

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 80

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning general provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 2-5-55.7-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.162-2025, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The task force consists of the following twenty-two (22) members, all of whom are voting members:

- (1) Five (5) members of the senate, appointed as follows:
 - (A) Three (3) members appointed by the president pro tempore, one (1) of whom serves as co-chair of the task force.
 - (B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader.
- (2) Five (5) members of the house of representatives, appointed as follows:
 - (A) Three (3) members appointed by the speaker, one (1) of whom serves as co-chair of the task force.
 - (B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader.
- (3) One (1) member who is a judge appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- (4) One (1) member appointed by the speaker who represents a child placing agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-17.5~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-46**).
- (5) One (1) member appointed by the president pro tempore who either:
 - (A) is an in-home provider; or
 - (B) provides family preservation services (as defined in



~~IC 31-9-2-44.8~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-94**).

- (6) One (1) member appointed by the speaker who represents a:
- (A) child caring institution (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-16.7~~); **IC 31-9-2.1-42**); or
 - (B) private secure facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-96.5~~); **IC 31-9-2.1-186**).
- (7) One (1) member appointed by the president pro tempore who is a group home (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-48.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-115**) provider.
- (8) One (1) member appointed by the speaker who is an older foster youth services provider.
- (9) One (1) member appointed by the president pro tempore who is a preventative provider that runs a child welfare program (as defined in IC 31-26-3.5-1).
- (10) One (1) member appointed by the speaker who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and who has lived experience as a child within the child welfare system.
- (11) One (1) member appointed by the president pro tempore who is a juvenile probation officer.
- (12) The director of the department of child services.
- (13) A deputy director of the department of child services.
- (14) The chief of staff or director of the division of mental health and addiction.

(b) The president pro tempore shall designate one (1) member appointed under subsection (a)(1)(A) to serve as a co-chair of the task force for the duration of the task force.

(c) The speaker shall designate one (1) member appointed under subsection (a)(2)(A) to serve as a co-chair of the task force for the duration of the task force.

(d) A member of the task force serves at the will of the member's appointing authority for the duration of the task force.

SECTION 2. IC 3-5-2-49.3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 49-3:~~ "Uniformed services" means any of the following:

- (1) ~~The United States Army.~~
- (2) ~~The United States Navy.~~
- (3) ~~The United States Air Force.~~
- (4) ~~The United States Marine Corps.~~
- (5) ~~The United States Coast Guard.~~
- (6) ~~The United States Space Force.~~
- (7) ~~The commissioned corps of the Public Health Service.~~
- (8) ~~The commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and~~



Atmospheric Administration:

SECTION 3. IC 3-5-2.1-100, AS ADDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 100. "Uniformed services" means any of the following:

- (1) The **United States** Army.
- (2) The **United States** Navy.
- (3) The **United States** Air Force.
- (4) The **United States** Marine Corps.
- (5) The **United States** Coast Guard.
- (6) The **United States** Space Force.
- (7) The commissioned corps of the Public Health Service.
- (8) The commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SECTION 4. IC 4-4-28-17 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. Money in an account may not be considered:

- (1) an asset of an individual when determining the individual's eligibility for assistance under IC 12-14; or
- (2) a countable asset (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-44.6~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-91**).

SECTION 5. IC 4-10-15-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.218-2005, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. The warrants may be drawn for the necessary and current expenses of the following:

- (1) All psychiatric hospitals (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).
- (2) The Indiana School for the Deaf, established by IC 20-22-2-1.
- (3) The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, established by IC 20-21-2-1.
- (4) The Indiana Veterans' Home.
- (5) The Plainfield Juvenile Correctional Facility.

SECTION 6. IC 4-15-2.2-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.189-2018, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "state institution" means any of the following:

- (1) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).
- (2) A correctional facility owned by the state and operated by the department of correction.
- (3) The Indiana School for the Deaf established by IC 20-22-2-1.
- (4) The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



established by IC 20-21-2-1.

(5) The Indiana Veterans' Home as described in IC 10-17-9.

(6) Any other facility owned and operated by the state whose employees participate in the state civil service.

