Florida Senate - 2008

CS for CS for CS for SB 1048

By the Committees on Health and Human Services Appropriations; Judiciary; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and Senator Lynn

603-06984-08

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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to child protection; amending s. 39.01,
3	F.S.; redefining the terms "abandoned" and "harm";
4	defining the term "child who has exhibited inappropriate
5	sexual behavior"; amending s. 39.0121, F.S.; authorizing
6	the Department of Children and Family Services to adopt
7	rules providing for locating and recovering missing
8	children who are involved with the department; providing
9	requirements for reports; amending s. 39.0138, F.S.;
10	requiring a criminal history check of persons being
11	considered for placement of a child to include a search of
12	the department's automated abuse information system;
13	authorizing the department to adopt rules establishing
14	standards for evaluating such information; creating s.
15	39.0141, F.S.; requiring the department, the community-
16	based care provider, or sheriff's office to file a report
17	following a determination that a child involved with the
18	department is missing; amending s. 39.201, F.S.; revising
19	provisions relating to reporting child abuse, abandonment,
20	or neglect to the central abuse hotline to allow for
21	reports by fax or e-mail; amending s. 39.301, F.S.;
22	conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
23	providing certain exceptions to the requirements that a
24	child protective investigation be closed within 60 days;
25	amending s. 39.307, F.S.; revising provision relating to
26	the provision of services to a child in cases of child-on-
27	child sexual abuse to include a child who has exhibited
28	inappropriate sexual behavior; amending s. 39.401, F.S.;
29	requiring a law enforcement officer who takes a child into

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30 custody to release such child to an adoptive parent of the 31 child's sibling, if the sibling was previously adopted and 32 if it is in the best interest of the child; requiring 33 judicial approval for the placement of a child with a nonrelative; amending s. 39.502, F.S.; providing for 34 35 notice to foster or preadoptive parents of any hearings involving the child in their care; amending s. 39.503, 36 37 F.S.; revising the minimum inquiries a petitioner for 38 dependency or shelter must make in trying to locate an 39 identified parent or prospective parent; amending s. 40 39.504, F.S.; revising procedures related to injunctions issued to protect a child; requiring that such injunctions 41 42 remain in effect until modified or dissolved by the court; amending s. 39.507, F.S.; limiting a court to one order 43 44 adjudicating dependency; providing for supplemental findings; amending s. 39.521, F.S.; providing an exception 45 from the requirement for a predisposition study in 46 dependency proceedings; conforming cross-references; 47 amending s. 39.621, F.S.; requiring that an adoptive 48 49 parent of a child's sibling be given the opportunity to 50 apply to adopt such child if the child is available for 51 adoption; requiring that such application be given the 52 same consideration as a relative's application for 53 adoption; amending s. 39.701, F.S.; requiring that notice 54 of a judicial review of a child's status be served on 55 certain persons regardless of whether they attended a 56 prior hearing at which the hearing was announced; amending 57 s. 39.8055, F.S.; revising provisions relating to filing a 58 petition to terminate parental rights; expanding the

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59 grounds for terminating parental rights to include 60 conviction for the murder, manslaughter, or conspiracy to murder another child of the parent; amending s. 39.806, 61 F.S.; adding additional grounds for terminating parental 62 63 rights; amending s. 39.810, F.S.; providing that if 64 termination of parental rights is in the best interests of the child, it is also the least restrictive means of 65 protecting the child; amending s. 322.142, F.S.; 66 67 authorizing the Department of Children and Family Services 68 to be provided copies of driver's license files maintained 69 by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for 70 the purpose of conducting protective investigations; 71 amending s. 402.401, F.S., relating to the Florida Child 72 Welfare Student Loan Forgiveness Program; transferring 73 administration of the program to the Department of 74 Children and Family Services; amending s. 409.1671, F.S.; 75 providing that a community-based provider or a 76 subcontractor of a community-based provider may provide 77 nonowned automobile liability coverage in lieu of 78 providing personal motor vehicle insurance; providing 79 terms, conditions, and applicability for nonowned automobile insurance coverage; requiring a community-based 80 provider or a subcontractor of a community-based provider 81 82 to provide a minimum limit for nonowned automobile insurance coverage; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; revising 83 84 requirements for licensure as a foster home or child-85 caring agency; deleting the exemption from licensure for 86 persons who receive a child from the department; 87 clarifying that a permanent guardian is exempt from

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88 licensure; amending s. 787.04, F.S.; prohibiting a person 89 from knowingly and willfully taking or removing a minor 90 from the state or concealing the location of a minor 91 during the pendency of a dependency proceeding or any 92 other action concerning alleged abuse or neglect of the 93 minor; amending s. 937.021, F.S.; requiring that a report of a missing child made by the department, a community-94 95 based care provider, or a sheriff's office be treated as a 96 missing child report filed by a parent or guardian; 97 prohibiting a law enforcement agency from requiring an order that a child be taken into custody or any other such 98 order before accepting a missing child report for 99 100 investigation; amending s. 985.04, F.S.; providing for the 101 disclosure of certain records relating to children having 102 a history of inappropriate sexual behavior to schools superintendents; amending chapter 2007-174, Laws of 103 Florida; extending the date for the repeal of provisions 104 105 authorizing the reorganization of the Department of 106 Children and Family Services; providing for retroactive 107 application; amending ss. 39.0015, 39.205, 39.302, 108 39.6011, 39.811, 39.828, and 419.001, F.S.; conforming 109 cross-references; providing effective dates.

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

113 Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (g) of 114 present subsection (31) of section 39.01, Florida Statutes, are 115 amended, present subsections (14) through (74) are renumbered as

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116 subsections (15) through (75), respectively, and a new subsection 117 (14) is added to that section, to read:

118 39.01 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, unless the 119 context otherwise requires:

"Abandoned" or "abandonment" means a situation in which 120 (1)121 the parent or legal custodian of a child or, in the absence of a 122 parent or legal custodian, the caregiver responsible for the 123 child's welfare, while being able, makes no provision for the 124 child's support and has failed to establish or maintain a 125 substantial and positive relationship with the child. For purposes of this subsection, "establish or maintain a substantial 126 127 and positive relationship" includes, but is not limited to, 128 frequent and regular contact with the child through frequent and 129 regular visitation or frequent and regular communication to or 130 with the child, and the exercise of parental rights and 131 responsibilities. Marginal efforts and incidental or token visits 1.32 or communications are not sufficient to establish or maintain a 133 substantial and positive relationship with a child. and makes no 134 effort to communicate with the child, which situation is 135 sufficient to evince a willful rejection of parental 136 obligations. If the efforts of the parent or legal custodian, or 137 careqiver primarily responsible for the child's welfare, to 138 support and communicate with the child are, in the opinion of the 139 court, only marginal efforts that do not evince a settled purpose 140 to assume all parental duties, the court may declare the child to be abandoned. The term "abandoned" does not include an abandoned 141 newborn infant as described in s. 383.50, a "child in need of 142 143 services" as defined in chapter 984, or a "family in need of services" as defined in chapter 984. The incarceration of a 144

603-06984-08 20081048c3 145 parent, legal custodian, or caregiver responsible for a child's 146 welfare may support a finding of abandonment. 147 (14) "Child who has exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior" means a child who is 12 years of age or younger and who 148 149 has been found by the department or the court to have committed 150 an inappropriate sexual act on himself or herself or another 151 individual. 152 (32) (31) "Harm" to a child's health or welfare can occur 153 when any person: 154 (e) Abandons the child. Within the context of the definition of "harm," the term "abandoned the child" or 155 156 "abandonment of the child" means a situation in which the parent 157 or legal custodian of a child or, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the caregiver, while being able, makes no 158 provision for the child's support and has failed to establish or 159 160 maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the child. For purposes of this paragraph, "establish or maintain a 161 162 substantial and positive relationship" includes, but is not 163 limited to, frequent and regular contact with the child through 164 frequent and regular visitation or frequent and regular 165 communication to or with the child, and the exercise of parental 166 rights and responsibilities. Marginal efforts and incidental or 167 token visits or communications are not sufficient to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with a child. 168 169 "abandons the child" means that the parent or legal custodian of 170 a child or, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the 171 person responsible for the child's welfare, while being able, 172 makes no provision for the child's support and makes no effort to 173 communicate with the child, which situation is sufficient to

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evince a willful rejection of parental obligation. If the efforts of the parent or legal custodian or person primarily responsible for the child's welfare to support and communicate with the child are only marginal efforts that do not evince a settled purpose to assume all parental duties, the child may be determined to have been abandoned. The term "abandoned" does not include an abandoned newborn infant as described in s. 383.50.

