Amendment No. $\underline{01}$ (for drafter's use only)

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5	ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW
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11 12	The Committee on Judicial Oversight offered the following:
13	Amendment (with title amendment)
14	Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause
15	Remove from the bill. Everything after the enacting clause
16	and insert in lieu thereof:
17	Section 1. Section 752.011, Florida Statutes, is
18	created to read:
19	752.011 Action by grandparent or great-grandparent for
20	right of visitation; when petition shall be granted
21	(1) A grandparent or great-grandparent of a minor may
22	petition for visitation with that minor if:
23	(a) One or both of the parents of the minor are
24	deceased;
25	(b) The marriage of the parents of the minor has been
26	dissolved, whether or not a dissolution action is pending;
27	(c) A parent of the minor has deserted the minor;
28	(d) The minor was born out of wedlock and not later
29	determined to be a minor born within wedlock as provided in s.
30	<u>742.091;</u>
31	(e) The minor is living with both natural parents who

are still married to each other, whether or not there is a broken relationship between either or both parents of the minor and the grandparents or great-grandparents, and either or both parents have used their parental authority to prohibit a relationship between the minor and the grandparents or great-grandparents; or

- (f) A deceased parent of the minor has made a written testamentary statement requesting that there be visitation between his or her surviving minor child and the grandparent or great-grandparent.
- (2) Upon the filing of a petition by a grandparent or great-grandparent for visitation rights, the court shall hold a preliminary hearing to find whether there is evidence that the minor is suffering or is threatened with suffering demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm as a result of a parental decision not to permit visitation or contact with the grandparent or great-grandparent. Absent such a finding, the court shall dismiss the petition and shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to be paid by the petitioner to the respondent.
- (3) If the court finds that there is evidence that the minor is suffering or is threatened with suffering demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm as a result of a parental decision not to permit visitation or contact with the grandparent or great-grandparent, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem and shall order the matter to family mediation as provided in chapter 44 and Rules 12.740 and 12.741 of the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure.
- (4) When mediation fails to yield a resolution, the court shall order a psychological evaluation of the minor pursuant to Rule 12.363, Fla. Fam. L.R.P., if comparable

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evidence of the findings expected from such an evaluation is unavailable.

- (5) After a hearing on the matter, the court may award reasonable rights of visitation to the grandparent or great-grandparent with respect to the minor if the court finds that:
- (a) There is clear and convincing evidence that the minor is suffering or is threatened with suffering demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm as a result of a parental decision not to permit visitation or contact with the grandparent or great-grandparent and that visitation with the grandparent or great-grandparent will alleviate or mitigate the harm; and
- (b) The visitation will not materially harm the parent-child relationship.
- (6) In assessing demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm as those terms are used in this chapter, the court shall consider the totality of the circumstances affecting the mental and emotional well-being of the minor, including:
- (a) The love, affection, and other emotional ties existing between the minor and the grandparent or great-grandparent, including those based upon a relationship that has been permitted previously by one or more of the minor's parents.
- (b) The length and quality of the prior relationship between the minor and the grandparent or great-grandparent, including the extent to which the grandparent or great-grandparent has been involved in providing regular care and support of the minor.
 - (c) Whether the grandparent or great-grandparent has

established or attempted to establish ongoing personal contact with the minor.

- (d) The reasons for which a parent or parents have made a decision to end contact or visitation between the minor and the grandparent or great-grandparent which was permitted previously by the parent or parents.
- (e) Whether there has been demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm to the minor as the result of disruption in the family unit due to divorce, abandonment by a parent, or disability or death of a parent, sibling, or other household member, for which the minor has derived support and stability from the relationship with the grandparent or great-grandparent, and whether the continuation of that support and stability is likely to prevent further harm.
- (f) The existence or threat of mental injury to the minor as defined in s. 39.01.
- (g) When one parent is deceased, whether visitation with the grandparent or great-grandparent will help maintain or facilitate contact between the minor and the deceased parent's extended family of origin such that demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm to the minor from loss of additional family relationships is mitigated.
- $\underline{\mbox{(h)}}$ The present mental, physical, and emotional needs and health of the minor.
- (i) The present mental, physical, and emotional health of the grandparent or great-grandparent.
- $\underline{\mbox{(j)} \mbox{ The recommendations of the minor's guardian ad}}$ litem.
- (k) The results of the psychological evaluation of the minor pursuant to Rule 12.363, Fla. Fam. L.R.P.
 - (1) The preference of the minor if the minor is

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determined to be of sufficient maturity to express a preference.