SECTION 7. IC 4-20.5-1-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. "State institution" refers to any of the following:

(1) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).

(2) An institution under the administrative control of the Indiana department of health.

(3) A correctional facility under the administrative control of the department of correction.

SECTION 8. IC 4-20.5-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 22, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) This section applies only to the following agencies:

(1) A division (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-69(c)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-124(c)**), for a state institution under the administrative control of the division.

(2) The Indiana department of health, for an institution under the administrative control of the Indiana department of health.

(3) The department of correction, for a correctional facility under the administrative control of the department of correction.

(b) An agency may acquire property by eminent domain.

(c) Before an agency may acquire property under this section, the governor must approve the acquisition in writing.

SECTION 9. IC 4-20.5-10-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies only to the following agencies:

(1) A division (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-69(c)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-124(c)**), for a state institution under the administrative control of the division.

(2) The Indiana department of health, for an institution under the administrative control of the Indiana department of health.

(3) The department of correction, for a correctional facility under the administrative control of the department of correction.

SECTION 10. IC 4-20.5-11-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 24, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies only to the following



agencies:

- (1) A division (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-69(c)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-124(c)**), for a state institution under the administrative control of the division.
- (2) The Indiana department of health, for an institution under the administrative control of the Indiana department of health.
- (3) The department of correction, for a correctional facility under the administrative control of the department of correction.

SECTION 11. IC 4-24-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.67-2017, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. The warden of any state penal or correctional institution or of any state institution (as defined by ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) in **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) may compensate any employee of the institution for damages to the personal property of the employee which damages occurred in the ordinary course of the employees' employment and which damages were in no way caused by the negligence of the employee.

SECTION 12. IC 4-24-7-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.136-2018, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. For all claims that any state institution (as defined by ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) in **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) may have against any county for the payment of clothing furnished to any patient of such institution, which patient was admitted to such institution from such county, the superintendent or warden of such institution shall make out an account therefor against such county, in a manner as provided under this chapter.

SECTION 13. IC 5-1.2-2-32, AS ADDED BY P.L.189-2018, SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 32. "Health facility", for purposes of IC 5-1.2-7, means any facility or building that is:

- (1) owned or used by a participating provider;
- (2) located:
 - (A) in Indiana; or
 - (B) outside Indiana, if the participating provider that operates the facility or building, or an affiliate of the participating provider, also operates a substantial health facility or facilities, as determined by the authority, in Indiana; and
- (3) utilized, directly or indirectly:
 - (A) in:
 - (i) health care;
 - (ii) habilitation, rehabilitation, or therapeutic services;
 - (iii) medical research;



- (iv) the training or teaching of health care personnel; or
- (v) any related supporting services;
- (B) to provide:
 - (i) a residential facility for individuals with a physical, mental, or emotional disability;
 - (ii) a residential facility for individuals with a physical or mental illness; or
 - (iii) a residential facility for the elderly; or
- (C) as a licensed child caring institution that provides residential care described in ~~IC 12-7-2-29(1)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-60(1)** or corresponding provisions of the laws of the state in which the facility or building is located.

SECTION 14. IC 5-1.2-2-33, AS ADDED BY P.L.189-2018, SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 33. "Health facility property", for purposes of IC 5-1.2-7, means any tangible or intangible property or asset owned or used by a participating provider that:

- (1) is determined by the authority to be necessary or helpful, directly or indirectly, to provide:
 - (A) health care;
 - (B) medical research;
 - (C) training or teaching of health care personnel;
 - (D) habilitation, rehabilitation, or therapeutic services; or
 - (E) any related supporting services;

regardless of whether the property is in existence at the time of, or is to be provided after the making of, the finding;

- (2) is:
 - (A) a residential facility for individuals with a physical, mental, or emotional disability;
 - (B) a residential facility for individuals with a physical or mental illness; or
 - (C) a residential facility for the elderly; or
- (3) is a licensed child caring institution providing residential care described in ~~IC 12-7-2-29(1)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-60(1)** or corresponding provisions of the laws of the state in which the property is located.

