate a temporary custody order. If the 9 minor is being restored to the custody of a parent, legal 10 custodian, or quardian who lives outside of Illinois, and an 11 Interstate Compact has been requested and refused, the court 12 may order the Department of Children and Family Services to arrange for an assessment of the minor's proposed living 13 14 arrangement and for ongoing monitoring of the health, safety, 15 and best interest of the minor and compliance with any order of 16 protective supervision entered in accordance with Section 2-20 17 or 2-25.

18 The clerk shall set the matter for hearing not later than 19 14 days after such motion is filed. In the event that the court 20 modifies or vacates a temporary custody order but does not 21 vacate its finding of probable cause, the court may order that 22 appropriate services be continued or initiated in behalf of 23 the minor and his or her family.

(10) When the court finds or has found that there is probable cause to believe a minor is an abused minor as described in subsection (2) of Section 2-3 and that there is an immediate and urgent necessity for the abused minor to be placed in shelter care, immediate and urgent necessity shall be presumed for any other minor residing in the same household as the abused minor provided:

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(a) Such other minor is the subject of an abuse or neglect petition pending before the court; and

7 (b) A party to the petition is seeking shelter care8 for such other minor.

9 Once the presumption of immediate and urgent necessity has 10 been raised, the burden of demonstrating the lack of immediate 11 and urgent necessity shall be on any party that is opposing 12 shelter care for the other minor.

13 (11) The changes made to this Section by Public Act 98-61 14 apply to a minor who has been arrested or taken into custody on 15 or after January 1, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 16 98-61).

17 (12) After the court has placed a minor in the care of a temporary custodian pursuant to this Section, any party may 18 19 file a motion requesting the court to grant the temporary 20 custodian the authority to serve as a surrogate decision maker 21 for the minor under the Health Care Surrogate Act for purposes 22 of making decisions pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection 23 (b) of Section 20 of the Health Care Surrogate Act. The court may grant the motion if it determines by clear and convincing 24 25 evidence that it is in the best interests of the minor to grant 26 the temporary custodian such authority. In making its

determination, the court shall weigh the following factors in addition to considering the best interests factors listed in subsection (4.05) of Section 1-3 of this Act:

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(a) the efforts to identify and locate the respondents and adult family members of the minor and the results of those efforts;

7 (b) the efforts to engage the respondents and adult 8 family members of the minor in decision making on behalf 9 of the minor;

10 (c) the length of time the efforts in paragraphs (a)11 and (b) have been ongoing;

12 (d) the relationship between the respondents and adult13 family members and the minor;

(e) medical testimony regarding the extent to which
the minor is suffering and the impact of a delay in
decision-making on the minor; and

17

(f) any other factor the court deems relevant.

18 If the Department of Children and Family Services is the 19 temporary custodian of the minor, in addition to the 20 requirements of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Section 20 21 of the Health Care Surrogate Act, the Department shall follow 22 its rules and procedures in exercising authority granted under 23 this subsection.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-489, eff. 8-20-21; 102-502, eff. 1-1-22; 25 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

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1 (705 ILCS 405/2-13) (from Ch. 37, par. 802-13)

2

Sec. 2-13. Petition.

3 (1) Any adult person, any agency or association by its 4 representative may file, or the court on its own motion, 5 consistent with the health, safety and best interests of the 6 minor may direct the filing through the State's Attorney of a 7 petition in respect of a minor under this Act. The petition and 8 all subsequent court documents shall be entitled "In the 9 interest of, a minor".

10 (2) The petition shall be verified but the statements may 11 be made upon information and belief. It shall allege that the 12 minor is abused, neglected, or dependent, with citations to the appropriate provisions of this Act, and set forth (a) 13 facts sufficient to bring the minor under Section 2-3 or 2-4 14 15 and to inform respondents of the cause of action, including, 16 but not limited to, a plain and concise statement of the 17 factual allegations that form the basis for the filing of the petition; (b) the name, age and residence of the minor; (c) the 18 19 names and residences of his parents; (d) the name and 20 residence of his legal guardian or the person or persons having custody or control of the minor, or of the nearest known 21 22 relative if no parent or quardian can be found; and (e) if the 23 minor upon whose behalf the petition is brought is sheltered 24 in custody, the date on which such temporary custody was 25 ordered by the court or the date set for a temporary custody 26 hearing. If any of the facts herein required are not known by

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1 the petitioner, the petition shall so state.

(3) The petition must allege that it is in the best interests of the minor and of the public that he be adjudged a ward of the court and may pray generally for relief available under this Act. The petition need not specify any proposed disposition following adjudication of wardship. The petition may request that the minor remain in the custody of the parent, guardian, or custodian under an Order of Protection.

9 (4) If termination of parental rights and appointment of a 10 guardian of the person with power to consent to adoption of the 11 minor under Section 2-29 is sought, the petition shall so 12 state. If the petition includes this request, the prayer for 13 relief shall clearly and obviously state that the parents 14 could permanently lose their rights as a parent at this 15 hearing.

In addition to the foregoing, the petitioner, by motion, may request the termination of parental rights and appointment of a guardian of the person with power to consent to adoption of the minor under Section 2-29 at any time after the entry of a dispositional order under Section 2-22.

(4.5) (a) Unless good cause exists that filing a petition to terminate parental rights is contrary to the child's best interests, with respect to any minors committed to its care pursuant to this Act, the Department of Children and Family Services shall request the State's Attorney to file a petition or motion for termination of parental rights and appointment

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1 of guardian of the person with power to consent to adoption of 2 the minor under Section 2-29 if:

3 (i) a minor has been in foster care, as described in
4 subsection (b), for 15 months of the most recent 22
5 months; or

6 (ii) a minor under the age of 2 years has been 7 previously determined to be abandoned at an adjudicatory 8 hearing; or

9

(iii) the parent is criminally convicted of:

10 (A) first degree murder or second degree murder of11 any child;

(B) attempt or conspiracy to commit first degree
 murder or second degree murder of any child;

14 (C) solicitation to commit murder of any child, 15 solicitation to commit murder for hire of any child, 16 or solicitation to commit second degree murder of any 17 child;

(D) aggravated battery, aggravated battery of a
child, or felony domestic battery, any of which has
resulted in serious injury to the minor or a sibling of
the minor;

(E) predatory criminal sexual assault of a child;
(E-5) aggravated criminal sexual assault;
(E-10) criminal sexual abuse in violation of
subsection (a) of Section 11-1.50 of the Criminal Code
of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;

1 (E-15) sexual exploitation of a child; 2 (E-20) permitting sexual abuse of a child; (E-25) criminal sexual assault; or 3 (F) an offense in any other state the elements of 4 5 which are similar and bear a substantial relationship 6 to any of the foregoing offenses. 7 (a-1) For purposes of this subsection (4.5), good cause 8 exists in the following circumstances: 9 (i) the child is being cared for by a relative, 10 (ii) the Department has documented in the case plan a 11 compelling reason for determining that filing such 12 petition would not be in the best interests of the child, 13 (iii) the court has found within the preceding 12 14 months that the Department has failed to make active 15 reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family, or 16 (iv) the parent is incarcerated, or the parent's prior 17 incarceration is a significant factor in why the child has been in foster care for 15 months out of any 22-month 18 19 period, the parent maintains a meaningful role in the 20 child's life, and the Department has not documented 21 another reason why it would otherwise be appropriate to 22 file a petition to terminate parental rights pursuant to 23 this Section and the Adoption Act. The assessment of 24 whether an incarcerated parent maintains a meaningful role 25 in the child's life may include consideration of the

26 following:

1

(A) the child's best interest;

2 (B) the parent's expressions or acts of 3 manifesting concern for the child, such as letters, 4 telephone calls, visits, and other forms of 5 communication with the child and the impact of the 6 communication on the child;

7 (C) the parent's efforts to communicate with and
8 work with the Department for the purpose of complying
9 with the service plan and repairing, maintaining, or
10 building the parent-child relationship; or

(D) limitations in the parent's access to family support programs, therapeutic services, visiting opportunities, telephone and mail services, and meaningful participation in court proceedings.