(g) Exposes a child to a controlled substance or alcohol.Exposure to a controlled substance or alcohol is established by:

183 A test, administered at birth, which indicated that the 1. 184 child's blood, urine, or meconium contained any amount of alcohol 185 or a controlled substance or metabolites of such substances, the 186 presence of which was not the result of medical treatment 187 administered to the mother or the newborn infant Use by the 188 mother of a controlled substance or alcohol during pregnancy when 189 the child, at birth, is demonstrably adversely affected by such 190 usage; or

1912. Evidence of extensive, abusive, and Continued chronic192and severe use of a controlled substance or alcohol by a parent193when the child is demonstrably adversely affected by such usage.

As used in this paragraph, the term "controlled substance" means prescription drugs not prescribed for the parent or not administered as prescribed and controlled substances as outlined in Schedule I or Schedule II of s. 893.03.

Section 2. Subsection (16) is added to section 39.0121,
Florida Statutes, to read:

201 39.0121 Specific rulemaking authority.--Pursuant to the 202 requirements of s. 120.536, the department is specifically

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203	authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal administrative rules which
204	implement or interpret law or policy, or describe the procedure
205	and practice requirements necessary to implement this chapter,
206	including, but not limited to, the following:
207	(16) Provisions for reporting, locating, recovering, and
208	stabilizing children whose whereabouts become unknown while they
209	are involved with the department and for preventing recurrences
210	of such incidents. At a minimum, the rules must:
211	(a) Provide comprehensive, explicit, and consistent
212	guidelines to be followed by the department's employees and
213	contracted providers when the whereabouts of a child involved
214	with the department is unknown.
215	(b) Include criteria to determine when a child is missing
216	for purposes of making a report to a law enforcement agency, and
217	require that in all cases in which a law enforcement agency has
218	accepted a case for criminal investigation pursuant to s.
219	39.301(2)(c) and the child's whereabouts are unknown, the child
220	shall be considered missing and a report made.
221	(c) Include steps to be taken by employees and contracted
222	providers to ensure and provide evidence that parents and
223	guardians have been advised of the requirements of s. 787.04(3)
224	and that violations are reported.
225	Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 39.0138, Florida
226	Statutes, is amended to read:
227	39.0138 Criminal history records check; limit on placement
228	of a child
229	(1) The department shall conduct a criminal history records
230	check <u>on</u> for all persons being considered by the department for
231	approval for placement of a child subject to a placement decision

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232 under this chapter, including all nonrelative placement 233 decisions, all members of the household of the person being 234 considered, and frequent visitors to the household. For purposes 235 of this section, a criminal history records check may include, 236 but is not limited to, submission of fingerprints to the 237 Department of Law Enforcement for processing and forwarding to 238 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and national 239 criminal history information, and local criminal records checks 240 through local law enforcement agencies. A criminal history records check must also include a search of the department's 241 automated abuse information system. The department shall 242 243 establish by rule standards for evaluating any information 244 contained in the automated system relating to a person who must 245 be screened for purposes of making a placement decision. 246 Section 4. Section 39.0141, Florida Statutes, is created to 247 read: 248 39.0141 Missing children; report required.--Whenever the 249 whereabouts of a child involved with the department becomes 250 unknown, the department, the community-based care provider, or 251 the sheriff's office providing investigative services for the 252 department shall make reasonable efforts, as defined by rule, to 253 locate the child. If, pursuant to criteria established by rule, 254 the child is determined to be missing, the department, the 255 community-based care provider, or the sheriff's office shall file 256 a report that the child is missing in accordance with s. 937.021. 257 Section 5. Subsections (2), (4), and (7) of section 39.201, 258 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 259 39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or 260 neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline .--

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261 (2) (a) Each report of known or suspected child abuse, 262 abandonment, or neglect by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, 263 or other person responsible for the child's welfare as defined in 264 this chapter, except those solely under s. 827.04(3), and each report that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no 265 266 parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative 267 immediately known and available to provide supervision and care 268 shall be made immediately to the department's central abuse 269 hotline. Such reports may be made on the single statewide toll-270 free telephone number or by fax or e-mail. Personnel at the 271 department's central abuse hotline shall determine if the report 272 received meets the statutory definition of child abuse, 273 abandonment, or neglect. Any report meeting one of these 274 definitions shall be accepted for the protective investigation 275 pursuant to part III of this chapter.

(b) If the report is of an instance of known or suspected child abuse by someone other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare as defined in this chapter, the call <u>or report</u> shall be immediately electronically transferred to the appropriate county sheriff's office by the central abuse hotline.

(c) If the report is of an instance of known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect that occurred out of state and the alleged perpetrator and the child alleged to be a victim live out of state, the central abuse hotline <u>may shall</u> not accept the call <u>or report</u> for investigation, but shall transfer the information on the report to the appropriate state.

(d) If the report is of an instance of known or suspectedchild abuse involving impregnation of a child under 16 years of

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290 age by a person 21 years of age or older solely under s. 291 827.04(3), the report shall be made immediately to the 292 appropriate county sheriff's office or other appropriate law 293 enforcement agency. If the report is of an instance of known or suspected child abuse solely under s. 827.04(3), the reporting 294 295 provisions of this subsection do not apply to health care 296 professionals or other persons who provide medical or counseling 297 services to pregnant children when such reporting would interfere 298 with the provision of medical services.

(e) Reports involving known or suspected institutional
child abuse or neglect shall be made and received in the same
manner as all other reports made pursuant to this section.

302 (f) Reports involving a known or suspected juvenile sexual 303 offender or a child who has exhibited inappropriate sexual 304 <u>behavior</u> shall be made and received by the department.

305 1. The department shall determine the age of the alleged 306 juvenile sexual offender, if known.

307 If When the alleged juvenile sexual offender is 12 years 2. 308 of age or younger, the central abuse hotline shall immediately 309 electronically transfer the call or report to the appropriate law 310 enforcement agency office. The department shall conduct an 311 assessment and assist the family in receiving appropriate services pursuant to s. 39.307, and send a written report of the 312 313 allegation to the appropriate county sheriff's office within 48 314 hours after the initial report is made to the central abuse 315 hotline.

316 3. <u>If When</u> the alleged juvenile sexual offender is 13 years 317 of age or older, the <u>central abuse hotline</u> department shall 318 immediately electronically transfer the call <u>or report</u> to the

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319 appropriate county sheriff's office by the central abuse hotline, 320 and send a written report to the appropriate county sheriff's 321 office within 48 hours after the initial report to the central 322 abuse hotline.

323 (g) Reports involving abandoned newborn infants as 324 described in s. 383.50 shall be made and received by the 325 department.

326 1. If the report is of an abandoned newborn infant as 327 described in s. 383.50 and there is no indication of abuse, 328 neglect, or abandonment other than that necessarily entailed in 329 the infant having been left at a hospital, emergency medical 330 services station, or fire station, the department shall provide 331 to the caller the name of a licensed child-placing agency on a 332 rotating basis from a list of licensed child-placing agencies 333 eligible and required to accept physical custody of and to place 334 newborn infants left at a hospital, emergency medical services 335 station, or fire station. The report may shall not be considered 336 a report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment solely because the 337 infant has been left at a hospital, emergency medical services 338 station, or fire station pursuant to s. 383.50.

339 2. If the call, fax, or e-mail includes caller reports 340 indications of abuse or neglect beyond that necessarily entailed 341 in the infant having been left at a hospital, emergency medical 342 services station, or fire station, the report shall be considered 343 as a report of abuse, neglect, or abandonment and is shall be 344 subject to the requirements of s. 39.395 and all other relevant 345 provisions of this chapter, notwithstanding any provisions of 346 chapter 383.

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(h) Hotline counselors shall receive periodic training in

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encouraging reporters to provide their names when reporting 348 349 abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Callers shall be advised of the 350 confidentiality provisions of s. 39.202. The department shall 351 secure and install electronic equipment that automatically provides to the hotline the number from which the call or fax is 352 353 placed, or the Internet protocol (IP) address from which the e-354 mail report is received. This number or address shall be entered 355 into the report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect and become a 356 part of the record of the report, but shall enjoy the same 357 confidentiality as provided to the identity of the reporter 358 caller pursuant to s. 39.202.

359 (i) The department shall voice-record all incoming or 360 outgoing calls that are received or placed by the central abuse 361 hotline and shall maintain an electronic copy of each fax or e-362 mail that relates which relate to suspected or known child abuse, 363 neglect, or abandonment. The recording or electronic copy of each 364 fax and e-mail shall become a part of the record of the report 365 but, notwithstanding s. 39.202, shall be released in full only to 366 law enforcement agencies and state attorneys for the purpose of 367 investigating and prosecuting criminal charges pursuant to s. 368 39.205, or to employees of the department for the purpose of 369 investigating and seeking administrative penalties pursuant to s. 370 39.206. Nothing in This paragraph does not shall prohibit the use 371 of the recordings or electronic copies of faxes or e-mails by 372 hotline staff for quality assurance and training.