SECTION 15. IC 5-1.2-2-55, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 55. "Participating provider", for purposes of financing a health facility and health facility property under IC 5-1.2-7, means a person, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other entity, public or private, that:

- (1) is located in Indiana or outside Indiana;



(2) contracts with the authority for the financing or refinancing of, or the lease or other acquisition of, health facility property that is located:

(A) in Indiana; or

(B) outside Indiana, if the financing, refinancing, lease, or other acquisition also includes a substantial component, as determined by the authority, for the benefit of a health facility or facilities located in Indiana;

(3) is:

(A) licensed under IC 12-25, IC 16-21, IC 16-28, or corresponding laws of the state in which the property is located;

(B) a regional blood center;

(C) a community mental health center or community intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~ and ~~IC 12-7-2-39~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-78** and **IC 12-7-2.1-77** or corresponding provisions of laws of the state in which the property is located);

(D) an entity that:

(i) contracts with the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services or the division of mental health and addiction to provide the program described in IC 12-11-1.1-1(e) or IC 12-22-2; or

(ii) provides a similar program under the laws of the state in which the entity is located;

(E) a vocational rehabilitation center established under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1) or corresponding provisions of the laws of the state in which the property is located;

(F) the owner or operator of a facility that is utilized, directly or indirectly, to provide health care, habilitation, rehabilitation, therapeutic services, medical research, the training or teaching of health care personnel, or any related supporting services, or of a residential facility for individuals with a physical, mental, or emotional disability, individuals with a physical or mental illness, or the elderly;

(G) a licensed child caring institution providing residential care described in ~~IC 12-7-2-29(1)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-60(1)** or corresponding provisions of the laws of the state in which the property is located;

(H) an integrated health care system between or among providers, a health care purchasing alliance, a health insurer



or third party administrator that is a participant in an integrated health care system, a health maintenance or preferred provider organization, or a foundation that supports a health care provider; or

(I) an individual, business entity, or governmental entity that owns an equity or membership interest in any of the organizations described in clauses (A) through (H); and

(4) in the case of a person, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other entity located outside Indiana, is owned or controlled by, under common control with, affiliated with, or part of an obligated group that includes an entity that provides one (1) or more of the following services or facilities in Indiana:

(A) A facility that provides:

- (i) health care;
- (ii) habilitation, rehabilitation, or therapeutic services;
- (iii) medical research;
- (iv) training or teaching of health care personnel; or
- (v) any related supporting services.

(B) A residential facility for:

- (i) individuals with a physical, mental, or emotional disability;
- (ii) individuals with a physical or mental illness; or
- (iii) the elderly.

(C) A licensed child caring institution providing residential care described in ~~IC 12-7-2-29(1)~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-60(1)**.

SECTION 16. IC 5-2-1-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.170-2023, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) The board shall adopt in accordance with IC 4-22-2 all necessary rules to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The rules, which shall be adopted only after necessary and proper investigation and inquiry by the board, shall include the establishment of the following:

- (1) A consistent and uniform statewide deadly force policy and training program, that is consistent with state and federal law. Upon adoption by the law enforcement training board, the policy and training program must be implemented, without modification, by all Indiana law enforcement agencies, offices, or departments.
- (2) A consistent and uniform statewide defensive tactics policy and training program, that is consistent with state and federal law. Upon adoption by the law enforcement training board, the policy and training program must be implemented, without modification,