- (m) When a parent is deceased, any written testamentary statement by the deceased parent requesting that visitation with the grandparent or great-grandparent be granted or stating a belief that such visitation would reduce or mitigate demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm to the minor as a result of the parent's death. The absence of such a testamentary statement may not be construed as evidence that the deceased parent would have objected to the requested visitation.
- (n) Such other factors as the court considers necessary in making this determination.
- (7) In assessing whether granting a petition brought under this chapter will cause material harm to the parent-child relationship, the court shall consider the totality of the circumstances affecting the parent-child relationship, including:
- (a) Whether there have been previous disputes between the parents and the grandparent or great-grandparent over childrearing or other matters related to the care and upbringing of the minor;
- (b) Whether visitation would materially interfere with or compromise parental authority;
- (c) Whether visitation can be arranged in such a manner as not to materially detract from the parent-child relationship, including the quantity of time available for enjoyment of the parent-child relationship and any other consideration related to disruption of the schedule and routines of the parents' and the minor's home lives;
 - (d) Whether visitation is being sought for the primary

purpose of continuing or establishing a relationship with the 1 2 minor with the intent that the minor benefit from the 3 relationship; 4 Whether the requested visitation would expose the 5 minor to conduct, moral standards, experiences, or other 6 factors that are inconsistent with influences provided by the 7 parent; 8 (f) The nature of the relationship between the parents 9 and the grandparent or great-grandparent; 10 (g) The reasons for which a parent or parents have made a decision to end contact or visitation between the minor 11 12 and the grandparent or great-grandparent which has been 13 permitted previously by that parent or parents; 14 The psychological toll of visitation disputes on (h) 15 the minor in the particular circumstances; and 16 (i) Such other factors as the court considers 17 necessary in making this determination. 18 (8) Sections 61.1302-61.1348, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, apply to actions brought under this 19 20 chapter. 21 (9) If separate actions under this section and s. 61.13 are pending concurrently, courts are strongly encouraged 22 to consolidate the actions in order to minimize the burden of 23 24 litigation of visitation rights on the minor and the parties. 25 (10) An order of grandparent visitation or great-grandparent visitation may be modified upon a showing of 26 27 substantial change in circumstances or a showing that 28 visitation is causing material harm to the parent-child 29 relationship. 30 (11) An original action requesting visitation rights

under this chapter may be filed by any grandparent or

great-grandparent only once during any 2-year period, except 1 2 on good cause shown that the minor is suffering or threatened with suffering demonstrable significant mental or emotional 3 4 harm caused by a parental decision to deny or limit contact or visitation between a minor and grandparent or 5 great-grandparent, which was not known to the grandparent or 6 7 great-grandparent at the time of filing an earlier action. 8 (12) This section does not provide for visitation rights for grandparents or great-grandparents of minors placed 9 10 for adoption under chapter 63 except as provided in s. 752.07 11 with respect to adoption by a stepparent. 12 (13) Section 57.105 applies to actions brought under 13 this chapter. Section 2. Section 752.01, Florida Statutes, is 14 15 repealed. Section 3. Section 752.015, Florida Statutes, is 16 17 amended to read: 752.015 Mediation of visitation disputes.--It shall be 18 the public policy of this state that families resolve 19 20 differences over grandparent visitation within the family. It shall be the further public policy of this state that when 21 families are unable to resolve differences relating to 22 grandparent visitation that the family participate in any 23 24 formal or informal mediation services that may be available. 25 When families are unable to resolve differences relating to grandparent visitation and a petition is filed pursuant to s. 26 27 752.011 752.01, the court shall, if such services are available in the circuit, refer the case to family mediation 28 29 in accordance with rules promulgated by the Supreme Court. 30 Section 4. Section 752.07, Florida Statutes, is

amended to read:

752.07 Effect of adoption of child by stepparent on right of visitation; when right may be terminated.—When there is a remarriage of one of the natural parents of a minor child for whom visitation rights may be or may have been granted to a grandparent pursuant to s. 752.011 752.01, any subsequent adoption by the stepparent will not terminate any grandparental rights. However, the court may determine that termination of such visitation rights should be terminated based upon the standards for granting such visitation which are set forth in s. 752.011 is in the best interest of the child and rule accordingly, after affording the grandparent an opportunity to be heard.