373 (4) The department shall establish and maintain a central
374 abuse hotline to receive all reports made pursuant to this
375 section in writing, by fax or e-mail, or through a single
376 statewide toll-free telephone number, which any person may use to

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377 report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect at 378 any hour of the day or night, any day of the week. The central 379 abuse hotline shall be operated in such a manner as to enable the 380 department to:

(a) Immediately identify and locate prior reports or cases
 of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect through <u>the use</u>
 utilization of the department's automated tracking system.

(b) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the
department's program for reporting and investigating suspected
abuse, abandonment, or neglect of children through the
development and analysis of statistical and other information.

388 (c) Track critical steps in the investigative process to 389 ensure compliance with all requirements for any report of abuse, 390 abandonment, or neglect.

(d) Maintain and produce aggregate statistical reports monitoring patterns of child abuse, child abandonment, and child neglect. The department shall collect and analyze child-on-child sexual abuse reports and include the information in aggregate statistical reports.

(e) Serve as a resource for the evaluation, management, and
planning of preventive and remedial services for children who
have been subject to abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

(f) Initiate and enter into agreements with other states for the purpose of gathering and sharing information contained in reports on child maltreatment to further enhance programs for the protection of children.

403 (7) On an ongoing basis, the department's quality assurance
404 program shall review calls <u>and reports</u> to the hotline involving
405 three or more unaccepted reports on a single child, where

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406 jurisdiction applies, in order to detect such things as 407 harassment and situations that warrant an investigation because 408 of the frequency or variety of the source of the reports. The 409 Program Director for Family Safety may refer a case for 410 investigation when it is determined, as a result of this review, 411 that an investigation may be warranted.

412 Section 6. Subsections (1) and (16) of section 39.301, 413 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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39.301 Initiation of protective investigations.--

415 Upon receiving a an oral or written report of known or (1)suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, or that a child 416 417 is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal 418 custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and 419 available to provide supervision and care, the central abuse 420 hotline shall determine if the report requires an immediate 421 onsite protective investigation. For reports requiring an 422 immediate onsite protective investigation, the central abuse 423 hotline shall immediately notify the department's designated 424 children and families district staff responsible for protective 425 investigations to ensure that an onsite investigation is promptly 426 initiated. For reports not requiring an immediate onsite 427 protective investigation, the central abuse hotline shall notify 428 the department's designated children and families district staff 429 responsible for protective investigations in sufficient time to 430 allow for an investigation. At the time of notification of 431 district staff with respect to the report, the central abuse 432 hotline shall also provide information to district staff on any 433 previous report concerning a subject of the present report or any 434 pertinent information relative to the present report or any noted

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435	earlier reports.
436	(16) The department shall complete its protective
437	investigation within No later than 60 days after receiving the
438	initial report, <u>unless:</u> the local office of the department shall
439	complete its investigation.
440	(a) There is also an active, concurrent criminal
441	investigation that is continuing beyond the 60-day period and the
442	closure of the protective investigation may compromise successful
443	criminal prosecution of the child abuse or neglect case, in which
444	case the closure date shall coincide with the closure date of the
445	criminal investigation and any resulting legal action.
446	(b) In child death cases, the final report of the medical
447	examiner is necessary for the department to close its
448	investigation, and the report has not been received within the
449	60-day period, in which case the report closure date shall be
450	extended to accommodate to the report.
451	(c) A child who is necessary to an investigation has been
452	declared missing by the department, a law enforcement agency, or
453	a court, in which case the 60-day period shall be extended until
454	the child has been located or until sufficient information exists
455	to close the investigation despite the unknown location of the
456	child.
457	Section 7. Subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5) of section
458	39.307, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
459	39.307 Reports of child-on-child sexual abuse
460	(2) District staff, at a minimum, shall adhere to the
461	following procedures:

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(a) The purpose of the response to a report alleging
juvenile sexual abuse behavior shall be explained to the
caregiver.

1. The purpose of the response shall be explained in a
manner consistent with legislative purpose and intent provided in
this chapter.

468 2. The name and office telephone number of the person 469 responding shall be provided to the caregiver of the alleged 470 juvenile sexual offender <u>or child who has exhibited inappropriate</u> 471 sexual behavior and the victim's caregiver.

3. The possible consequences of the department's response, including outcomes and services, shall be explained to the caregiver of the alleged juvenile sexual offender <u>or child who</u> <u>has exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior</u> and the victim's family or caregiver.

(b) The caregiver of the alleged juvenile sexual offender or child who has exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior and the victim's caregiver of the victim shall be involved to the fullest extent possible in determining the nature of the allegation and the nature of any problem or risk to other children.

482 (C) The assessment of risk and the perceived treatment 483 needs of the alleged juvenile sexual offender or child who has 484 exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior, the victim, and 485 respective caregivers shall be conducted by the district staff, 486 the child protection team of the Department of Health, and other 487 providers under contract with the department to provide services 488 to the caregiver of the alleged offender, the victim, and the 489 victim's caregiver.

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(d) The assessment shall be conducted in a manner that is
sensitive to the social, economic, and cultural environment of
the family.

(e) <u>If When</u> necessary, the child protection team of the
Department of Health shall conduct a physical examination of the
victim, which is sufficient to meet forensic requirements.

(f) Based on the information obtained from the alleged juvenile sexual offender or child who has exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior, his or her the alleged juvenile sexual offender's caregiver, the victim, and the victim's caregiver, an assessment service and treatment needs report must be completed within 7 days and, if needed, a case plan developed within 30 days.

503 (g) The department shall classify the outcome of its 504 initial assessment of the report as follows:

505 1. Report closed. Services were not offered to the alleged 506 juvenile sexual offender because the department determined that 507 there was no basis for intervention.

508 2. Services accepted by alleged offender. Services were 509 offered to the alleged juvenile sexual offender <u>or child who has</u> 510 <u>exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior</u> and accepted by the 511 caregiver.

3. Report closed. Services were offered to the alleged
juvenile sexual offender or child who has exhibited inappropriate
sexual behavior, but were rejected by the caregiver.

515 4. Notification to law enforcement. Either The risk to the 516 victim's safety and well-being cannot be reduced by the provision 517 of services or the caregiver family rejected services, and

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518 notification of the alleged delinquent act or violation of law to 519 the appropriate law enforcement agency was initiated.

520 5. Services accepted by victim. Services were offered to 521 the victim of the alleged juvenile sexual offender and accepted 522 by the caregiver.

523 6. Report closed. Services were offered to the victim of 524 the alleged juvenile sexual offender, but were rejected by the 525 caregiver.

526 (3) <u>If</u> When services have been accepted by the alleged 527 juvenile sexual offender <u>or child who has exhibited inappropriate</u> 528 <u>sexual behavior</u>, <u>the</u> victim, and respective caregivers or family, 529 the department shall designate a case manager and develop a 530 specific case plan.

(a) Upon receipt of the plan, the caregiver or family shall
indicate its acceptance of the plan in writing.

(b) The case manager shall periodically review the progresstoward achieving the objectives of the plan in order to:

5351. Make adjustments to the plan or take additional action536as provided in this part; or

537 2. Terminate the case <u>if</u> when indicated by successful or 538 substantial achievement of the objectives of the plan.

539 (4) Services provided to the alleged juvenile sexual 540 offender or child who has exhibited inappropriate sexual 541 behavior, the victim, and respective caregivers or family must be 542 voluntary and of necessary duration.

543 <u>(5)(4)</u> If In the event the family or caregiver of the 544 alleged juvenile sexual offender <u>or child who has exhibited</u> 545 <u>inappropriate sexual behavior</u> fails to adequately participate or 546 allow for the adequate participation of the <u>child</u> juvenile sexual

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547	offender in the services or treatment delineated in the case
548	plan, the case manager may recommend that the department:
549	(a) Close the case;
550	(b) Refer the case to mediation or arbitration, if
551	available; or
552	(c) Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of
553	failure to comply.
554	(5) Services to the alleged juvenile sexual offender, the
555	victim, and respective caregivers or family under this section
556	shall be voluntary and of necessary duration.
557	Section 8. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 39.401,
558	Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) is added to
559	that section, to read:
560	39.401 Taking a child alleged to be dependent into custody;
561	law enforcement officers and authorized agents of the
562	department
563	(2) If the law enforcement officer takes the child into
564	custody, that officer shall:
565	(a) Release the child to:
566	1. The parent or legal custodian of the child;
567	2. A responsible adult approved by the court when limited
568	to temporary emergency situations;
569	3. A responsible adult relative who shall be given priority
570	consideration over a nonrelative placement when this is in the
571	best interests of the child; or
572	4. The adoptive parent of the child's sibling, if such
573	sibling was previously adopted, who shall be given priority
574	consideration over a nonrelative placement if it is in the best
575	interest of the child to do so; or

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576 <u>5.4.</u> A responsible adult approved by the department; or
577 (b) Deliver the child to an authorized agent of the
578 department, stating the facts by reason of which the child was
579 taken into custody and sufficient information to establish
580 probable cause that the child is abandoned, abused, or neglected,
581 or otherwise dependent.