- by all Indiana law enforcement agencies, offices, or departments.
- (3) A uniform statewide minimum standard for vehicle pursuits consistent with state and federal law.
- (4) Minimum standards of physical, educational, mental, and moral fitness which shall govern the acceptance of any person for training by any law enforcement training school or academy meeting or exceeding the minimum standards established pursuant to this chapter.
- (5) Minimum standards for law enforcement training schools administered by towns, cities, counties, law enforcement training centers, agencies, or departments of the state.
- (6) Minimum standards for courses of study, attendance requirements, equipment, and facilities for approved town, city, county, and state law enforcement officer, police reserve officer, and conservation reserve officer training schools.
- (7) Minimum standards for a course of study on cultural diversity awareness, including training on the U nonimmigrant visa created through the federal Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-386) that must be required for each person accepted for training at a law enforcement training school or academy. Cultural diversity awareness study must include an understanding of cultural issues related to race, religion, gender, age, domestic violence, national origin, and physical and mental disabilities.
- (8) Minimum qualifications for instructors at approved law enforcement training schools.
- (9) Minimum basic training requirements which law enforcement officers appointed to probationary terms shall complete before being eligible for continued or permanent employment.
- (10) Minimum basic training requirements which law enforcement officers appointed on other than a permanent basis shall complete in order to be eligible for continued employment or permanent appointment.
- (11) Minimum basic training requirements which law enforcement officers appointed on a permanent basis shall complete in order to be eligible for continued employment.
- (12) Minimum basic training requirements for each person accepted for training at a law enforcement training school or academy that include six (6) hours of training in interacting with:
- (A) persons with autism, mental illness, addictive disorders, intellectual disabilities, and developmental disabilities;
 - (B) missing endangered adults (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-131.3~~);



IC 12-7-2.1-227); and

(C) persons with Alzheimer's disease or related senile dementia;

to be provided by persons approved by the secretary of family and social services and the board. The training must include an overview of the crisis intervention teams.

(13) Minimum standards for a course of study on human and sexual trafficking that must be required for each person accepted for training at a law enforcement training school or academy and for inservice training programs for law enforcement officers. The course must cover the following topics:

(A) Examination of the human and sexual trafficking laws (IC 35-42-3.5).

(B) Identification of human and sexual trafficking.

(C) Communicating with traumatized persons.

(D) Therapeutically appropriate investigative techniques.

(E) Collaboration with federal law enforcement officials.

(F) Rights of and protections afforded to victims.

(G) Providing documentation that satisfies the Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons (Form I-914, Supplement B) requirements established under federal law.

(H) The availability of community resources to assist human and sexual trafficking victims.

(14) Minimum standards for ongoing specialized, intensive, and integrative training for persons responsible for investigating sexual assault cases involving adult victims. This training must include instruction on:

(A) the neurobiology of trauma;

(B) trauma informed interviewing; and

(C) investigative techniques.

(15) Minimum standards for de-escalation training. De-escalation training shall be taught as a part of existing use-of-force training and not as a separate topic.

(16) Minimum standards regarding best practices for crowd control, protests, and First Amendment activities.

(17) Minimum standards for basic training and inservice training programs, which may be completed online or by other means of virtual instruction, that occur after December 31, 2024, and that address the mental health and wellness of law enforcement officers including:

(A) healthy coping skills to preserve the mental health of law



enforcement officers and manage the stress and trauma of policing;

(B) recognizing:

(i) symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder; and

(ii) signs of suicidal behavior; and

(C) information on mental health resources available for law enforcement officers.

All statewide policies and minimum standards shall be documented in writing and published on the Indiana law enforcement academy (ILEA) website. Any policy, standard, or training program implemented, adopted, or promulgated by a vote of the board may only subsequently be modified or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the board.

(b) A law enforcement officer appointed after July 5, 1972, and before July 1, 1993, may not enforce the laws or ordinances of the state or any political subdivision unless the officer has, within one (1) year from the date of appointment, successfully completed the minimum basic training requirements established under this chapter by the board. If a person fails to successfully complete the basic training requirements within one (1) year from the date of employment, the officer may not perform any of the duties of a law enforcement officer involving control or direction of members of the public or exercising the power of arrest until the officer has successfully completed the training requirements. This subsection does not apply to any law enforcement officer appointed before July 6, 1972, or after June 30, 1993.

(c) Military leave or other authorized leave of absence from law enforcement duty during the first year of employment after July 6, 1972, shall toll the running of the first year, which shall be calculated by the aggregate of the time before and after the leave, for the purposes of this chapter.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (m), (t), and (u), a law enforcement officer appointed to a law enforcement department or agency after June 30, 1993, may not:

(1) make an arrest;

(2) conduct a search or a seizure of a person or property; or

(3) carry a firearm;

unless the law enforcement officer successfully completes, at a board certified law enforcement academy or at a law enforcement training center under section 10.5 or 15.2 of this chapter, the basic training requirements established by the board under this chapter.