15 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the date of entering 16 foster care is defined as the earlier of:

17 (1) The date of a judicial finding at an adjudicatory
18 hearing that the child is an abused, neglected, or
19 dependent minor; or

20 (2) 60 days after the date on which the child is
21 removed from his or her parent, guardian, or legal
22 custodian.

23 (c) (Blank).

24 (d) (Blank).

(5) The court shall liberally allow the petitioner to
 amend the petition to set forth a cause of action or to add,

amend, or supplement factual allegations that form the basis 1 2 for a cause of action up until 14 days before the adjudicatory 3 hearing. The petitioner may amend the petition after that date and prior to the adjudicatory hearing if the court grants 4 5 leave to amend upon a showing of good cause. The court may allow amendment of the petition to conform with the evidence 6 7 at any time prior to ruling. In all cases in which the court 8 has granted leave to amend based on new evidence or new 9 allegations, the court shall permit the respondent an adequate 10 opportunity to prepare a defense to the amended petition.

11 (6) At any time before dismissal of the petition or before 12 final closing and discharge under Section 2-31, one or more 13 motions in the best interests of the minor may be filed. The 14 motion shall specify sufficient facts in support of the relief 15 requested.

16 (Source: P.A. 101-529, eff. 1-1-20.)

17 (705 ILCS 405/2-13.1)

18 Sec. 2-13.1. Early termination of <u>active</u> reasonable 19 efforts.

(1) (a) In conjunction with, or at any time subsequent to, the filing of a petition on behalf of a minor in accordance with Section 2-13 of this Act, the State's Attorney, the guardian ad litem, or the Department of Children and Family Services may file a motion requesting a finding that <u>active</u> efforts to reunify that minor with his or her

1 parent or parents are no longer required and are to cease.

2 (b) The court shall grant this motion with respect to a 3 parent of the minor if the court finds after a hearing that the 4 parent has:

5 (i) had his or her parental rights to another child of
6 the parent involuntarily terminated; or

7

(ii) been convicted of:

8 (A) first degree or second degree murder of
9 another child of the parent;

10 (B) attempt or conspiracy to commit first degree 11 or second degree murder of another child of the 12 parent;

13 (C) solicitation to commit murder of another child 14 of the parent, solicitation to commit murder for hire 15 of another child of the parent, or solicitation to 16 commit second degree murder of another child of the 17 parent;

(D) aggravated battery, aggravated battery of a
child, or felony domestic battery, any of which has
resulted in serious bodily injury to the minor or
another child of the parent; or

(E) an offense in any other state the elements of
 which are similar and bear substantial relationship to
 any of the foregoing offenses

25 unless the court sets forth in writing a compelling reason why 26 terminating <u>active</u> reasonable efforts to reunify the minor

with the parent would not be in the best interests of that 1 2 minor.

3 (c) The court shall also grant this motion with respect to a parent of the minor if: 4

5

- (i) after a hearing it determines that further 6 reunification services would no longer be appropriate, and
- 7

(ii) a dispositional hearing has already taken place.

8 (2) (a) The court shall hold a permanency hearing within 9 30 days of granting a motion pursuant to this subsection. If an 10 adjudicatory or a dispositional hearing, or both, has not 11 taken place when the court grants a motion pursuant to this 12 Section, then either or both hearings shall be held as needed 13 so that both take place on or before the date a permanency 14 hearing is held pursuant to this subsection.

15 (b) Following a permanency hearing held pursuant to 16 paragraph (a) of this subsection, the appointed custodian or 17 guardian of the minor shall make active reasonable efforts to place the child in accordance with the permanency plan and 18 19 goal set by the court, and to complete the necessary steps to 20 locate and finalize a permanent placement.

(Source: P.A. 90-608, eff. 6-30-98.) 21

22 (705 ILCS 405/2-21) (from Ch. 37, par. 802-21)

23 Sec. 2-21. Findings and adjudication.

(1) The court shall state for the record the manner in 24 25 which the parties received service of process and shall note whether the return or returns of service, postal return receipt or receipts for notice by certified mail, or certificate or certificates of publication have been filed in the court record. The court shall enter any appropriate orders of default against any parent who has been properly served in any manner and fails to appear.

No further service of process as defined in Sections 2-15 and 2-16 is required in any subsequent proceeding for a parent who was properly served in any manner, except as required by Supreme Court Rule 11.

11 The caseworker shall testify about the diligent search 12 conducted for the parent.

After hearing the evidence the court shall determine whether or not the minor is abused, neglected, or dependent. If it finds that the minor is not such a person, the court shall order the petition dismissed and the minor discharged. The court's determination of whether the minor is abused, neglected, or dependent shall be stated in writing with the factual basis supporting that determination.

If the court finds that the minor is abused, neglected, or dependent, the court shall then determine and put in writing the factual basis supporting that determination, and specify, to the extent possible, the acts or omissions or both of each parent, guardian, or legal custodian that form the basis of the court's findings. That finding shall appear in the order of the court.

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1 If the court finds that the child has been abused, 2 neglected or dependent, the court shall admonish the parents 3 that they must cooperate with the Department of Children and 4 Family Services, comply with the terms of the service plan, 5 and correct the conditions that require the child to be in 6 care, or risk termination of parental rights.

7 If the court determines that a person has inflicted 8 physical or sexual abuse upon a minor, the court shall report 9 that determination to the Illinois State Police, which shall 10 include that information in its report to the President of the 11 school board for a school district that requests a criminal 12 history records check of that person, or the regional superintendent of schools who requests a check of that person, 13 as required under Section 10-21.9 or 34-18.5 of the School 14 15 Code.

16 (2) If, pursuant to subsection (1) of this Section, the 17 court determines and puts in writing the factual basis supporting the determination that the minor is either abused 18 19 or neglected or dependent, the court shall then set a time not later than 30 days after the entry of the finding for a 20 dispositional hearing (unless an earlier date is required 21 22 pursuant to Section 2-13.1) to be conducted under Section 2-22 23 at which hearing the court shall determine whether it is consistent with the health, safety and best interests of the 24 25 minor and the public that he be made a ward of the court. To 26 assist the court in making this and other determinations at

the dispositional hearing, the court may order that an 1 2 investigation be conducted and a dispositional report be prepared concerning the minor's physical and mental history 3 and condition, family situation and background, economic 4 5 status, education, occupation, history of delinquency or criminality, personal habits, and any other information that 6 may be helpful to the court. The dispositional hearing may be 7 8 continued once for a period not to exceed 30 days if the court 9 finds that such continuance is necessary to complete the 10 dispositional report.

11 (3) The time limits of this Section may be waived only by 12 consent of all parties and approval by the court, as determined to be consistent with the health, safety and best 13 interests of the minor. 14

(4) For all cases adjudicated prior to July 1, 1991, for 15 16 which no dispositional hearing has been held prior to that 17 date, a dispositional hearing under Section 2-22 shall be held within 90 days of July 1, 1991. 18

(5) The court may terminate the parental rights of a 19 20 parent at the initial dispositional hearing if all of the following conditions are met: 21

22

(i) the original or amended petition contains a 23 request for termination of parental rights and appointment 24 of a quardian with power to consent to adoption; and

25 (ii) the court has found by a preponderance of 26 evidence, introduced or stipulated to at an adjudicatory

hearing, that the child comes under the jurisdiction of the court as an abused, neglected, or dependent minor under Section 2-18; and (iii) the court finds, on the basis of clear and

5 convincing evidence admitted at the adjudicatory hearing 6 that the parent is an unfit person under subdivision D of 7 Section 1 of the Adoption Act; and

8 (iv) the court determines in accordance with the rules 9 of evidence for dispositional proceedings, that:

(A) it is in the best interest of the minor and
public that the child be made a ward of the court;

12 (A-5) <u>active</u> reasonable efforts under subsection 13 (1-1) of Section 5 of the Children and Family Services 14 Act are inappropriate or such efforts were made and 15 were unsuccessful; and

(B) termination of parental rights and appointment
of a guardian with power to consent to adoption is in
the best interest of the child pursuant to Section
2-29.