583 For cases involving allegations of abandonment, abuse, or 584 neglect, or other dependency cases, within 3 days after such 585 release or within 3 days after delivering the child to an 586 authorized agent of the department, the law enforcement officer 587 who took the child into custody shall make a full written report 588 to the department.

(3) If the child is taken into custody by, or is delivered to, an authorized agent of the department, the authorized agent shall review the facts supporting the removal with an attorney representing the department. The purpose of <u>the</u> this review <u>is</u> shall be to determine whether <u>there is</u> probable cause exists for the filing of a shelter petition.

595 <u>(a)</u> If the facts are not sufficient to support the filing 596 of a shelter petition, the child shall immediately be returned to 597 the custody of the parent or legal custodian.

598 (b) If the facts are sufficient to support the filing of 599 the shelter petition and the child has not been returned to the 600 custody of the parent or legal custodian, the department shall 601 file the petition and schedule a hearing, and the attorney 602 representing the department shall request that a shelter hearing 603 be held within as quickly as possible, not to exceed 24 hours 604 after the removal of the child. While awaiting the shelter

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605 hearing, the authorized agent of the department may place the 606 child in licensed shelter care or may release the child to a 607 parent or legal custodian or responsible adult relative who shall be given priority consideration over a licensed placement, or a 608 609 responsible adult approved by the department if when this is in 610 the best interests of the child. Any Placement of a child which is not in a licensed shelter must be preceded by a criminal 611 612 history records check as required under s. 39.0138 local and 613 state criminal records check, as well as a search of the 614 department's automated abuse information system, on all members 615 of the household, to assess the child's safety within the home. 616 In addition, the department may authorize placement of a 617 housekeeper/homemaker in the home of a child alleged to be 618 dependent until the parent or legal custodian assumes care of the 619 child.

620 (5) Judicial review and approval is required within 24 621 hours after placement for all nonrelative placements. A 622 nonrelative placement must be for a specific and predetermined 623 period of time, not to exceed 12 months, and shall be reviewed by 624 the court at least every 6 months. If the nonrelative placement 625 continues for longer than 12 months, the department shall request 626 the court to establish permanent guardianship or require that the 627 nonrelative seek licensure as a foster care provider within 30 628 days after the court decision.

629 Section 9. Subsection (17) of section 39.502, Florida 630 Statutes, is amended to read:

39.502 Notice, process, and service.--

632 (17) The parent or legal custodian of the child, the
633 attorney for the department, the guardian ad litem, <u>the foster or</u>

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634 preadoptive parents, and all other parties and participants shall 635 be given reasonable notice of all proceedings and hearings 636 provided for under this part. All foster or preadoptive parents must be provided with at least 72 hours' notice, verbally or in 637 638 writing, of all proceedings or hearings relating to children in 639 their care or children they are seeking to adopt to ensure the 640 ability to provide input to the court. 641 Section 10. Subsection (6) of section 39.503, Florida 642 Statutes, is amended to read: 643 39.503 Identity or location of parent unknown; special 644 procedures.--645 (6) The diligent search required by subsection (5) must 646 include, at a minimum, inquiries of all relatives of the parent 647 or prospective parent made known to the petitioner, inquiries of 648 all offices of program areas of the department likely to have 649 information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of 650 other state and federal agencies likely to have information about 651 the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of appropriate 652 utility and postal providers, a thorough search of at least one 653 electronic database specifically designed for locating persons, 654 and inquiries of appropriate law enforcement agencies. Pursuant 655 to s. 453 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 653(c)(4), the 656 department, as the state agency administering Titles IV-B and IV-657 E of the act, shall be provided access to the federal and state 658 parent locator service for diligent search activities. 659 Section 11. Section 39.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to 660 read:

39.504 Injunction pending disposition of petition;penalty.--

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663 (1) (1) (a) At any time after a protective investigation has 664 been initiated pursuant to part III of this chapter When a 665 petition for shelter placement or a petition for dependency has 666 been filed or when a child has been taken into custody and 667 reasonable cause, as defined in paragraph (b), exists, the court, 668 upon the request of the department, a law enforcement officer, 669 the state attorney, or other responsible person, or upon its own 670 motion, may, if there is reasonable cause, shall have the 671 authority to issue an injunction to prevent any act of child 672 abuse or any unlawful sexual offense involving a child.

673 (b) Reasonable cause for the issuance of an injunction 674 exists if there is evidence of child abuse or an unlawful sexual 675 offense involving a child or if there is a reasonable likelihood 676 of such abuse or offense occurring based upon a recent overt act 677 or failure to act.

678 Notice shall be provided to the parties as set forth in (2) 679 the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, unless the child is 680 reported to be in imminent danger, in which case the court may 681 issue an injunction immediately. A judge may issue an emergency 682 injunction pursuant to this section without notice if at times 683 when the court is closed for the transaction of judicial 684 business. If When such an immediate injunction is issued, the 685 court must shall hold a hearing on the next day of judicial 686 business either to dissolve the injunction or to continue or 687 modify it in accordance with the other provisions of this 688 section.

(3) (a) <u>If</u> In every instance in which an injunction is
issued under this section, the <u>primary</u> purpose of the injunction
must be shall be primarily to protect and promote the best

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692 interests of the child, taking the preservation of the child's 693 immediate family into consideration. The effective period of the 694 injunction shall be determined by the court, except that the injunction will expire at the time of the disposition of the 695 696 petition for shelter placement or dependency.

697 (a) (b) The injunction shall apply to the alleged or actual 698 offender in a case of child abuse or acts of domestic violence an 699 unlawful sexual offense involving a child. The conditions of the 700 injunction shall be determined by the court, which conditions may include ordering the alleged or actual offender to: 701

1. Refrain from further abuse or acts of domestic violence 702 703 unlawful sexual activity involving a child.

704

2. Participate in a specialized treatment program.

705 3. Limit contact or communication with the child victim, 706 other children in the home, or any other child.

707 4. Refrain from contacting the child at home, school, work, 708 or wherever the child may be found.

709

5. Have limited or supervised visitation with the child.

710 Pay temporary support for the child or other family 6. members; the costs of medical, psychiatric, and psychological 711 treatment for the child victim incurred as a result of the 712 713 offenses; and similar costs for other family members.

714

7. Vacate the home in which the child resides.

715 (b) (c) If the intent of the injunction is to protect the 716 child from domestic violence, the conditions may also include:

717 1. Awarding the exclusive use and possession of the dwelling to the caregiver or excluding the alleged or actual 718 719 offender from the residence of the caregiver.

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720	2. Awarding temporary custody of the child to the
721	caregiver.
722	3. Establishing temporary support for the child. At any
723	time prior to the disposition of the petition, the alleged or
724	actual offender may offer the court evidence of changed
725	circumstances as a ground to dissolve or modify the injunction.
726	
727	This paragraph does not preclude the adult victim of domestic
728	violence from seeking protection under s. 741.30.
729	(c) The terms of the injunction shall remain in effect
730	until modified or dissolved by the court. The petitioner,
731	respondent, or caregiver may move at any time to modify or
732	dissolve the injunction. The injunction is valid and enforceable
733	in all counties in the state.
734	(4) Service of process on the respondent shall be carried
735	out pursuant to s. 741.30. The department shall deliver a copy of
736	any injunction issued pursuant to this section shall be delivered
737	to the protected party $_{ au}$ or <u>to</u> a parent <u>,</u> or caregiver <u>,</u> or
738	individual acting in the place of a parent who is not the
739	respondent, and to any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction
740	to enforce such injunction. Law enforcement officers may exercise
741	their arrest powers as provided in s. 901.15(6) to enforce the
742	terms of the injunction. Upon delivery of the injunction to the
743	appropriate law enforcement agency, the agency shall have the
744	duty and responsibility to enforce the injunction.
745	(5) Any person who fails to comply with an injunction
746	issued pursuant to this section <u>commits</u> is guilty of a
747	misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.