(e) This subsection does not apply to:



(1) a gaming agent employed as a law enforcement officer by the Indiana gaming commission; or

(2) an:

(A) attorney; or

(B) investigator;

designated by the securities commissioner as a police officer of the state under IC 23-19-6-1(k).

Before a law enforcement officer appointed after June 30, 1993, completes the basic training requirements, the law enforcement officer may exercise the police powers described in subsection (d) if the officer successfully completes the pre-basic course established in subsection (f). Successful completion of the pre-basic course authorizes a law enforcement officer to exercise the police powers described in subsection (d) for one (1) year after the date the law enforcement officer is appointed.

(f) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish a pre-basic course for the purpose of training:

(1) law enforcement officers;

(2) police reserve officers (as described in IC 36-8-3-20); and

(3) conservation reserve officers (as described in IC 14-9-8-27);

regarding the subjects of arrest, search and seizure, the lawful use of force, de-escalation training, interacting with individuals with autism, and the operation of an emergency vehicle. The pre-basic course must be offered on a periodic basis throughout the year at regional sites statewide. The pre-basic course must consist of at least forty (40) hours of course work. The board may prepare the classroom part of the pre-basic course using available technology in conjunction with live instruction. The board shall provide the course material, the instructors, and the facilities at the regional sites throughout the state that are used for the pre-basic course. In addition, the board may certify pre-basic courses that may be conducted by other public or private training entities, including postsecondary educational institutions.

(g) Subject to subsection (h), the board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish a mandatory inservice training program for police officers and police reserve officers (as described in IC 36-8-3-20). After June 30, 1993, a law enforcement officer who has satisfactorily completed basic training and has been appointed to a law enforcement department or agency on either a full-time or part-time basis is not eligible for continued employment unless the officer satisfactorily completes the mandatory inservice training requirements established by rules adopted by the board. Inservice training must include de-escalation training. Inservice training must also include:



- (1) training:
 - (A) in interacting with persons with mental illness, addictive disorders, intellectual disabilities, autism, developmental disabilities, and Alzheimer's disease or related senile dementia; and
 - (B) provided by persons approved by the secretary of family and social services and the board;
- (2) after December 31, 2024, annual training, which may be completed online or by other means of virtual instruction, that addresses the mental health and wellness of law enforcement officers including:
 - (A) healthy coping skills to preserve the mental health of law enforcement officers and manage the stress and trauma of policing;
 - (B) recognizing:
 - (i) symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder; and
 - (ii) signs of suicidal behavior; and
 - (C) information on mental health resources available for law enforcement officers; and
- (3) training concerning:
 - (A) human and sexual trafficking; and
 - (B) high risk missing persons (as defined in IC 5-2-17-1).

The board may approve courses offered by other public or private training entities, including postsecondary educational institutions, as necessary in order to ensure the availability of an adequate number of inservice training programs. The board may waive an officer's inservice training requirements if the board determines that the officer's reason for lacking the required amount of inservice training hours is due to either an emergency situation or the unavailability of courses.

(h) This subsection applies only to a mandatory inservice training program under subsection (g). Notwithstanding subsection (g), the board may, without adopting rules under IC 4-22-2, modify the course work of a training subject matter, modify the number of hours of training required within a particular subject matter, or add a new subject matter, if the board satisfies the following requirements:

- (1) The board must conduct at least two (2) public meetings on the proposed modification or addition.
- (2) After approving the modification or addition at a public meeting, the board must post notice of the modification or addition on the Indiana law enforcement academy's website at least thirty (30) days before the modification or addition takes effect.



If the board does not satisfy the requirements of this subsection, the modification or addition is void. This subsection does not authorize the board to eliminate any inservice training subject matter required under subsection (g).

(i) The board shall also adopt rules establishing a town marshal and conservancy district marshal basic training program, subject to the following:

(1) The program must require fewer hours of instruction and class attendance and fewer courses of study than are required for the mandated basic training program.

(2) Certain parts of the course materials may be studied by a candidate at the candidate's home in order to fulfill requirements of the program.