20 (Source: P.A. 102-538, eff. 8-20-21.)

21 (705 ILCS 405/2-28) (from Ch. 37, par. 802-28)

22 Sec. 2-28. Court review.

(1) The court may require any legal custodian or guardian
of the person appointed under this Act to report periodically
to the court or may cite him into court and require him or his

agency_{τ} to make a full and accurate report of his or its doings 1 2 in behalf of the minor. The custodian or quardian, within 10 days after such citation, or earlier if the court determines 3 it to be necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of 4 5 the minor, shall make the report, either in writing verified by affidavit or orally under oath in open court, or otherwise 6 7 as the court directs. Upon the hearing of the report the court 8 may remove the custodian or quardian and appoint another in 9 his stead or restore the minor to the custody of his parents or 10 former quardian or custodian. However, custody of the minor 11 shall not be restored to any parent, guardian, or legal 12 custodian in any case in which the minor is found to be neglected or abused under Section 2-3 or dependent under 13 14 Section 2-4 of this Act, unless the minor can be cared for at 15 home without endangering the minor's health or safety and it 16 is in the best interests of the minor, and if such neglect, 17 abuse, or dependency is found by the court under paragraph (1) of Section 2-21 of this Act to have come about due to the acts 18 19 or omissions or both of such parent, guardian, or legal custodian, until such time as an investigation is made as 20 provided in paragraph (5) and a hearing is held on the issue of 21 22 the fitness of such parent, guardian, or legal custodian to 23 care for the minor and the court enters an order that such parent, guardian, or legal custodian is fit to care for the 24 25 minor.

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(1.5) The public agency that is the custodian or guardian

of the minor shall file a written report with the court no later than 15 days after a minor in the agency's care remains:

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(1) in a shelter placement beyond 30 days;

4 (2) in a psychiatric hospital past the time when the
5 minor is clinically ready for discharge or beyond medical
6 necessity for the minor's health; or

7 (3) in a detention center or Department of Juvenile
8 Justice facility solely because the public agency cannot
9 find an appropriate placement for the minor.

10 The report shall explain the steps the agency is taking to 11 ensure the minor is placed appropriately, how the minor's 12 needs are being met in the minor's shelter placement, and if a 13 future placement has been identified by the Department, why 14 the anticipated placement is appropriate for the needs of the 15 minor and the anticipated placement date.

16 (1.6) Within 35 days after placing a child in its care in a 17 qualified residential treatment program, as defined by the federal Social Security Act, the Department of Children and 18 Family Services shall file a written report with the court and 19 20 send copies of the report to all parties. Within 20 days of the filing of the report, the court shall hold a hearing to 21 22 consider the Department's report and determine whether 23 placement of the child in a qualified residential treatment program provides the most effective and appropriate level of 24 25 care for the child in the least restrictive environment and if 26 the placement is consistent with the short-term and long-term

goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for 1 2 the child. The court shall approve or disapprove the 3 placement. If applicable, the requirements of Sections 2-27.1 and 2-27.2 must also be met. The Department's written report 4 5 and the court's written determination shall be included in and made part of the case plan for the child. If the child remains 6 7 placed in a qualified residential treatment program, the 8 Department shall submit evidence at each status and permanency 9 hearing:

10 (1) demonstrating that on-going assessment of the 11 strengths and needs of the child continues to support the 12 determination that the child's needs cannot be met through placement in a foster family home, that the placement 13 14 provides the most effective and appropriate level of care 15 for the child in the least restrictive, appropriate 16 environment, and that the placement is consistent with the 17 short-term and long-term permanency goal for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child; 18

19 (2) documenting the specific treatment or service 20 needs that should be met for the child in the placement and 21 the length of time the child is expected to need the 22 treatment or services; and

(3) the efforts made by the agency to prepare the child to return home or to be placed with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, or in a foster family home.

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(2) The first permanency hearing shall be conducted by the 1 2 judge. Subsequent permanency hearings may be heard by a judge or by hearing officers appointed or approved by the court in 3 the manner set forth in Section 2-28.1 of this Act. The initial 4 5 hearing shall be held (a) within 12 months from the date temporary custody was taken, regardless of 6 whether an 7 adjudication or dispositional hearing has been completed 8 within that time frame, (b) if the parental rights of both 9 parents have been terminated in accordance with the procedure 10 described in subsection (5) of Section 2-21, within 30 days of 11 the order for termination of parental rights and appointment 12 of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, or (c) in accordance with subsection (2) of Section 2-13.1. Subsequent 13 permanency hearings shall be held every 6 months or more 14 15 frequently if necessary in the court's determination following 16 the initial permanency hearing, in accordance with the 17 set forth in this Section, until the court standards determines that the plan and goal have been achieved. Once the 18 plan and goal have been achieved, if the minor remains in 19 20 substitute care, the case shall be reviewed at least every 6 months thereafter, subject to the provisions of this Section, 21 22 unless the minor is placed in the quardianship of a suitable 23 relative or other person and the court determines that further 24 monitoring by the court does not further the health, safety, 25 or best interest of the child and that this is a stable 26 permanent placement. The permanency hearings must occur within 1 the time frames set forth in this subsection and may not be 2 delayed in anticipation of a report from any source or due to 3 the agency's failure to timely file its written report (this 4 written report means the one required under the next paragraph 5 and does not mean the service plan also referred to in that 6 paragraph).

7 The public agency that is the custodian or guardian of the 8 minor, or another agency responsible for the minor's care, 9 shall ensure that all parties to the permanency hearings are 10 provided a copy of the most recent service plan prepared 11 within the prior 6 months at least 14 days in advance of the 12 hearing. If not contained in the agency's service plan, the 13 agency shall also include a report setting forth (i) any 14 special physical, psychological, educational, medical, emotional, or other needs of the minor or his or her family 15 16 that are relevant to a permanency or placement determination 17 and (ii) for any minor age 16 or over, a written description of the programs and services that will enable the minor to 18 19 prepare for independent living. If not contained in the 20 agency's service plan, the agency's report shall specify if a minor is placed in a licensed child care facility under a 21 22 corrective plan by the Department due to concerns impacting 23 the minor's safety and well-being. The report shall explain the steps the Department is taking to ensure the safety and 24 25 well-being of the minor and that the minor's needs are met in the facility. The agency's written report must detail what 26

progress or lack of progress the parent has made in correcting 1 2 the conditions requiring the child to be in care; whether the 3 child can be returned home without jeopardizing the child's health, safety, and welfare, and if not, what permanency goal 4 5 is recommended to be in the best interests of the child, and why the other permanency goals are not appropriate. 6 The 7 caseworker must appear and testify at the permanency hearing. 8 If a permanency hearing has not previously been scheduled by 9 the court, the moving party shall move for the setting of a 10 permanency hearing and the entry of an order within the time 11 frames set forth in this subsection.

12 At the permanency hearing, the court shall determine the 13 future status of the child. The court shall set one of the 14 following permanency goals:

(A) The minor will be returned home by a specific datewithin 5 months.