748 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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749 Section 12. Subsection (7) of section 39.507, Florida 750 Statutes, is amended to read: 751 39.507 Adjudicatory hearings; orders of adjudication .--752 (7) (a) For as long as a court maintains jurisdiction over a 753 dependency case, only one order adjudicating each child in the 754 case dependent shall be entered. This order establishes the legal 755 status of the child for purposes of proceedings under this 756 chapter and may be based on the conduct of one parent, both 757 parents, or a legal custodian. 758 (b) Upon a properly noticed motion, a subsequent 759 evidentiary hearing may be held regarding the conduct of one 760 parent, both parents, or a custodian. With court approval, 761 supplemental findings made beyond a preponderance of the evidence 762 may be entered. The child's dependency status may not be retried

763 <u>or readjudicated.</u>

764 If a court adjudicates a child dependent and the child (C) 765 is in out-of-home care, the court shall inquire of the parent or 766 parents whether the parents have relatives who might be 767 considered as a placement for the child. The court shall advise 768 the parents that, if the parents fail to substantially comply 769 with the case plan, their parental rights may be terminated and 770 that the child's out-of-home placement may become permanent. The 771 parent or parents shall provide to the court and all parties 772 identification and location information of the relatives.

773Section 13. Paragraphs (a) and (f) of subsection (1) of774section 39.521, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

775

39.521 Disposition hearings; powers of disposition.--

(1) A disposition hearing shall be conducted by the court,if the court finds that the facts alleged in the petition for

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dependency were proven in the adjudicatory hearing, or if the parents or legal custodians have consented to the finding of dependency or admitted the allegations in the petition, have failed to appear for the arraignment hearing after proper notice, or have not been located despite a diligent search having been conducted.

784 A written case plan and a predisposition study prepared (a) 785 by an authorized agent of the department must be filed with the 786 court, and served upon the parents of the child, provided to the 787 representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the program has been appointed, and provided to all other parties $_{ au}$ not less 788 789 than 72 hours before the disposition hearing. All such case plans 790 must be approved by the court. If the court does not approve the 791 case plan at the disposition hearing, the court must set a 792 hearing within 30 days after the disposition hearing to review 793 and approve the case plan. The court may grant an exception to 794 the requirement for a predisposition study by separate order or 795 within the judge's order of disposition upon finding that all the 796 family and child information required by subsection (2) is 797 available in other documents filed with the court.

798 (f) If the court places the child in an out-of-home 799 placement, the disposition order must include a written 800 determination that the child cannot safely remain at home with 801 reunification or family preservation services and that removal of 802 the child is necessary to protect the child. If the child is has 803 been removed before the disposition hearing, the order must also 804 include a written determination as to whether, after removal, the 805 department has made a reasonable effort to reunify the parent and 806 child, if reasonable efforts are required. Reasonable efforts to

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reunify are not required if the court <u>finds</u> has found that any of the acts listed in <u>s. 39.806(1)(f)-(1)</u> s. 39.806(1)(f)-(i) have occurred. The department has the burden of demonstrating that it has made reasonable efforts <u>under this paragraph</u>.

811 1. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "reasonable 812 effort" means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by 813 the department to provide the services ordered by the court or 814 delineated in the case plan.

815 2. In support of its determination as to whether reasonable816 efforts have been made, the court shall:

817 a. Enter written findings as to whether or not prevention
818 or reunification efforts were indicated.

b. If prevention or reunification efforts were indicated,
include a brief written description of what appropriate and
available prevention and reunification efforts were made.

c. Indicate in writing why further efforts could or could
not have prevented or shortened the separation of the parent and
child.

825 3. A court may find that the department has made a 826 reasonable effort to prevent or eliminate the need for removal 827 if:

a. The first contact of the department with the familyoccurs during an emergency;

b. The appraisal by the department of the home situation
indicates that it presents a substantial and immediate danger to
the child's safety or physical, mental, or emotional health which
cannot be mitigated by the provision of preventive services;

c. The child cannot safely remain at home, either because there are no preventive services that can ensure the health and

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836 safety of the child or, even with appropriate and available 837 services being provided, the health and safety of the child 838 cannot be ensured; or

839 d. The parent is alleged to have committed any of the acts 840 listed as grounds for expedited termination of parental rights 841 under s. 39.806(1)(f)-(1) in s. 39.806(1)(f)-(i).

4. A reasonable effort by the department for reunification of the parent and child has been made if the appraisal of the home situation by the department indicates that the severity of the conditions of dependency is such that reunification efforts are inappropriate. The department has the burden of demonstrating to the court that reunification efforts were inappropriate.

5. If the court finds that the prevention or reunification effort of the department would not have permitted the child to remain safely at home, the court may commit the child to the temporary legal custody of the department or take any other action authorized by this chapter.

853 Section 14. Subsection (6) of section 39.621, Florida 854 Statutes, is amended to read:

855

39.621 Permanency determination by the court.--

856 (6) If a child will not be reunited with a parent, adoption, under chapter 63, is the primary permanency option. If 857 858 the child is a sibling of a previously adopted child and the 859 child becomes available for adoption, the adoptive parent of the 860 previously placed sibling shall be offered the opportunity to 861 apply to adopt the child and the adoptive parent's application 862 shall be given the same consideration as a relative's application 863 for adoption. If the child is placed with a relative or with a 864 relative of the child's half-brother or half-sister as a

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865 permanency option, the court may recognize the permanency of this 866 placement without requiring the relative to adopt the child. If 867 the court approves a permanency goal of permanent guardianship of a dependent child, placement with a fit and willing relative, or 868 869 another planned permanent living arrangement, the court shall 870 make findings as to why this permanent placement is established 871 without adoption of the child to follow. If the court approves a permanency goal of another planned permanent living arrangement, 872 873 the court shall document the compelling reasons for choosing this 874 goal.

875 Section 15. Subsection (5) of section 39.701, Florida 876 Statutes, is amended to read:

877

39.701 Judicial review.--

(5) Notice of a judicial review hearing or a citizen review
panel hearing, and a copy of the motion for judicial review, if
any, must be served by the clerk of the court upon <u>all of the</u>
<u>following persons regardless of whether the person was present at</u>
<u>the previous hearing at which the date, time, and location of the</u>
hearing was announced:

(a) The social service agency charged with the supervision
of care, custody, or guardianship of the child, if that agency is
not the movant.

(b) The foster parent or legal custodian in whose home thechild resides.

(c) The parents.

(d) The guardian ad litem for the child, or the
representative of the guardian ad litem program if the program
has been appointed.

893

(e) The attorney for the child.

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603-06984-08 20081048c3 894 (f) The child, if the child is 15 years of age or older. 895 (g) (e) Any preadoptive parent. 896 (h) (f) Such other persons as the court may in its 897 discretion direct. 898 899 Service of notice is not required on any of the persons listed in 900 paragraphs (a) - (f) if the person was present at the previous 901 hearing during which the date, time, and location of the hearing 902 was announced. 903 Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 39.8055, Florida 904 Statutes, is amended to read: 905 39.8055 Requirement to file a petition to terminate 906 parental rights; exceptions. --907 The department shall file a petition to terminate (1)908 parental rights within 60 days after any of the following if: 909 At the time of the 12-month judicial review hearing, a (a) 910 child is not returned to the physical custody of the parents; 911 A petition for termination of parental rights has not (b) 912 otherwise been filed, and the child has been in out-of-home care 913 under the responsibility of the state for 12 $\frac{15}{15}$ of the most 914 recent 22 months, calculated on a cumulative basis, but not 915 including any trial home visits or time during which the child 916 was a runaway; 917 (c) A parent has been convicted of the murder of the other 918 parent, manslaughter of the other parent, aiding or abetting the 919 murder, or conspiracy or solicitation to murder the other parent 920 or another child of the parent, or a felony battery that resulted 921 in serious bodily injury to the child or to another any other 922 child of the parent; or

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923 A court determines that reasonable efforts to reunify (d) 924 the child and parent are not required. 925 Section 17. Paragraphs (e) though (h) of subsection (1) of 926 section 39.806, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (j), 927 (k), and (l) are added to that subsection, and subsections (2), 928 (3), and (4) of that section are amended, to read: 929 39.806 Grounds for termination of parental rights.--930 (1) Grounds for the termination of parental rights may be 931 established under any of the following circumstances: 932 The When a child has been adjudicated dependent, a case (e) plan has been filed with the court, and the parent or parents 933 934 have materially breached the case plan. For purposes of this 935 subsection, the term "materially breached" means: 936 The child continues to be abused, neglected, or 1. 937 abandoned by the parent or parents. In this case, The failure of 938 the parent or parents to substantially comply for a period of 9-939 months 12 months after an adjudication of the child as a 940 dependent child or the child's placement into shelter care, 941 whichever occurs came first, constitutes evidence of continuing 942 abuse, neglect, or abandonment unless the failure to 943 substantially comply with the case plan was due either to the 944 parent's lack of financial resources of the parents or to the failure of the department to make reasonable efforts to reunify 945 946 the parent and child. The 9-month 12-month period begins to run 947 only after the child's placement into shelter care or the entry 948 of a disposition order placing the custody of the child with the 949 department or a person other than the parent and the court's 950 approval by the court of a case plan having the with a goal of 951 reunification with the parent, whichever occurs came first; or

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952 2. The parent or parents are unlikely or unable The parent 953 has materially breached the case plan by making it unlikely that 954 he or she will be able to substantially comply with the case plan 955 before the time for compliance expires; or. Time is of the 956 essence for permanency of children in the dependency system. In 957 order to prove the parent has materially breached the case plan, 958 the court must find by clear and convincing evidence that the 959 parent is unlikely or unable to substantially comply with the 960 case plan before time expires to comply with the case plan.