Section 5. Subsections (46) and (50) of section 39.01, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 39.01 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (46) "Next of kin" means an adult relative of a child who is the child's brother, sister, grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, uncle, or first cousin.
- (50) "Participant," for purposes of a shelter proceeding, dependency proceeding, or termination of parental rights proceeding, means any person who is not a party but who should receive notice of hearings involving the child, including foster parents or the legal custodian of the child, identified prospective parents, grandparents or great-grandparents entitled to priority for adoption consideration under s. 63.0425, actual custodians of the child, and any other person whose participation may be in the best interest of the child. A community-based agency under contract with the department to provide protective services may be designated as a participant at the discretion of the

court. Participants may be granted leave by the court to be heard without the necessity of filing a motion to intervene.

Section 6. Section 39.509, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- Grandparents' and great-grandparents'
 Grandparents rights.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a maternal or paternal grandparent or great-grandparent as well as a stepgrandparent or step-great-grandparent is entitled to reasonable visitation with his or her grandchild or great-grandchild who has been adjudicated a dependent child and taken from the physical custody of the parent unless the court finds that such visitation is not in the best interest of the child or that such visitation would interfere with the goals of the case plan. Reasonable visitation may be unsupervised and, where appropriate and feasible, may be frequent and continuing.
- take place in the home of the grandparent or great-grandparent unless there is a compelling reason for denying such a visitation. The department's caseworker shall arrange the visitation to which a grandparent or great-grandparent is entitled pursuant to this section. The state shall not charge a fee for any costs associated with arranging the visitation. However, the grandparent or great-grandparent shall pay for the child's cost of transportation when the visitation is to take place in the grandparent's or great-grandparent's home. The caseworker shall document the reasons for any decision to restrict a grandparent's or great-grandparent's visitation.
- (2) A grandparent <u>or great-grandparent</u> entitled to visitation pursuant to this section shall not be restricted from appropriate displays of affection to the child, such as

appropriately hugging or kissing his or her grandchild <u>or great-grandchild</u>. Gifts, cards, and letters from the grandparent <u>or great-grandparent</u> and other family members shall not be denied to a child who has been adjudicated a dependent child.

- (3) Any attempt by a grandparent or great-grandparent to facilitate a meeting between the child who has been adjudicated a dependent child and the child's parent or legal custodian, or any other person in violation of a court order shall automatically terminate future visitation rights of the grandparent or great-grandparent.
- (4) When the child has been returned to the physical custody of his or her parent, the visitation rights granted pursuant to this section shall terminate.
- (5) The termination of parental rights does not affect the rights of grandparents or great-grandparents unless the court finds that such visitation is not in the best interest of the child or that such visitation would interfere with the goals of permanency planning for the child.
- great-grandparental visitation is not in the child's best interest, consideration may be given to the finding of guilt, regardless of adjudication, or entry or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to charges under the following statutes, or similar statutes of other jurisdictions: s. 787.04, relating to removing minors from the state or concealing minors contrary to court order; s. 794.011, relating to sexual battery; s. 798.02, relating to lewd and lascivious behavior; chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent exposure; or chapter 827, relating to the abuse of children. Consideration may also be given to a report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect under ss.

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415.101-415.113 or this chapter and the outcome of the investigation concerning such report.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 39.801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.801 Procedures and jurisdiction; notice; service of process.--

- (3) Before the court may terminate parental rights, in addition to the other requirements set forth in this part, the following requirements must be met:
- (a) Notice of the date, time, and place of the advisory hearing for the petition to terminate parental rights and a copy of the petition must be personally served upon the following persons, specifically notifying them that a petition has been filed:
 - 1. The parents of the child.
 - 2. The legal custodians of the child.
- 3. If the parents who would be entitled to notice are dead or unknown, a living relative of the child, unless upon diligent search and inquiry no such relative can be found.
 - 4. Any person who has physical custody of the child.
- 5. Any grandparent or great-grandparent entitled to priority for adoption under s. 63.0425.
- 6. Any prospective parent who has been identified under s. 39.503 or s. 39.803.
- 7. The guardian ad litem for the child or the representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the program has been appointed.