(B) The minor will be in short-term care with a continued goal to return home within a period not to exceed one year, where the progress of the parent or parents is substantial giving particular consideration to the age and individual needs of the minor.

(B-1) The minor will be in short-term care with a continued goal to return home pending a status hearing. When the court finds that a parent has not made <u>active</u> efforts or reasonable progress to date, the court shall identify what actions the parent and the

Department must take in order to justify a finding of <u>active</u> reasonable efforts or reasonable progress and shall set a status hearing to be held not earlier than 9 months from the date of adjudication nor later than 11 months from the date of adjudication during which the parent's progress will again be reviewed.

7 (C) The minor will be in substitute care pending court
8 determination on termination of parental rights.

9 (D) Adoption, provided that parental rights have been 10 terminated or relinquished.

(E) The guardianship of the minor will be transferred to an individual or couple on a permanent basis provided that goals (A) through (D) have been deemed inappropriate and not in the child's best interests. The court shall confirm that the Department has discussed adoption, if appropriate, and guardianship with the caregiver prior to changing a goal to guardianship.

(F) The minor over age 15 will be in substitute care 18 19 pending independence. In selecting this permanency goal, 20 the Department of Children and Family Services may provide services to enable reunification and to strengthen the 21 22 minor's connections with family, fictive kin, and other 23 responsible adults, provided the services are in the 24 minor's best interest. The services shall be documented in 25 the service plan.

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(G) The minor will be in substitute care because he or

she cannot be provided for in a home environment due to developmental disabilities or mental illness or because he or she is a danger to self or others, provided that goals (A) through (D) have been deemed inappropriate and not in the child's best interests.

In selecting any permanency goal, the court shall indicate 6 7 in writing the reasons the goal was selected and why the 8 preceding goals were deemed inappropriate and not in the 9 child's best interest. Where the court has selected a 10 permanency goal other than (A), (B), or (B-1), the Department 11 of Children and Family Services shall not provide further 12 reunification services, except as provided in paragraph (F) of this subsection (2), but shall provide services consistent 13 14 with the goal selected.

(H) Notwithstanding any other provision in this
Section, the court may select the goal of continuing
foster care as a permanency goal if:

18 (1) The Department of Children and Family Services
19 has custody and guardianship of the minor;

20 (2) The court has deemed all other permanency 21 goals inappropriate based on the child's best 22 interest;

(3) The court has found compelling reasons, based
on written documentation reviewed by the court, to
place the minor in continuing foster care. Compelling
reasons include:

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(a) the child does not wish to be adopted or to be placed in the guardianship of his or her relative or foster care placement;

(b) the child exhibits an extreme level of need such that the removal of the child from his or her placement would be detrimental to the child; or

(c) the child who is the subject of the 8 9 permanency hearing has existing close and strong 10 bonds with a sibling, and achievement of another 11 permanency goal would substantially interfere with 12 the subject child's sibling relationship, taking 13 into consideration the nature and extent of the 14 relationship, and whether ongoing contact is in 15 the subject child's best interest, including 16 long-term emotional interest, as compared with the 17 legal and emotional benefit of permanence;

18 (4) The child has lived with the relative or19 foster parent for at least one year; and

(5) The relative or foster parent currently caring
for the child is willing and capable of providing the
child with a stable and permanent environment.

The court shall set a permanency goal that is in the best interest of the child. In determining that goal, the court shall consult with the minor in an age-appropriate manner regarding the proposed permanency or transition plan for the

1 minor. The court's determination shall include the following
2 factors:

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(1) Age of the child.

4 (2) Options available for permanence, including both
5 out-of-state and in-state placement options.

6 (3) Current placement of the child and the intent of 7 the family regarding adoption.

8 (4) Emotional, physical, and mental status or 9 condition of the child.

10 (5) Types of services previously offered and whether 11 or not the services were successful and, if not 12 successful, the reasons the services failed.

13 (6) Availability of services currently needed and14 whether the services exist.

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(7) Status of siblings of the minor.

16 The court shall consider (i) the permanency goal contained 17 in the service plan, (ii) the appropriateness of the services contained in the plan and whether those services have been 18 19 provided, (iii) whether active reasonable efforts have been 20 made by all the parties to the service plan to achieve the 21 goal, and (iv) whether the plan and goal have been achieved. 22 All evidence relevant to determining these questions, 23 including oral and written reports, may be admitted and may be 24 relied on to the extent of their probative value.

The court shall make findings as to whether, in violation of Section 8.2 of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Act, any portion of the service plan compels a child or parent 1 2 to engage in any activity or refrain from any activity that is 3 not reasonably related to remedying a condition or conditions that gave rise or which could give rise to any finding of child 4 5 abuse or neglect. The services contained in the service plan shall include services reasonably related to remedy the 6 7 conditions that gave rise to removal of the child from the home 8 of his or her parents, guardian, or legal custodian or that the 9 court has found must be remedied prior to returning the child 10 home. Any tasks the court requires of the parents, quardian, 11 or legal custodian or child prior to returning the child home_{au} 12 must be reasonably related to remedying a condition or 13 conditions that gave rise to or which could give rise to any 14 finding of child abuse or neglect.

If the permanency goal is to return home, the court shall 15 16 make findings that identify any problems that are causing 17 continued placement of the children away from the home and identify what outcomes would be considered a resolution to 18 19 these problems. The court shall explain to the parents that 20 these findings are based on the information that the court has at that time and may be revised, should additional evidence be 21 22 presented to the court.

The court shall review the Sibling Contact Support Plan developed or modified under subsection (f) of Section 7.4 of the Children and Family Services Act, if applicable. If the Department has not convened a meeting to develop or modify a

1 Sibling Contact Support Plan, or if the court finds that the 2 existing Plan is not in the child's best interest, the court 3 may enter an order requiring the Department to develop, 4 modify, or implement a Sibling Contact Support Plan, or order 5 mediation.

6 If the goal has been achieved, the court shall enter 7 orders that are necessary to conform the minor's legal custody 8 and status to those findings.

9 If, after receiving evidence, the court determines that 10 the services contained in the plan are not reasonably 11 calculated to facilitate achievement of the permanency goal, 12 the court shall put in writing the factual basis supporting the determination and enter specific findings based on the 13 The court also shall enter an order for the 14 evidence. 15 Department to develop and implement a new service plan or to 16 implement changes to the current service plan consistent with 17 the court's findings. The new service plan shall be filed with the court and served on all parties within 45 days of the date 18 of the order. The court shall continue the matter until the new 19 20 service plan is filed. Except as authorized by subsection 21 (2.5) of this Section and as otherwise specifically authorized 22 by law, the court is not empowered under this Section to order 23 specific placements, specific services, or specific service 24 providers to be included in the service plan.

A guardian or custodian appointed by the court pursuant to this Act shall file updated case plans with the court every 6

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1 months.

Rights of wards of the court under this Act are
enforceable against any public agency by complaints for relief
by mandamus filed in any proceedings brought under this Act.

5 (2.5) If, after reviewing the evidence, including evidence from the Department, the court determines that the minor's 6 7 current or planned placement is not necessary or appropriate 8 to facilitate achievement of the permanency goal, the court 9 shall put in writing the factual basis supporting its 10 determination and enter specific findings based on the 11 evidence. If the court finds that the minor's current or 12 planned placement is not necessary or appropriate, the court 13 may enter an order directing the Department to implement a 14 recommendation by the minor's treating clinician or а 15 clinician contracted by the Department to evaluate the minor 16 or a recommendation made by the Department. If the Department 17 places a minor in a placement under an order entered under this subsection (2.5), the Department has the authority to remove 18 19 the minor from that placement when a change in circumstances 20 necessitates the removal to protect the minor's health, safety, and best interest. If the Department determines 21 22 removal is necessary, the Department shall notify the parties 23 of the planned placement change in writing no later than 10 days prior to the implementation of its determination unless 24 25 remaining in the placement poses an imminent risk of harm to 26 the minor, in which case the Department shall notify the parties of the placement change in writing immediately following the implementation of its decision. The Department shall notify others of the decision to change the minor's placement as required by Department rule.