961 <u>3. The parent or parents, although able, fail to maintain</u> 962 <u>frequent and regular contact with the child through frequent and</u> 963 <u>regular visitation or communication.</u>

964 (f) When The parent or parents engaged in egregious conduct 965 or had the opportunity and capability to prevent and knowingly 966 failed to prevent egregious conduct that threatens the life, 967 safety, or physical, mental, or emotional health of the child or 968 the child's sibling.

969 1. As used in this subsection, the term "sibling" means 970 another child who resides with or is cared for by the parent or 971 parents regardless of whether the child is related legally or by 972 consanguinity.

2. As used in this subsection, the term "egregious conduct" means abuse, abandonment, neglect, or any other conduct of the parent or parents that is deplorable, flagrant, or outrageous by a normal standard of conduct. Egregious conduct may include an act or omission that occurred only once but was of such intensity, magnitude, or severity as to endanger the life of the child.

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(g) When The parent or parents have subjected the child or
another child to aggravated child abuse as defined in s. 827.03,
sexual battery or sexual abuse as defined in s. 39.01, or chronic
abuse.

984 When The parent or parents have been convicted of the (h) 985 murder, manslaughter, aiding or abetting the murder, or 986 conspiracy or solicitation to murder the other parent or another 987 child, or a felony battery that resulted in serious bodily injury 988 to the child or to another child committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child, or a felony assault that results 989 990 in serious bodily injury to the child or another child, or aided 991 or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit such a 992 murder or voluntary manslaughter or felony assault.

993 (i) When The parental rights of the parent to a sibling of
 994 <u>the child</u> have been terminated involuntarily.

995 (j) The parent or parents have a history of extensive, 996 abusive, and chronic use of alcohol or a controlled substance 997 which renders them incapable of caring for the child, and have 998 refused or failed to complete available treatment for such use 999 during the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of the 1000 petition for termination of parental rights.

1001 (k) A test administered at birth that indicated that the 1002 child's blood, urine, or meconium contained any amount of alcohol 1003 or a controlled substance or metabolites of such substances, the 1004 presence of which was not the result of medical treatment 1005 administered to the mother or the newborn infant, and the 1006 biological mother of the child is the biological mother of at 1007 least one other child who was adjudicated dependent after a 1008 finding of harm to the child's health or welfare due to exposure

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1009 to a controlled substance or alcohol as defined in s. 1010 39.01(31)(g), after which the biological mother had the 1011 opportunity to participate in substance abuse treatment.

1012 <u>(1) On three or more occasions the child or another child</u> 1013 <u>of the parent or parents has been placed in out-of-home care</u> 1014 <u>pursuant to this chapter, and the conditions that led to the</u> 1015 <u>child's out-of-home placement were caused by the parent or</u>

1016 parents.

1017 (2) Reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families are 1018 not required if a court of competent jurisdiction has determined 1019 that any of the events described in paragraphs (1) (e) - (1) (1) (e) -1020 (i) have occurred.

1021 If When a petition for termination of parental rights (3) 1022 is filed under subsection (1), a separate petition for dependency 1023 need not be filed and the department need not offer the parents a 1024 case plan having with a goal of reunification, but may instead file with the court a case plan having with a goal of termination 1025 1026 of parental rights to allow continuation of services until the termination is granted or until further orders of the court are 1027 1028 issued.

(4) <u>If When</u> an expedited termination of parental rights petition is filed, reasonable efforts shall be made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan, and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

1034 Section 18. Section 39.810, Florida Statutes, is amended to 1035 read:

1036 39.810 Manifest best interests of the child.--In a hearing 1037 on a petition for termination of parental rights, the court shall

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1038 consider the manifest best interests of the child. This 1039 consideration shall not include a comparison between the 1040 attributes of the parents and those of any persons providing a 1041 present or potential placement for the child. For the purpose of 1042 determining the manifest best interests of the child, the court 1043 shall consider and evaluate all relevant factors, including, but 1044 not limited to:

1045 (1) Any suitable permanent custody arrangement with a 1046 relative of the child. However, the availability of a nonadoptive 1047 placement with a relative may not receive greater consideration 1048 than any other factor weighing on the manifest best interest of 1049 the child and may not be considered as a factor weighing against 1050 termination of parental rights. If a child has been in a stable 1051 or preadoptive placement for not less than 6 months, the 1052 availability of a different placement, including a placement with 1053 a relative, may not be considered as a ground to deny the 1054 termination of parental rights.

1055 (2) The ability and disposition of the parent or parents to 1056 provide the child with food, clothing, medical care or other 1057 remedial care recognized and permitted under state law instead of 1058 medical care, and other material needs of the child.

(3) The capacity of the parent or parents to care for the child to the extent that the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health will not be endangered upon the child's return home.

1063 (4) The present mental and physical health needs of the 1064 child and such future needs of the child to the extent that such 1065 future needs can be ascertained based on the present condition of 1066 the child.

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(5) The love, affection, and other emotional ties existing between the child and the child's parent or parents, siblings, and other relatives, and the degree of harm to the child that would arise from the termination of parental rights and duties.

(6) The likelihood of an older child remaining in long-term foster care upon termination of parental rights, due to emotional or behavioral problems or any special needs of the child.

(7) The child's ability to form a significant relationship with a parental substitute and the likelihood that the child will enter into a more stable and permanent family relationship as a result of permanent termination of parental rights and duties.

(8) The length of time that the child has lived in a
9 stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of
0 maintaining continuity.

(9) The depth of the relationship existing between the child and the present custodian.

(10) The reasonable preferences and wishes of the child, if
 the court deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence,
 understanding, and experience to express a preference.

(11) The recommendations for the child provided by the child's guardian ad litem or legal representative.

If the court finds that termination of parental rights is in the manifest best interests of the child, the court shall also find that termination of parental rights is the least restrictive means of protecting the child.

.093 Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 322.142, Florida .094 Statutes, is amended to read:

322.142 Color photographic or digital imaged licenses.--

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1096 (4) The department may maintain a film negative or print 1097 file. The department shall maintain a record of the digital image 1098 and signature of the licensees, together with other data required 1099 by the department for identification and retrieval. Reproductions 1100 from the file or digital record are exempt from the provisions of 1101 s. 119.07(1) and shall be made and issued only for departmental 1102 administrative purposes; for the issuance of duplicate licenses; 1103 in response to law enforcement agency requests; to the Department 1104 of State pursuant to an interagency agreement to facilitate 1105 determinations of eligibility of voter registration applicants 1106 and registered voters in accordance with ss. 98.045 and 98.075; 1107 to the Department of Revenue pursuant to an interagency agreement 1108 for use in establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, or enforcing support obligations in Title IV-D cases; to the 1109 1110 Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to an 1111 interagency agreement to conduct protective investigations under 1112 part III of chapter 39; or to the Department of Financial 1113 Services pursuant to an interagency agreement to facilitate the 1114 location of owners of unclaimed property, the validation of unclaimed property claims, and the identification of fraudulent 1115 1116 or false claims, and are exempt from the provisions of s. 1117 $\frac{119.07(1)}{1}$. Section 20. Section 402.401, Florida Statutes, is amended 1118

1119

Program.--

1121

to read: 1120 402.401 Florida Child Welfare Student Loan Forgiveness

(1) There is created the Florida Child Welfare Student Loan 1122 1123 Forgiveness Program to be administered by the Department of 1124 Children and Family Services Education. The program shall provide

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1125 loan reimbursement assistance to eligible employees in child 1126 welfare positions that are critical to the department's mission, 1127 as determined by the department, and that are within the 1128 department, sheriff's offices, or contracted community-based care 1129 agencies students for upper-division undergraduate and graduate 1130 study. The primary purpose of the program is to attract capable 1131 and promising students to the child welfare profession, increase 1132 employment and retention of individuals who are working towards 1133 or who have received either a bachelor's degree or a master's 1134 degree in social work, or any human services subject area that 1135 qualifies the individual for employment as a family services 1136 worker, and provide opportunities for persons making midcareer 1137 decisions to enter the child welfare profession. The State Board 1138 of Education shall adopt rules necessary to administer the 1139 program. 1140 (2) (a) To be eligible for a program loan, the employee's

1140 <u>outstanding student loans may not be in a default status.</u> a 1142 <u>candidate shall:</u>

1143 1. Be a full-time student at the upper-division 1144 undergraduate or graduate level in a social work program approved 1145 by the Council on Social Work Education leading to either a 1146 bachelor's degree or a master's degree in social work or an 1147 accredited human services degree program.

