

By Representatives Heyman, Sanderson and Lynn

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to termination of parental
3 rights; amending s. 39.464, F.S.; providing an
4 additional ground for termination of parental
5 rights due to chronic history of abuse of
6 drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol;
7 providing a definition of the term "chronic";
8 providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of
13 section 39.464, Florida Statutes, to read:

14 39.464 Grounds for termination of parental rights.--

15 (1) The department, the guardian ad litem, a licensed
16 child-placing agency, or any person who has knowledge of the
17 facts alleged or who is informed of said facts and believes
18 that they are true, may petition for the termination of
19 parental rights under any of the following circumstances:

20 (g) When the parent is unable to discharge parental
21 responsibilities due to chronic history of abuse or drugs,
22 controlled substances, or alcohol, the parent has been offered
23 the opportunity to participate in a drug or alcohol treatment
24 program and has:

25 1. Failed or refused to do so; or

26 2. Has failed in treatment.

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28 For the purpose of this paragraph, any substance abuse problem
29 that has existed in excess of one year shall be deemed
30 "chronic."

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