5 (3) Following the permanency hearing, the court shall 6 enter a written order that includes the determinations 7 required under subsection (2) of this Section and sets forth 8 the following:

9 (a) The future status of the minor, including the 10 permanency goal, and any order necessary to conform the 11 minor's legal custody and status to such determination; or

12 (b) If the permanency goal of the minor cannot be 13 achieved immediately, the specific reasons for continuing 14 the minor in the care of the Department of Children and 15 Family Services or other agency for <u>short-term</u> short term 16 placement, and the following determinations:

(i) (Blank).

(ii) Whether the services required by the court and by any service plan prepared within the prior 6 months have been provided and (A) if so, whether the services were reasonably calculated to facilitate the achievement of the permanency goal or (B) if not provided, why the services were not provided.

(iii) Whether the minor's current or planned
 placement is necessary, and appropriate to the plan
 and goal, recognizing the right of minors to the least

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restrictive (most family-like) setting available and in close proximity to the parents' home consistent with the health, safety, best interest, and special

with the health, safety, best interest, and special needs of the minor and, if the minor is placed out-of-state, whether the out-of-state placement continues to be appropriate and consistent with the health, safety, and best interest of the minor.

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(iv) (Blank).

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(v) (Blank).

10 (4) The minor or any person interested in the minor may 11 apply to the court for a change in custody of the minor and the 12 appointment of a new custodian or guardian of the person or for 13 the restoration of the minor to the custody of his parents or 14 former guardian or custodian.

15 When return home is not selected as the permanency goal:

(a) The Department, the minor, or the current foster
parent or relative caregiver seeking private guardianship
may file a motion for private guardianship of the minor.
Appointment of a guardian under this Section requires
approval of the court.

(b) The State's Attorney may file a motion to terminate parental rights of any parent who has failed to make <u>active</u> reasonable efforts to correct the conditions which led to the removal of the child or reasonable progress toward the return of the child, as defined in subdivision (D) (m) of Section 1 of the Adoption Act or for

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whom any other unfitness ground for terminating parental rights as defined in subdivision (D) of Section 1 of the Adoption Act exists.

When parental rights have been terminated for a 4 5 minimum of 3 years and the child who is the subject of the permanency hearing is 13 years old or older and is not 6 7 currently placed in a placement likely to achieve 8 permanency, the Department of Children and Family Services 9 shall make active reasonable efforts to locate parents 10 whose rights have been terminated, except when the Court 11 determines that those efforts would be futile or 12 inconsistent with the subject child's best interests. The Department of Children and Family Services shall assess 13 14 the appropriateness of the parent whose rights have been 15 terminated, and shall, as appropriate, foster and support 16 connections between the parent whose rights have been 17 terminated and the youth. The Department of Children and Family Services shall document its determinations and 18 19 efforts to foster connections in the child's case plan.

20 Custody of the minor shall not be restored to any parent, 21 guardian, or legal custodian in any case in which the minor is 22 found to be neglected or abused under Section 2-3 or dependent 23 under Section 2-4 of this Act, unless the minor can be cared 24 for at home without endangering his or her health or safety and 25 it is in the best interest of the minor, and if such neglect, 26 abuse, or dependency is found by the court under paragraph (1)

of Section 2-21 of this Act to have come about due to the acts 1 2 or omissions or both of such parent, quardian, or legal 3 custodian, until such time as an investigation is made as provided in paragraph (5) and a hearing is held on the issue of 4 5 the health, safety, and best interest of the minor and the fitness of such parent, guardian, or legal custodian to care 6 for the minor and the court enters an order that such parent, 7 8 quardian, or legal custodian is fit to care for the minor. If a 9 motion is filed to modify or vacate a private quardianship 10 order and return the child to a parent, guardian, or legal 11 custodian, the court may order the Department of Children and 12 Family Services to assess the minor's current and proposed 13 living arrangements and to provide ongoing monitoring of the 14 health, safety, and best interest of the minor during the 15 pendency of the motion to assist the court in making that 16 determination. In the event that the minor has attained 18 17 years of age and the guardian or custodian petitions the court for an order terminating his guardianship or 18 custody, guardianship or custody shall terminate automatically 30 days 19 20 after the receipt of the petition unless the court orders otherwise. No legal custodian or guardian of the person may be 21 22 removed without his consent until given notice and an 23 opportunity to be heard by the court.

When the court orders a child restored to the custody of the parent or parents, the court shall order the parent or parents to cooperate with the Department of Children and Family Services and comply with the terms of an after-care plan, or risk the loss of custody of the child and possible termination of their parental rights. The court may also enter an order of protective supervision in accordance with Section 2-24.

6 If the minor is being restored to the custody of a parent, 7 legal custodian, or guardian who lives outside of Illinois, 8 and an Interstate Compact has been requested and refused, the 9 court may order the Department of Children and Family Services 10 to arrange for an assessment of the minor's proposed living 11 arrangement and for ongoing monitoring of the health, safety, 12 and best interest of the minor and compliance with any order of protective supervision entered in accordance with Section 13 2 - 24. 14

(5) Whenever a parent, guardian, or legal custodian files 15 16 a motion for restoration of custody of the minor, and the minor 17 was adjudicated neglected, abused, or dependent as a result of physical abuse, the court shall cause to 18 be made an 19 investigation as to whether the movant has ever been charged 20 with or convicted of any criminal offense which would indicate the likelihood of any further physical abuse to the minor. 21 22 Evidence of such criminal convictions shall be taken into 23 account in determining whether the minor can be cared for at 24 home without endangering his or her health or safety and 25 fitness of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

(a) Any agency of this State or any subdivision

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1 2 thereof shall cooperate with the agent of the court in providing any information sought in the investigation.

3 (b) The information derived from the investigation and 4 any conclusions or recommendations derived from the 5 information shall be provided to the parent, guardian, or 6 legal custodian seeking restoration of custody prior to 7 the hearing on fitness and the movant shall have an 8 opportunity at the hearing to refute the information or 9 contest its significance.

10 (c) All information obtained from any investigation
 11 shall be confidential as provided in Section 5-150 of this
 12 Act.

13 (Source: P.A. 101-63, eff. 10-1-19; 102-193, eff. 7-30-21; 14 102-489, eff. 8-20-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; revised 15 8-23-22.)

16 (705 ILCS 405/2-31) (from Ch. 37, par. 802-31)

Sec. 2-31. Duration of wardship and discharge of proceedings.

(1) All proceedings under Article II of this Act in
respect of any minor automatically terminate upon his or her
attaining the age of 21 years.

(2) Whenever the court determines, and makes written factual findings, that health, safety, and the best interests of the minor and the public no longer require the wardship of the court, the court shall order the wardship terminated and

all proceedings under this Act respecting that minor finally 1 2 closed and discharged. The court may at the same time continue 3 or terminate any custodianship or guardianship theretofore ordered but the termination must be made in compliance with 4 5 Section 2-28. When terminating wardship under this Section, if the minor is over 18 or if wardship is terminated in 6 7 conjunction with an order partially or completely emancipating 8 the minor in accordance with the Emancipation of Minors Act, 9 the court shall also consider the following factors, in 10 addition to the health, safety, and best interest of the minor 11 and the public: (A) the minor's wishes regarding case closure; 12 (B) the manner in which the minor will maintain independence services from the Department; (C) the minor's 13 without 14 engagement in services including placement offered by the 15 Department; (D) if the minor is not engaged, the Department's 16 efforts to engage the minor; (E) the nature of communication 17 between the minor and the Department; (F) the minor's involvement in other State systems or services; 18 (G) the 19 minor's connections with family and other community support; 20 and (H) any other factor the court deems relevant. The minor's lack of cooperation with services provided by the Department 21 22 of Children and Family Services shall not by itself be 23 considered sufficient evidence that the minor is prepared to live independently and that it is in the best interest of the 24 25 minor to terminate wardship. It shall not be in the minor's 26 best interest to terminate wardship of a minor over the age of

1 18 who is in the guardianship of the Department of Children and 2 Family Services if the Department has not made <u>active</u> 3 reasonable efforts to ensure that the minor has documents 4 necessary for adult living as provided in Section 35.10 of the 5 Children and Family Services Act.