1148 2. Have declared an intent to work in child welfare for at 1149 least the number of years for which a forgivable loan is received 1150 at the Department of Children and Family Services or its 1151 successor, or with an eligible lead community-based provider as 1152 defined in s. 409.1671.

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1153	3. If applying for an undergraduate forgivable loan, have
1154	maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least a
1155	2.5 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work. Renewal applicants
1156	for undergraduate loans shall have maintained a minimum
1157	cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
1158	for all undergraduate work and have earned at least 12 semester
1159	credits per term, or the equivalent.
1160	4. If applying for a graduate forgivable loan, have
1161	maintained an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of at
1162	least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or have attained a Graduate Record
1163	Examination score of at least 1,000. Renewal applicants for
1164	graduate loans shall have maintained a minimum cumulative grade
1165	point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all graduate
1166	work and have earned at least 9 semester credits per term, or the
1167	equivalent.
1168	(b) An undergraduate forgivable loan may be awarded for 2
1169	undergraduate years, not to exceed \$4,000 per year.
1170	(c) A graduate forgivable loan may be awarded for 2
1171	
	graduate years, not to exceed \$8,000 per year. In addition to
1172	graduate years, not to exceed \$8,000 per year. In addition to meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at
1172 1173	
/_	meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at
1173	meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall:
1173 1174	<pre>meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall: 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a school or department of</pre>
1173 1174 1175	<pre>meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall: 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a school or department of social work at any college or university accredited by the</pre>
1173 1174 1175 1176	<pre>meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall: 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a school or department of social work at any college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or hold a degree in a human</pre>
1173 1174 1175 1176 1177	<pre>meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall:</pre>
1173 1174 1175 1176 1177 1178	<pre>meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall: 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a school or department of social work at any college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or hold a degree in a human services field from an accredited college or university. 2. Not have received an undergraduate forgivable loan as</pre>
1173 1174 1175 1176 1177 1178 1179	<pre>meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient at the graduate level shall: 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a school or department of social work at any college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or hold a degree in a human services field from an accredited college or university. 2. Not have received an undergraduate forgivable loan as provided for in paragraph (b).</pre>

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1182 1009.82 and 1009.95. A forgivable loan must be repaid within 10
1183 years after completion of a program of studies.

1184 1. Credit for repayment of an undergraduate or graduate 1185 forgivable loan shall be in an amount not to exceed \$4,000 in 1186 loan principal plus applicable accrued interest for each full 1187 year of eligible service in the child welfare profession.

1188 2. Any forgivable loan recipient who fails to work at the 1189 Department of Children and Family Services or its successor, or 1190 with an eligible lead community-based provider as defined in s. 1191 409.1671, is responsible for repaying the loan plus accrued 1192 interest at 8 percent annually.

1193 3. Forgivable loan recipients may receive loan repayment 1194 credit for child welfare service rendered at any time during the 1195 scheduled repayment period. However, such repayment credit shall 1196 be applicable only to the current principal and accrued interest 1197 balance that remains at the time the repayment credit is earned. 1198 No loan recipient shall be reimbursed for previous cash payments 1199 of principal and interest.

1200 (3) This section shall be implemented only as specifically 1201 funded.

1202 Section 21. Paragraphs (h) and (j) of subsection (1) of 1203 section 409.1671, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.1671 Foster care and related services; outsourcing.-(1)

(h) Other than an entity to which s. 768.28 applies, any eligible lead community-based provider, as defined in paragraph (e), or its employees or officers, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (i), must, as a part of its contract, obtain a minimum of \$1 million per claim/\$3 million per incident in

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1211 general liability insurance coverage. The eligible lead 1212 community-based provider must also require that staff who 1213 transport client children and families in their personal 1214 automobiles in order to carry out their job responsibilities 1215 obtain minimum bodily injury liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 per claim, \$300,000 per incident, on their personal 1216 1217 automobiles. In lieu of personal motor vehicle insurance, the 1218 lead community-based provider's casualty, liability, or motor 1219 vehicle insurance carrier may provide nonowned automobile 1220 liability coverage. This insurance provides liability insurance 1221 for automobiles that the provider uses in connection with the 1222 provider's business but does not own, lease, rent, or borrow. 1223 This coverage includes automobiles owned by the employees of the 1224 provider or a member of the employee's household but only while 1225 the automobiles are used in connection with the provider's 1226 business. The nonowned automobile coverage for the provider 1227 applies as excess coverage over any other collectible insurance. 1228 The personal automobile policy for the employee of the provider 1229 shall be primary insurance and the nonowned automobile coverage 1230 of the provider acts as excess insurance to the primary 1231 insurance. The provider shall provide a minimum limit of \$1 1232 million in nonowned automobile coverage. In any tort action 1233 brought against such an eligible lead community-based provider or 1234 employee, net economic damages shall be limited to \$1 million per 1235 liability claim and \$100,000 per automobile claim, including, but 1236 not limited to, past and future medical expenses, wage loss, and 1237 loss of earning capacity, offset by any collateral source payment 1238 paid or payable. In any tort action brought against such an 1239 eligible lead community-based provider, noneconomic damages shall

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be limited to \$200,000 per claim. A claims bill may be brought on 1240 1241 behalf of a claimant pursuant to s. 768.28 for any amount 1242 exceeding the limits specified in this paragraph. Any offset of collateral source payments made as of the date of the settlement 1243 or judgment shall be in accordance with s. 768.76. The lead 1244 1245 community-based provider shall not be liable in tort for the acts 1246 or omissions of its subcontractors or the officers, agents, or 1247 employees of its subcontractors.

1248 Any subcontractor of an eligible lead community-based (j) 1249 provider, as defined in paragraph (e), which is a direct provider 1250 of foster care and related services to children and families, and its employees or officers, except as otherwise provided in 1251 1252 paragraph (i), must, as a part of its contract, obtain a minimum 1253 of \$1 million per claim/\$3 million per incident in general 1254 liability insurance coverage. The subcontractor of an eligible 1255 lead community-based provider must also require that staff who 1256 transport client children and families in their personal 1257 automobiles in order to carry out their job responsibilities obtain minimum bodily injury liability insurance in the amount of 1258 1259 \$100,000 per claim, \$300,000 per incident, on their personal 1260 automobiles. In lieu of personal motor vehicle insurance, the 1261 subcontractor's casualty, liability, or motor vehicle insurance 1262 carrier may provide nonowned automobile liability coverage. This 1263 insurance provides liability insurance for automobiles that the 1264 subcontractor uses in connection with the subcontractor's business but does not own, lease, rent, or borrow. This coverage 1265 1266 includes automobiles owned by the employees of the subcontractor 1267 or a member of the employee's household but only while the 1268 automobiles are used in connection with the subcontractor's

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1269 business. The nonowned automobile coverage for the subcontractor 1270 applies as excess coverage over any other collectible insurance. 1271 The personal automobile policy for the employee of the 1272 subcontractor shall be primary insurance and the nonowned 1273 automobile coverage of the subcontractor acts as excess insurance 1274 to the primary insurance. The subcontractor shall provide a minimum limit of \$1 million in nonowned automobile coverage. In 1275 1276 any tort action brought against such subcontractor or employee, 1277 net economic damages shall be limited to \$1 million per liability claim and \$100,000 per automobile claim, including, but not 1278 1279 limited to, past and future medical expenses, wage loss, and loss 1280 of earning capacity, offset by any collateral source payment paid 1281 or payable. In any tort action brought against such 1282 subcontractor, noneconomic damages shall be limited to \$200,000 1283 per claim. A claims bill may be brought on behalf of a claimant 1284 pursuant to s. 768.28 for any amount exceeding the limits 1285 specified in this paragraph. Any offset of collateral source 1286 payments made as of the date of the settlement or judgment shall be in accordance with s. 768.76. 1287

1288 Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 1289 409.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1290 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential 1291 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public records 1292 exemption.--

(4) (a) A person, family foster home, or residential childcaring agency <u>may shall</u> not <u>provide</u> receive a child for
continuing full-time <u>child</u> care or custody unless such person,
home, or agency has first procured a license from the department
to provide such care. This requirement does not apply to a person

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1298 who is a relative of the child by blood, marriage, or adoption, 1299 or to a permanent legal guardian established under s. 39.6221, a 1300 person who has received the child from the department, a licensed 1301 child-placing agency, or an intermediary for the purposes of 1302 adoption pursuant to chapter 63.