(3) Law enforcement officers successfully completing the requirements of the program are eligible for appointment only in towns employing the town marshal system (IC 36-5-7) or a conservancy district that employs a conservancy district marshal under IC 14-33-25 and having not more than one (1) marshal and six (6) deputies.

(4) The limitation imposed by subdivision (3) does not apply to an officer who has successfully completed the mandated basic training program.

(5) The time limitations imposed by subsections (b) and (c) for completing the training are also applicable to the marshal basic training program.

(6) The program must require training in interacting with individuals with autism.

(j) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish an executive training program. The executive training program must include training in the following areas:

(1) Liability.

(2) Media relations.

(3) Accounting and administration.

(4) Discipline.

(5) Department policy making.

(6) Lawful use of force and de-escalation training.

(7) Department programs.

(8) Emergency vehicle operation.

(9) Cultural diversity.

(10) After December 31, 2024, mental health and wellness and suicide prevention of law enforcement officers. The training requirement under this subdivision may be provided as part of an



online course or by other means of virtual instruction.

(k) A police chief shall apply for admission to the executive training program within two (2) months of the date the police chief initially takes office. A police chief must successfully complete the executive training program within six (6) months of the date the police chief initially takes office. However, if space in the executive training program is not available at a time that will allow completion of the executive training program within six (6) months of the date the police chief initially takes office, the police chief must successfully complete the next available executive training program that is offered after the police chief initially takes office.

(l) A police chief who fails to comply with subsection (k) may not continue to serve as the police chief until completion of the executive training program. For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (k), "police chief" refers to:

- (1) the police chief of any city;
- (2) the police chief of any town having a metropolitan police department; and
- (3) the chief of a consolidated law enforcement department established under IC 36-3-1-5.1.

A town marshal or a conservancy district marshal is not considered to be a police chief for these purposes, but a town marshal or a conservancy district marshal may enroll in the executive training program.

(m) A fire investigator in the department of homeland security appointed after December 31, 1993, is required to comply with the basic training standards established under this chapter.

(n) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish a program to certify handgun safety courses, including courses offered in the private sector, that meet standards approved by the board for training probation officers in handgun safety as required by IC 11-13-1-3.5(2).

(o) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish a refresher course for an officer who:

- (1) is hired by an Indiana law enforcement department or agency as a law enforcement officer;
- (2) has not been employed as a law enforcement officer for:
 - (A) at least two (2) years; and
 - (B) less than six (6) years before the officer is hired under subdivision (1); and
- (3) completed at any time a basic training course certified or recognized by the board before the officer is hired under



subdivision (1).

(p) An officer to whom subsection (o) applies must successfully complete the refresher course described in subsection (o) not later than six (6) months after the officer's date of hire, or the officer loses the officer's powers of:

- (1) arrest;
- (2) search; and
- (3) seizure.

(q) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish a refresher course for an officer who:

- (1) is appointed by an Indiana law enforcement department or agency as a reserve police officer; and
- (2) has not worked as a reserve police officer for at least two (2) years after:
 - (A) completing the pre-basic course; or
 - (B) leaving the individual's last appointment as a reserve police officer.

An officer to whom this subsection applies must successfully complete the refresher course established by the board in order to work as a reserve police officer.

(r) This subsection applies to an individual who, at the time the individual completes a board certified or recognized basic training course, has not been appointed as a law enforcement officer by an Indiana law enforcement department or agency. If the individual is not employed as a law enforcement officer for at least two (2) years after completing the basic training course, the individual must successfully retake and complete the basic training course as set forth in subsection (d).

(s) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish a refresher course for an individual who:

- (1) is appointed as a board certified instructor of law enforcement training; and
- (2) has not provided law enforcement training instruction for more than one (1) year after the date the individual's instructor certification expired.

An individual to whom this subsection applies must successfully complete the refresher course established by the board in order to renew the individual's instructor certification.