6 (3) The wardship of the minor and any custodianship or 7 guardianship respecting the minor for whom a petition was 8 filed after July 24, 1991 (the effective date of Public Act 9 87-14) automatically terminates when he attains the age of 19 10 years, except as set forth in subsection (1) of this Section. 11 The clerk of the court shall at that time record all 12 proceedings under this Act as finally closed and discharged 13 for that reason. The provisions of this subsection (3) become inoperative on and after July 12, 2019 (the effective date of 14 15 Public Act 101-78).

16 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, 17 the changes made by Public Act 101-78 apply to all cases that 18 are pending on or after July 12, 2019 (the effective date of 19 Public Act 101-78).

20 (Source: P.A. 101-78, eff. 7-12-19; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21.)

21 Section 10. The Adoption Act is amended by changing 22 Section 1 as follows:

23 (750 ILCS 50/1) (from Ch. 40, par. 1501)

24 Sec. 1. Definitions. When used in this Act, unless the

1 context otherwise requires:

A. "Child" means a person under legal age subject toadoption under this Act.

B. "Related child" means a child subject to adoption where 4 5 either or both of the adopting parents stands in any of the following relationships to the child by blood, marriage, 6 7 civil union: adoption, or parent, grand-parent, great-grandparent, 8 brother, sister, step-parent, 9 step-grandparent, step-brother, step-sister, uncle, aunt, 10 great-uncle, great-aunt, first cousin, or second cousin. A 11 person is related to the child as a first cousin or second 12 cousin if they are both related to the same ancestor as either 13 grandchild or great-grandchild. A child whose parent has 14 executed a consent to adoption, a surrender, or a waiver 15 pursuant to Section 10 of this Act or whose parent has signed a 16 denial of paternity pursuant to Section 12 of the Vital 17 Records Act or Section 12a of this Act, or whose parent has had his or her parental rights terminated, is not a related child 18 19 to that person, unless (1) the consent is determined to be void 20 or is void pursuant to subsection O of Section 10 of this Act; or (2) the parent of the child executed a consent to adoption 21 22 by a specified person or persons pursuant to subsection A-1 of 23 Section 10 of this Act and a court of competent jurisdiction finds that such consent is void; or (3) the order terminating 24 25 the parental rights of the parent is vacated by a court of 26 competent jurisdiction.

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1 2 C. "Agency" for the purpose of this Act means a public child welfare agency or a licensed child welfare agency.

3 D. "Unfit person" means any person whom the court shall find to be unfit to have a child, without regard to the 4 5 likelihood that the child will be placed for adoption. The grounds of unfitness are any one or more of the following, 6 except that a person shall not be considered an unfit person 7 8 for the sole reason that the person has relinquished a child in 9 accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act or 10 the Department of Children and Family Services or its assign 11 has been found to have not made active efforts as defined in 12 Section 1-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 during any period 13 during the pendency of the case at hand:

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(a) Abandonment of the child.

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(a-1) Abandonment of a newborn infant in a hospital.

16 (a-2) Abandonment of a newborn infant in any setting
17 where the evidence suggests that the parent intended to
18 relinquish his or her parental rights.

19 (b) Failure to maintain a reasonable degree of 20 interest, concern or responsibility as to the child's 21 welfare.

(c) Desertion of the child for more than 3 months nextpreceding the commencement of the Adoption proceeding.

24 (d) Substantial neglect of the child if continuous or25 repeated.

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(d-1) Substantial neglect, if continuous or repeated,

of any child residing in the household which resulted in the death of that child.

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(e) Extreme or repeated cruelty to the child.

4 (f) There is a rebuttable presumption, which can be 5 overcome only by clear and convincing evidence, that a 6 parent is unfit if:

7 (1) Two or more findings of physical abuse have 8 been entered regarding any children under Section 2-21 9 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, the most recent of 10 which was determined by the juvenile court hearing the 11 matter to be supported by clear and convincing 12 evidence; or

13 (2) The parent has been convicted or found not 14 guilty by reason of insanity and the conviction or 15 finding resulted from the death of any child by 16 physical abuse; or

17 (3) There is a finding of physical child abuse
18 resulting from the death of any child under Section
19 2-21 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

20 No conviction or finding of delinquency pursuant to 21 Article V of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be 22 considered a criminal conviction for the purpose of 23 applying any presumption under this item (f).

(g) Failure to protect the child from conditions
within his environment injurious to the child's welfare.
(h) Other neglect of, or misconduct toward the child;

provided that in making a finding of unfitness the court 1 2 hearing the adoption proceeding shall not be bound by any 3 previous finding, order judgment affecting or or determining the rights of the parents toward the child 4 5 sought to be adopted in any other proceeding except such proceedings terminating parental rights as shall be had 6 7 under either this Act, the Juvenile Court Act or the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. 8

9 (i) Depravity. Conviction of any one of the following 10 crimes shall create a presumption that a parent is 11 depraved which can be overcome only by clear and 12 convincing evidence: (1) first degree murder in violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of Section 9-1 of 13 the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012 or 14 15 conviction of second degree murder in violation of 16 subsection (a) of Section 9-2 of the Criminal Code of 1961 17 or the Criminal Code of 2012 of a parent of the child to be adopted; (2) first degree murder or second degree murder 18 of any child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or 19 the Criminal Code of 2012; (3) attempt or conspiracy to 20 21 commit first degree murder or second degree murder of any 22 child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the 23 Criminal Code of 2012; (4) solicitation to commit murder 24 of any child, solicitation to commit murder of any child 25 for hire, or solicitation to commit second degree murder 26 of any child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or

the Criminal Code of 2012; (5) predatory criminal sexual 1 2 assault of a child in violation of Section 11-1.40 or 12-14.1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code 3 of 2012; (6) heinous battery of any child in violation of 4 5 the Criminal Code of 1961; (7) aggravated battery of any child in violation of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the 6 7 Criminal Code of 2012; (8) any violation of Section 11-1.20 or Section 12-13 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or 8 9 the Criminal Code of 2012; (9) any violation of subsection 10 (a) of Section 11-1.50 or Section 12-16 of the Criminal 11 Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; (10) any 12 violation of Section 11-9.1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 the Criminal Code of 2012; (11) any violation of 13 or Section 11-9.1A of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the 14 15 Criminal Code of 2012; or (12) an offense in any other 16 state the elements of which are similar and bear a 17 substantial relationship to any of the enumerated offenses in this subsection (i). 18

19 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is 20 depraved if the parent has been criminally convicted of at least 3 felonies under the laws of this State or any other 21 22 state, or under federal law, or the criminal laws of any 23 United States territory; and at least one of these 24 convictions took place within 5 years of the filing of the 25 petition or motion seeking termination of parental rights. 26 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is

depraved if that parent has been criminally convicted of either first or second degree murder of any person as defined in the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012 within 10 years of the filing date of the petition or motion to terminate parental rights.

6 No conviction or finding of delinquency pursuant to 7 Article 5 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be 8 considered a criminal conviction for the purpose of 9 applying any presumption under this item (i).