29 The document containing the notice to respond or appear must 30 contain, in type at least as large as the type in the balance

of the document, the following or substantially similar

language: "FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD (OR CHILDREN). IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD OR CHILDREN NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE."

Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection (4), and subsections (6) and (7) of section 61.13, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

61.13 Custody and support of children; visitation rights; power of court in making orders.--

(2)

- (b)1. The court shall determine all matters relating to custody of each minor child of the parties in accordance with the best interests of the child and in accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act. It is the public policy of this state to assure that each minor child has frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents separate or the marriage of the parties is dissolved and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing. After considering all relevant facts, the father of the child shall be given the same consideration as the mother in determining the primary residence of a child irrespective of the age or sex of the child.
- 2. The court shall order that the parental responsibility for a minor child be shared by both parents unless the court finds that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to the child. Evidence that a parent has been convicted of a felony of the third degree or higher involving domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28 and

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chapter 775, or meets the criteria of s. 39.806(1)(d), creates a rebuttable presumption of detriment to the child. If the presumption is not rebutted, shared parental responsibility, including visitation, residence of the child, and decisions made regarding the child, may not be granted to the convicted parent. However, the convicted parent is not relieved of any obligation to provide financial support. If the court determines that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to the child, it may order sole parental responsibility and make such arrangements for visitation as will best protect the child or abused spouse from further harm. Whether or not there is a conviction of any offense of domestic violence or child abuse or the existence of an injunction for protection against domestic violence, the court shall consider evidence of domestic violence or child abuse as evidence of detriment to the child.

- a. In ordering shared parental responsibility, the court may consider the expressed desires of the parents and may grant to one party the ultimate responsibility over specific aspects of the child's welfare or may divide those responsibilities between the parties based on the best interests of the child. Areas of responsibility may include primary residence, education, medical and dental care, and any other responsibilities that the court finds unique to a particular family.
- b. The court shall order "sole parental responsibility, with or without visitation rights, to the other parent when it is in the best interests of" the minor child.
- c. The court may award the grandparents <u>or</u> great-grandparents visitation rights with a minor child

pursuant to the criteria set forth in s. 752.011 if it is in the child's best interest. Grandparents or great-grandparents have legal standing to seek judicial enforcement of such an award. This section does not require that grandparents or great-grandparents be made parties to or given notice of dissolution pleadings or proceedings, nor do grandparents or great-grandparents have legal standing as "contestants" as defined in s. 61.1306. However, if separate actions under this section and s. 752.011 are pending concurrently, courts are strongly encouraged to consolidate the actions in order to minimize the burden of litigation of visitation rights on the child. A court may not order that a child be kept within the state or jurisdiction of the court solely for the purpose of permitting visitation by the grandparents or great-grandparents.

3. Access to records and information pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records, may not be denied to a parent because the parent is not the child's primary residential parent. Full rights under this subparagraph apply to either parent unless a court order specifically revokes these rights, including any restrictions on these rights as provided in a domestic violence injunction. A parent having rights under this subparagraph has the same rights upon request as to form, substance, and manner of access as are available to the other parent of a child, including, without limitation, the right to in-person communication with medical, dental, and education providers.

(4)

30 (c) When a custodial parent refuses to honor a noncustodial parent's, or grandparent's, or

great-grandparent's visitation rights without proper cause, the court shall, after calculating the amount of visitation improperly denied, award the noncustodial parent, or grandparent, or great-grandparent a sufficient amount of extra visitation to compensate the noncustodial parent, or grandparent, or great-grandparent, which visitation shall be ordered as expeditiously as possible in a manner consistent with the best interests of the child and scheduled in a manner that is convenient for the person deprived of visitation. In ordering any makeup visitation, the court shall schedule such visitation in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of the child or children and that is convenient for the noncustodial parent, or great-grandparent. In addition, the court:

- 1. May order the custodial parent to pay reasonable court costs and attorney's fees incurred by the noncustodial parent, or great-grandparent to enforce their visitation rights or make up improperly denied visitation;
- 2. May order the custodial parent to attend the parenting course approved by the judicial circuit;
- 3. May order the custodial parent to do community service if the order will not interfere with the welfare of the child;
- 4. May order the custodial parent to have the financial burden of promoting frequent and continuing contact when the custodial parent and child reside further than 60 miles from the noncustodial parent;
- 5. May award custody, rotating custody, or primary residence to the noncustodial parent, upon the request of the noncustodial parent, if the award is in the best interests of the child; or

- 6. May impose any other reasonable sanction as a result of noncompliance.
- (d) A person who violates this subsection may be punished by contempt of court or other remedies as the court deems appropriate.
- may not deny shared parental responsibility, custody, or visitation rights to a parent, or grandparent, or great-grandparent solely because that parent, or grandparent, or great-grandparent is or is believed to be infected with human immunodeficiency virus; but the court may condition such rights upon the parent's, or grandparent's, or grandparent's agreement to observe measures approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Public Health Service or by the Department of Health for preventing the spread of human immunodeficiency virus to the child.
- (7) In any case where the child is actually residing with a grandparent or great-grandparent in a stable relationship, whether or not the court has awarded custody to the grandparent or great-grandparent or not, the court may recognize the grandparent or great-grandparent grandparents as having the same standing as parents for evaluating what custody arrangements are in the best interest of the child.
- Section 9. Section 63.0425, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 63.0425 Grandparent's <u>or great-grandparent's</u> right to adopt.--
- (1) When a child who has lived with a grandparent or great-grandparent for at least 6 months is placed for adoption, the adoption entity handling the adoption shall

notify that grandparent <u>or great-grandparent</u> of the impending adoption before the petition for adoption is filed. If the grandparent <u>or great-grandparent</u> petitions the court to adopt the child, the court shall give first priority for adoption to that grandparent <u>or great-grandparent</u>.

- (2) This section <u>does</u> shall not apply if the placement for adoption is a result of the death of the child's parent and a different preference is stated in the parent's will.
- (3) This section $\underline{\text{does}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ not apply in stepparent adoptions.
- (4) Nothing in This section does not shall contravene the provisions of s. 63.142(4).

Section 10. Subsection (2) of section 63.172, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63.172 Effect of judgment of adoption.--

(2) If one or both parents of a child die without the relationship of parent and child having been previously terminated and a spouse of the living parent or a close relative of the child thereafter adopts the child, the child's right of inheritance from or through the deceased parent is unaffected by the adoption and, unless the court orders otherwise, the adoption will not terminate any grandparental or great-grandparental rights delineated under chapter 752. For purposes of this subsection, a close relative of a child is the child's brother, sister, grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, or uncle.

Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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30 ====== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========

And the title is amended as follows:

remove from the title of the bill: the entire title 1 2 3 and insert in lieu thereof: 4 A bill to be entitled 5 An act relating to children and families; creating s. 752.011, F.S.; providing for 6 7 court-ordered visitation for grandparents and great-grandparents under certain circumstances; 8 providing for appointment of a guardian ad 9 10 litem and family mediation if the court makes a preliminary finding that the minor is 11 12 threatened with demonstrable significant mental or emotional harm without such visitation; 13 14 requiring court-ordered evaluation of the child 15 if mediation fails; providing for a hearing to determine whether the minor is threatened with 16 demonstrable significant mental or emotional 17 harm; providing criteria for such a 18 determination; providing for attorney's fees 19 20 and costs; applying the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act; repealing s. 752.01, F.S., 21 22 relating to grandparental visitation; encouraging consolidation of actions under ss. 23 24 61.13 and 752.011, F.S.; amending ss. 752.015 and 752.07, F.S., to conform cross references; 25 amending s. 39.01, F.S.; including references 26 27 to great-grandparents in definitions relating to dependent children; amending s. 39.509, 28

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F.S.; providing for great-grandparents'

63.0425, F.S.; providing for a

visitation rights; amending ss. 39.801 and

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great-grandparent's right to adopt; amending s. 61.13, F.S.; providing for great-grandparents' visitation rights and standing with regard to evaluating custody arrangements; conforming this section to provisions of this act; amending s. 63.172, F.S.; conforming references relating to great-grandparental visitation rights under ch. 752, F.S.; providing an effective date.