(t) This subsection applies only to a gaming agent employed as a law enforcement officer by the Indiana gaming commission. A gaming agent appointed after June 30, 2005, may exercise the police powers described in subsection (d) if:



- (1) the agent successfully completes the pre-basic course established in subsection (f); and
- (2) the agent successfully completes any other training courses established by the Indiana gaming commission in conjunction with the board.

(u) This subsection applies only to a securities enforcement officer designated as a law enforcement officer by the securities commissioner. A securities enforcement officer may exercise the police powers described in subsection (d) if:

- (1) the securities enforcement officer successfully completes the pre-basic course established in subsection (f); and
- (2) the securities enforcement officer successfully completes any other training courses established by the securities commissioner in conjunction with the board.

(v) This subsection applies only to a correctional police officer employed by the department of correction. A correctional police officer may exercise the police powers described in subsection (d) if:

- (1) the officer successfully completes the pre-basic course described in subsection (f); and
- (2) the officer successfully completes any other training courses established by the department of correction in conjunction with the board.

(w) This subsection applies only to the sexual assault training described in subsection (a)(14). The board shall:

- (1) consult with experts on the neurobiology of trauma, trauma informed interviewing, and investigative techniques in developing the sexual assault training; and
- (2) develop the sexual assault training and begin offering the training not later than July 1, 2022.

(x) After July 1, 2023, a law enforcement officer who regularly investigates sexual assaults involving adult victims must complete the training requirements described in subsection (a)(14) within one (1) year of being assigned to regularly investigate sexual assaults involving adult victims.

(y) A law enforcement officer who regularly investigates sexual assaults involving adult victims may complete the training requirements described in subsection (a)(14) by attending a:

- (1) statewide or national training; or
- (2) department hosted local training.

(z) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the board is authorized to establish certain required standards of training and procedure.



SECTION 17. IC 5-2-17-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.40-2024, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "high risk missing person" means a person whose whereabouts are not known and who may be at risk of injury or death. The term includes the following:

- (1) A person who is missing as the result of abduction by a stranger.
- (2) A person whose disappearance may be the result of the commission of a crime.
- (3) A person whose disappearance occurred under circumstances that are inherently dangerous.
- (4) A person who is missing for more than thirty (30) days.
- (5) A missing person who is in need of medical attention or prescription medication.
- (6) A missing person who may be at risk due to abduction by a noncustodial parent.
- (7) A missing person who is mentally impaired.
- (8) A missing person who is less than twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (9) A missing person who has previously been the victim of a threat of violence or an act of violence.
- (10) A missing person who has been determined by a law enforcement agency to be:
 - (A) at risk of injury or death; or
 - (B) a person that meets any of the descriptions in subdivisions (1) through (9).
- (11) A missing person who is an endangered adult (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-131.3~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-227**).
- (12) A missing person who is a veteran at risk (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-197.3~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-346**).

SECTION 18. IC 5-2-17-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.40-2024, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. A law enforcement agency receiving a report of a missing:

- (1) child less than eighteen (18) years of age shall comply with the requirements of IC 31-36-2;
- (2) endangered adult (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-131.3~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-227**) shall comply with the requirements of IC 12-10-18; or
- (3) veteran at risk (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-197.3~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-346**) shall comply with the requirements of IC 12-10-18;



in addition to the procedures described in this chapter.

SECTION 19. IC 5-11-1-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.157-2020, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) As used in this article, "municipality" means any county, township, city, town, school corporation, special taxing district, or other political subdivision of Indiana.

(b) As used in this article, "state" means any board, commission, department, division, bureau, committee, agency, governmental subdivision, military body, authority, or other instrumentality of the state, but does not include a municipality.

(c) As used in this article, "public office" means the office of any and every individual who for or on behalf of the state or any municipality or any public hospital holds, receives, disburses, or keeps the accounts of the receipts and disbursements of any public funds.

(d) As used in this article, "public officer" means any individual who holds, receives, disburses, or is required by law to keep any account of public funds or other funds for which the individual is accountable by virtue of the individual's public office.

(e) As used in this article, "entity" means any provider of goods, services, or other benefits that is:

- (1) maintained in whole or in part at public expense; or
- (2) supported in whole or in part by appropriations or public funds or by taxation.