10 11 (j) Open and notorious adultery or fornication.

(j-1) (Blank).

12 (k) Habitual drunkenness or addiction to drugs, other 13 than those prescribed by a physician, for at least one 14 year immediately prior to the commencement of the 15 unfitness proceeding.

16 There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is 17 unfit under this subsection with respect to any child to which that parent gives birth where there is a confirmed 18 19 test result that at birth the child's blood, urine, or 20 meconium contained any amount of a controlled substance as defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the Illinois 21 22 Controlled Substances Act or metabolites of such 23 substances, the presence of which in the newborn infant was not the result of medical treatment administered to 24 25 the mother or the newborn infant; and the biological 26 mother of this child is the biological mother of at least

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one other child who was adjudicated a neglected minor
 under subsection (c) of Section 2-3 of the Juvenile Court
 Act of 1987.

(1) Failure to demonstrate a reasonable degree of interest, concern or responsibility as to the welfare of a new born child during the first 30 days after its birth.

7 (m) Failure by a parent (i) to make reasonable efforts to correct the conditions that were the basis for the 8 9 removal of the child from the parent during any 9-month 10 period following the adjudication of neglected or abused 11 minor under Section 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 12 or dependent minor under Section 2-4 of that Act, or (ii) 13 to make reasonable progress toward the return of the child 14 to the parent during any 9-month period following the 15 adjudication of neglected or abused minor under Section 16 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 or dependent minor under Section 2-4 of that Act. If a service plan has been 17 established as required under Section 8.2 of the Abused 18 19 Neglected Child Reporting Act to and correct the 20 conditions that were the basis for the removal of the 21 child from the parent and if those services were 22 available, then, for purposes of this Act, "failure to 23 make reasonable progress toward the return of the child to 24 the parent" includes the parent's failure to substantially 25 fulfill his or her obligations under the service plan and 26 correct the conditions that brought the child into care

during any 9-month period following the adjudication under 1 2 Section 2-3 or 2-4 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. 3 Notwithstanding any other provision, when a petition or motion seeks to terminate parental rights on the basis of 4 item (ii) of this subsection (m), the petitioner shall 5 6 file with the court and serve on the parties a pleading 7 that specifies the 9-month period or periods relied on. 8 The pleading shall be filed and served on the parties no 9 later than 3 weeks before the date set by the court for 10 closure of discovery, and the allegations in the pleading 11 shall be treated as incorporated into the petition or 12 motion. Failure of a respondent to file a written denial 13 of the allegations in the pleading shall not be treated as 14 an admission that the allegations are true.

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(m-1) (Blank).

16 (n) Evidence of intent to forgo his or her parental rights, whether or not the child is a ward of the court, 17 (1) as manifested by his or her failure for a period of 12 18 19 months: (i) to visit the child, (ii) to communicate with the child or agency, although able to do so and not 20 21 prevented from doing so by an agency or by court order, or 22 (iii) to maintain contact with or plan for the future of 23 the child, although physically able to do so, or (2) as 24 manifested by the father's failure, where he and the 25 mother of the child were unmarried to each other at the 26 time of the child's birth, (i) to commence legal

proceedings to establish his paternity under the Illinois 1 2 Parentage Act of 1984, the Illinois Parentage Act of 2015, 3 or the law of the jurisdiction of the child's birth within 30 days of being informed, pursuant to Section 12a of this 4 5 Act, that he is the father or the likely father of the 6 child or, after being so informed where the child is not 7 yet born, within 30 days of the child's birth, or (ii) to make a good faith effort to pay a reasonable amount of the 8 9 expenses related to the birth of the child and to provide a 10 reasonable amount for the financial support of the child, 11 the court to consider in its determination all relevant 12 circumstances, including the financial condition of both 13 parents; provided that the ground for termination provided 14 in this subparagraph (n)(2)(ii) shall only be available 15 where the petition is brought by the mother or the husband 16 of the mother.

17 Contact or communication by a parent with his or her child that does not demonstrate affection and concern does 18 19 not constitute reasonable contact and planning under subdivision (n). In the absence of evidence to the 20 21 contrary, the ability to visit, communicate, maintain 22 contact, pay expenses and plan for the future shall be 23 presumed. The subjective intent of the parent, whether 24 expressed or otherwise, unsupported by evidence of the 25 foregoing parental acts manifesting that intent, shall not 26 preclude a determination that the parent has intended to

1 forgo his or her parental rights. In making this 2 determination, the court may consider but shall not 3 require a showing of diligent efforts by an authorized 4 agency to encourage the parent to perform the acts 5 specified in subdivision (n).

6 It shall be an affirmative defense to any allegation 7 under paragraph (2) of this subsection that the father's 8 failure was due to circumstances beyond his control or to 9 impediments created by the mother or any other person 10 having legal custody. Proof of that fact need only be by a 11 preponderance of the evidence.

(o) Repeated or continuous failure by the parents,
although physically and financially able, to provide the
child with adequate food, clothing, or shelter.

15 (p) Inability to discharge parental responsibilities 16 supported by competent evidence from a psychiatrist, 17 licensed clinical social worker, or clinical psychologist of mental impairment, mental illness or an intellectual 18 disability as defined in Section 1-116 of the Mental 19 20 Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, or developmental disability as defined in Section 1-106 of 21 22 that Code, and there is sufficient justification to believe 23 that the inability to discharge parental 24 responsibilities shall extend beyond a reasonable time 25 period. However, this subdivision (p) shall not be 26 construed so as to permit a licensed clinical social

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- worker to conduct any medical diagnosis to determine
 mental illness or mental impairment.
- 3

(q) (Blank).

child is in the temporary custody 4 (r) The or 5 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services, the parent is incarcerated as a result of 6 7 criminal conviction at the time the petition or motion for termination of parental rights is filed, prior 8 to 9 incarceration the parent had little or no contact with the 10 child or provided little or no support for the child, and 11 the parent's incarceration will prevent the parent from 12 discharging his or her parental responsibilities for the child for a period in excess of 2 years after the filing of 13 14 the petition or motion for termination of parental rights.

in the temporary custody or 15 (s) The child is 16 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family 17 Services, the parent is incarcerated at the time the petition or motion for termination of parental rights is 18 19 filed, the parent has been repeatedly incarcerated as a 20 result of criminal convictions, and the parent's repeated 21 incarceration has prevented the parent from discharging 22 his or her parental responsibilities for the child.

(t) A finding that at birth the child's blood, urine,
or meconium contained any amount of a controlled substance
as defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the
Illinois Controlled Substances Act, or a metabolite of a

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controlled substance, with the exception of controlled 1 2 substances or metabolites of such substances, the presence of which in the newborn infant was the result of medical 3 treatment administered to the mother or the newborn 4 5 infant, and that the biological mother of this child is the biological mother of at least one other child who was 6 7 adjudicated a neglected minor under subsection (c) of 8 Section 2-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, after which 9 the biological mother had the opportunity to enroll in and 10 participate in a clinically appropriate substance abuse 11 counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation program.

12 E. "Parent" means a person who is the legal mother or legal father of the child as defined in subsection X or Y of this 13 14 Section. For the purpose of this Act, a parent who has executed 15 a consent to adoption, a surrender, or a waiver pursuant to 16 Section 10 of this Act, who has signed a Denial of Paternity 17 pursuant to Section 12 of the Vital Records Act or Section 12a of this Act, or whose parental rights have been terminated by a 18 19 court, is not a parent of the child who was the subject of the consent, surrender, waiver, or denial unless (1) the consent 20 is void pursuant to subsection 0 of Section 10 of this Act; or 21 22 (2) the person executed a consent to adoption by a specified 23 person or persons pursuant to subsection A-1 of Section 10 of 24 this Act and a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the 25 consent is void; or (3) the order terminating the parental 26 rights of the person is vacated by a court of competent

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1 jurisdiction.