1303 Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 787.04, Florida
1304 Statutes, is amended to read:

1305787.04Removing minors from state or concealing minors1306contrary to state agency order or court order.--

It is unlawful for any person, with criminal intent, to 1307 (3) 1308 knowingly and willfully lead, take, entice, or remove a minor beyond the limits of this state, or to knowingly and willfully 1309 1310 conceal the location of a minor, during the pendency of a 1311 dependency proceeding affecting such minor or during the pendency of any investigation, action, or proceeding concerning the 1312 1313 alleged abuse or neglect of such minor, after having received 1314 actual or constructive notice of the pendency of such investigation, action, or proceeding and without the permission 1315 1316 of the state agency or court in which the investigation, action, 1317 or proceeding is pending.

Section 24. Subsection (1) of section 937.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1320

937.021 Missing child reports.--

(1) Upon the filing of a police report that a child is
missing by the parent or guardian, the Department of Children and
Family Services, a community-based care provider, or a sheriff's
office providing investigative services for the department, the
law enforcement agency receiving the report shall immediately
inform all on-duty law enforcement officers of the existence of

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603-06984-08 20081048c3 1327 the missing child report, communicate the report to every other 1328 law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the county, and 1329 transmit the report for inclusion within the Florida Crime 1330 Information Center computer. A law enforcement agency may not 1331 require a reporter to present an order that a child be taken into 1332 custody or any other such order before accepting a report that a 1333 child is missing. 1334 Section 25. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 1335 985.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1336 985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.--1337 (4)1338 (C) The department shall disclose to the school 1339 superintendent the presence of any child in the care and custody 1340 or under the jurisdiction or supervision of the department who 1341 has a known history of criminal sexual behavior with other 1342 juveniles; is an alleged juvenile sexual offender or a child who 1343 has exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior, as defined in s. 1344 39.01; or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been 1345 found to have committed, a violation of chapter 794, chapter 796, chapter 800, s. 827.071, or s. 847.0133, regardless of 1346 1347 adjudication. An Any employee of a district school board who 1348 knowingly and willfully discloses such information to an 1349 unauthorized person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, 1350 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. 1351 Section 26. Effective upon this act becoming a law and 1352 operating retroactively to June 29, 2008, subsection (3) of

1353 section 1 of chapter 2007-174, Laws of Florida, is amended to 1354 read:

1355

(3) This section expires June 30, 2009 2008.

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1356 Section 27. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section1357 39.0015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1358 39.0015 Child abuse prevention training in the district 1359 school system.--

1360

(3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

(b) "Child abuse" means <u>abandonment</u>, <u>abuse</u>, <u>harm</u>, <u>mental</u> injury, <u>neglect</u>, <u>physical injury</u>, <u>or sexual abuse of a child as</u> those terms are defined in s. 39.01 those acts as defined in ss. <u>39.01(1)</u>, (2), (31), (41), (43), (55), and (66), 827.04, and 984.03 <u>984.03(1)</u>, (2), and (37).

Section 28. Subsection (5) of section 39.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1368 39.205 Penalties relating to reporting of child abuse, 1369 abandonment, or neglect.--

If the department or its authorized agent has 1370 (5) 1371 determined after its investigation that a report is false, the 1372 department shall, with the consent of the alleged perpetrator, 1373 refer the report to the local law enforcement agency having 1374 jurisdiction for an investigation to determine whether sufficient 1375 evidence exists to refer the case for prosecution for filing a 1376 false report as defined in s. 39.01 s. 39.01(28). During the 1377 pendency of the investigation by the local law enforcement 1378 agency, the department must notify the local law enforcement 1379 agency of, and the local law enforcement agency must respond to, 1380 all subsequent reports concerning children in that same family in 1381 accordance with s. 39.301. If the law enforcement agency believes 1382 that there are indicators of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, it 1383 must immediately notify the department, which must ensure assure the safety of the children. If the law enforcement agency finds 1384

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1385 sufficient evidence for prosecution for filing a false report, it 1386 must refer the case to the appropriate state attorney for 1387 prosecution.

1388 Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 39.302, Florida
1389 Statutes, is amended to read:

1390 39.302 Protective investigations of institutional child 1391 abuse, abandonment, or neglect.--

1392 (1)The department shall conduct a child protective 1393 investigation of each report of institutional child abuse, 1394 abandonment, or neglect. Upon receipt of a report that alleges 1395 that an employee or agent of the department, or any other entity 1396 or person covered by s. 39.01(33) or (47) s. 39.01(32) or (46), 1397 acting in an official capacity, has committed an act of child 1398 abuse, abandonment, or neglect, the department shall initiate a 1399 child protective investigation within the timeframe established 1400 by the central abuse hotline under s. 39.201(5) and orally notify the appropriate state attorney, law enforcement agency, and 1401 1402 licensing agency, which. These agencies shall immediately conduct 1403 a joint investigation, unless independent investigations are more feasible. When conducting investigations onsite or having face-1404 1405 to-face interviews with the child, such investigation visits 1406 shall be unannounced unless it is determined by the department or 1407 its agent that the unannounced visits would threaten the safety 1408 of the child. If When a facility is exempt from licensing, the 1409 department shall inform the owner or operator of the facility of 1410 the report. Each agency conducting a joint investigation is 1411 entitled to full access to the information gathered by the 1412 department in the course of the investigation. A protective 1413 investigation must include an onsite visit of the child's place

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1414 of residence. In all cases, The department shall make a full 1415 written report to the state attorney within 3 working days after 1416 making the oral report. A criminal investigation shall be 1417 coordinated, whenever possible, with the child protective 1418 investigation of the department. Any interested person who has 1419 information regarding the offenses described in this subsection 1420 may forward a statement to the state attorney as to whether 1421 prosecution is warranted and appropriate. Within 15 days after 1422 the completion of the investigation, the state attorney shall 1423 report the findings to the department and shall include in the 1424 report a determination of whether or not prosecution is justified 1425 and appropriate in view of the circumstances of the specific 1426 case.

1427Section 30. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of1428section 39.6011, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1429

39.6011 Case plan development.--

1430 (2) The case plan must be written simply and clearly in 1431 English and, if English is not the principal language of the 1432 child's parent, to the extent possible in the parent's principal 1433 language. Each case plan must contain:

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1441

1442

(b) The permanency goal as defined in s. 39.01(51).

(c) If concurrent planning is being used, a description of the permanency goal of reunification with the parent or legal custodian in addition to a description of one of the remaining permanency goals described in s. 39.01 s. 39.01(51).

1439Section 31. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of section144039.811, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.811 Powers of disposition; order of disposition.--(6) The parental rights of one parent may be severed

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603-06984-08 20081048c3 1443 without severing the parental rights of the other parent only 1444 under the following circumstances: 1445 If the parent whose rights are being terminated meets (e) 1446 any of the criteria specified in s. 39.806(1)(d) and $(f)-(1) \frac{(f)-(1)}{(f)}$ 1447 (i). 1448 Section 32. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1449 39.828, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1450 39.828 Grounds for appointment of a guardian advocate.--1451 The court shall appoint the person named in the (1)1452 petition as a guardian advocate with all the powers and duties 1453 specified in s. 39.829 for an initial term of 1 year upon a 1454 finding that: 1455 The child named in the petition is or was a drug (a) 1456 dependent newborn as described in s. 39.01(32)(g) s. 1457 39.01(31)(q); 1458 Section 33. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 1459 419.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1460 419.001 Site selection of community residential homes.--1461 For the purposes of this section, the following (1) 1462 definitions shall apply: 1463 (d) "Resident" means any of the following: a frail elder as 1464 defined in s. 429.65; a physically disabled or handicapped person 1465 as defined in s. 760.22(7)(a); a developmentally disabled person 1466 as defined in s. 393.063; a nondangerous mentally ill person as 1467 defined in s. 394.455(18); or a child who is found to be 1468 dependent as defined in s. 39.01 or s.984.03, or a child in need of services as defined in s. 984.03 s. 39.01(14), s. 984.03(9) or 1469 1470 (12), or s. 985.03.

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Section 34. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2008.