

1 AN ACT concerning children.

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

4 Section 5. The Bill of Rights for Children is amended by  
5 changing Section 2 and by adding Section 3.5 as follows:

6 (725 ILCS 115/2) (from Ch. 38, par. 1352)

7 Sec. 2. Purposes. The purpose of this Act is to ensure the  
8 fair and compassionate treatment of children involved in the  
9 criminal justice system and involved in juvenile court  
10 proceedings concerning their abuse, neglect, or dependency by  
11 affording certain basic rights and considerations to these  
12 children.

13 (Source: P.A. 86-862.)

14 (725 ILCS 115/3.5 new)

15 Sec. 3.5. Abuse, neglect, and dependency cases; right to  
16 guardian ad litem. If a petition is filed under Article II of  
17 the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 alleging that a minor is an  
18 abused, neglected, or dependent minor, the person filing the  
19 petition shall inform the minor, if capable of understanding,  
20 and his or her parents or custodian that the court will appoint  
21 a guardian ad litem to protect the minor's interests if the  
22 minor is alleged to be an abused or neglected child or is

1 alleged to be the victim of a sex offense and that charges have  
2 been filed against a defendant in court and that such minor is  
3 the alleged victim of the acts of the defendant in the  
4 commission of such offense. The person filing the petition  
5 shall inform the minor, if capable of understanding, and his or  
6 her parents or custodian, that the court may appoint a guardian  
7 ad litem if there may be a conflict of interest between the  
8 minor and his or her parents or other custodian or that it is  
9 in the minor's best interest that such guardian ad litem be  
10 appointed.

11 Section 10. The Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act  
12 is amended by adding Section 6.5 as follows:

13 (725 ILCS 120/6.5 new)

14 Sec. 6.5. Minors under 18 years of age; guardian ad litem.  
15 In any case in which a minor under 18 years of age is the  
16 alleged victim or witness of a violent crime, the court may  
17 appoint a guardian ad litem for the minor if the court finds  
18 that there is a conflict between the minor and his or her  
19 parent, guardian, or other custodian or that it is otherwise in  
20 the minor's best interest that a guardian ad litem be  
21 appointed. Unless the guardian ad litem is an attorney, the  
22 guardian shall be represented in the performance of his or her  
23 duties by counsel.