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F. A person is available for adoption when the person is:

3 (a) a child who has been surrendered for adoption to
4 an agency and to whose adoption the agency has thereafter
5 consented;

6 (b) a child to whose adoption a person authorized by 7 law, other than his parents, has consented, or to whose 8 adoption no consent is required pursuant to Section 8 of 9 this Act;

10 (c) a child who is in the custody of persons who intend
11 to adopt him through placement made by his parents;

12 (c-1) a child for whom a parent has signed a specific
13 consent pursuant to subsection 0 of Section 10;

14 (d) an adult who meets the conditions set forth in15 Section 3 of this Act; or

(e) a child who has been relinquished as defined in
Section 10 of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.
A person who would otherwise be available for adoption
shall not be deemed unavailable for adoption solely by reason
of his or her death.

G. The singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular and the "male" includes the "female", as the context of this Act may require.

24 H. (Blank).

I. "Habitual residence" has the meaning ascribed to it inthe federal Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 and regulations

1 promulgated thereunder.

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J. "Immediate relatives" means the biological parents, the parents of the biological parents and siblings of the biological parents.

5 K. "Intercountry adoption" is a process by which a child 6 from a country other than the United States is adopted by 7 persons who are habitual residents of the United States, or 8 the child is a habitual resident of the United States who is 9 adopted by persons who are habitual residents of a country 10 other than the United States.

11

L. (Blank).

M. "Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" is a law enacted by all states and certain territories for the purpose of establishing uniform procedures for handling the interstate placement of children in foster homes, adoptive homes, or other child care facilities.

17 N. (Blank).

0. "Preadoption requirements" means any conditions or standards established by the laws or administrative rules of this State that must be met by a prospective adoptive parent prior to the placement of a child in an adoptive home.

P. "Abused child" means a child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent:

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(a) inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be

inflicted upon the child physical injury, by other than accidental means, that causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;

5 (b) creates a substantial risk of physical injury to 6 the child by other than accidental means which would be 7 likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of 8 physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any 9 bodily function;

10 (c) commits or allows to be committed any sex offense 11 against the child, as sex offenses are defined in the 12 Criminal Code of 2012 and extending those definitions of 13 sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;

14 (d) commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of15 torture upon the child; or

16

(e) inflicts excessive corporal punishment.

17 Q. "Neglected child" means any child whose parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare withholds or denies 18 19 nourishment or medically indicated treatment including food or 20 care denied solely on the basis of the present or anticipated mental or physical impairment as determined by a physician 21 22 acting alone or in consultation with other physicians or 23 otherwise does not provide the proper or necessary support, 24 education as required by law, or medical or other remedial 25 care recognized under State law as necessary for a child's 26 well-being, or other care necessary for his or her well-being,

including adequate food, clothing and shelter; or who is abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

A child shall not be considered neglected or abused for 4 5 the sole reason that the child's parent or other person 6 responsible for his or her welfare depends upon spiritual 7 means through prayer alone for the treatment or cure of 8 disease or remedial care as provided under Section 4 of the 9 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. A child shall not be 10 considered neglected or abused for the sole reason that the 11 child's parent or other person responsible for the child's 12 welfare failed to vaccinate, delayed vaccination, or refused vaccination for the child due to a waiver on religious or 13 14 medical grounds as permitted by law.

15 R. "Putative father" means a man who may be a child's 16 father, but who (1) is not married to the child's mother on or 17 before the date that the child was or is to be born and (2) has not established paternity of the child in a court proceeding 18 before the filing of a petition for the adoption of the child. 19 20 The term includes a male who is less than 18 years of age. "Putative father" does not mean a man who is the child's father 21 22 as a result of criminal sexual abuse or assault as defined 23 under Article 11 of the Criminal Code of 2012.

24 S. "Standby adoption" means an adoption in which a parent 25 consents to custody and termination of parental rights to 26 become effective upon the occurrence of a future event, which

is either the death of the parent or the request of the parent
 for the entry of a final judgment of adoption.

T. (Blank).

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4 T-5. "Biological parent", "birth parent", or "natural 5 parent" of a child are interchangeable terms that mean a 6 person who is biologically or genetically related to that 7 child as a parent.

8 U. "Interstate adoption" means the placement of a minor 9 child with a prospective adoptive parent for the purpose of 10 pursuing an adoption for that child that is subject to the 11 provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of 12 Children.

13 V. (Blank).

14 W. (Blank).

15 X. "Legal father" of a child means a man who is recognized 16 as or presumed to be that child's father:

(1) because of his marriage to or civil union with the child's parent at the time of the child's birth or within 300 days prior to that child's birth, unless he signed a denial of paternity pursuant to Section 12 of the Vital Records Act or a waiver pursuant to Section 10 of this Act; or

(2) because his paternity of the child has been
established pursuant to the Illinois Parentage Act, the
Illinois Parentage Act of 1984, or the Gestational
Surrogacy Act; or

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1 (3) because he is listed as the child's father or 2 parent on the child's birth certificate, unless he is 3 otherwise determined by an administrative or judicial 4 proceeding not to be the parent of the child or unless he 5 rescinds his acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to the 6 Illinois Parentage Act of 1984; or

7 (4) because his paternity or adoption of the child has
8 been established by a court of competent jurisdiction.

9 The definition in this subsection X shall not be construed 10 to provide greater or lesser rights as to the number of parents 11 who can be named on a final judgment order of adoption or 12 Illinois birth certificate that otherwise exist under Illinois 13 law.

14 Y. "Legal mother" of a child means a woman who is 15 recognized as or presumed to be that child's mother:

(1) because she gave birth to the child except as
 provided in the Gestational Surrogacy Act; or

18 (2) because her maternity of the child has been
19 established pursuant to the Illinois Parentage Act of 1984
20 or the Gestational Surrogacy Act; or

(3) because her maternity or adoption of the child has
been established by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(4) because of her marriage to or civil union with the
child's other parent at the time of the child's birth or
within 300 days prior to the time of birth; or

(5) because she is listed as the child's mother or

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parent on the child's birth certificate unless she is otherwise determined by an administrative or judicial proceeding not to be the parent of the child.

The definition in this subsection Y shall not be construed to provide greater or lesser rights as to the number of parents who can be named on a final judgment order of adoption or Illinois birth certificate that otherwise exist under Illinois law.

9 Z. "Department" means the Illinois Department of Children10 and Family Services.

11 AA. "Placement disruption" means a circumstance where the 12 child is removed from an adoptive placement before the 13 adoption is finalized.

BB. "Secondary placement" means a placement, including but 14 15 not limited to the placement of a youth in care as defined in 16 Section 4d of the Children and Family Services Act, that 17 placement disruption or occurs after a an adoption dissolution. "Secondary placement" does not mean secondary 18 19 placements arising due to the death of the adoptive parent of 20 the child.

21 CC. "Adoption dissolution" means a circumstance where the 22 child is removed from an adoptive placement after the adoption 23 is finalized.

DD. "Unregulated placement" means the secondary placement of a child that occurs without the oversight of the courts, the Department, or a licensed child welfare agency. - 84 - LRB103 26122 RLC 52478 b

EE. "Post-placement and post-adoption support services" means support services for placed or adopted children and families that include, but are not limited to, mental health treatment, including counseling and other support services for emotional, behavioral, or developmental needs, and treatment for substance abuse.

FF. "Youth in care" has the meaning provided in Section 4dof the Children and Family Services Act.

9 (Source: P.A. 101-155, eff. 1-1-20; 101-529, eff. 1-1-20;
10 102-139, eff. 1-1-22; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21.)