The term does not include the state or a municipality (as defined in this section).

(f) As used in this article, a "public hospital" means either of the following:

- (1) An institution licensed under IC 16-21 and which is owned by the state or an agency of the state or one which is a municipal corporation. A hospital is a municipal corporation if its governing board members are appointed by elected officials of a municipality.
- (2) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).

(g) As used in this article, "audit committee" refers to the audit and financial reporting subcommittee of the legislative council established by IC 2-5-1.1-6.3.

(h) As used in this article, "audited entity" has the meaning set forth in IC 2-5-1.1-6.3.

(i) As used in this article, "development authority" has the meaning set forth in the following:

- (1) IC 36-7.5-1-8.



(2) IC 36-7.6-1-8.

(j) As used in this article, "responsible officer of an audited entity" refers to the chief executive officer or another individual who has executive decision making authority for the audited entity with respect to a compliance obligation prescribed by or established under this article or another law.

SECTION 20. IC 5-16-15-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.149-2021, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) As used in this chapter, "public works project" refers to a construction project governed by an applicable public works statute.

(b) The term does not include any of the following:

(1) A project on the state highway system (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-40~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-39**).

(2) A railroad project (as defined in IC 8-5-15-1).

SECTION 21. IC 5-22-12-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2022, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies only to the following governmental bodies:

(1) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).

(2) A penal facility operated by the department of correction.

(3) A political subdivision.

SECTION 22. IC 5-22-15-24 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 24. (a) This section applies in addition to any requirements placed upon a governmental entity by the United States Department of Agriculture under the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program.

(b) This section applies to:

(1) a governmental entity listed in section 1 of this chapter; or

(2) a business that contracts with a governmental entity listed in section 1 of this chapter;

that purchases food or beverages to be processed and served in a building or room owned or operated by the governmental entity.

(c) High calcium foods and beverages are preferred supplies. A purchasing agent shall give a preference to foods and beverages that:

(1) contain a higher level of calcium than products of the same type and quality; and

(2) are equal in price to or lower in price than products of the same type and quality.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), if the director of a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) determines



that a high calcium food or beverage that is preferred under subsection (c) would interfere with the proper treatment and care of a patient of the state institution, the purchasing agent for the state institution is not required to purchase the high calcium food or beverage for that patient.

SECTION 23. IC 6-1.1-10-51, AS ADDED BY P.L.230-2025, SECTION 30, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 51. (a) As used in this section, "child care" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.2.~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-54.**

(b) As used in this section, "early learning advisory committee" refers to the early learning advisory committee established by IC 12-17.2-3.8-5.

(c) As used in this section, "employer" means any person, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other entity with employees employed at a physical location in Indiana. The term includes a pass through entity. However, the term does not include an employer who is in the business of operating a child care facility.

(d) As used in this section, "office" refers to the office of the secretary of family and social services established by IC 12-8-1.5-1.

(e) The part of the gross assessed value of tangible property that is attributable to tangible property owned and used by an employer, or a parent company, subsidiary, or affiliate company of an employer, to provide child care for children of the employer's employees and children of the employees of another business in accordance with an agreement entered into under subsection (g) is exempt from property taxation if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The child care is provided in a facility located on the employer's property.
- (2) Subject to subsection (g), the child care is provided only for children of the employer's employees.
- (3) The child care facility is licensed by the division of family resources under IC 12-17.2.
- (4) The part of the employer's property used to provide child care meets standards established by the office and the early learning advisory committee for the number of children to be served by the child care facility.

(f) The child care facility may be operated by the employer or under a contract described in Section 45F(c)(1)(A)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code to provide child care services to the employer's employees.

(g) An employer may provide child care in a facility described in subsection (e)(1) for the children of the employees of another business if the employer and the other business enter into an agreement that



outlines the terms under which the child care is to be provided to the children of the employees of the other business.

SECTION 24. IC 6-1.1-12-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.68-2025, SECTION 22, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) Except as provided in section 40.5 of this chapter, an individual may have the sum of twelve thousand four hundred eighty dollars (\$12,480) deducted from the assessed value of real property, mobile home not assessed as real property, or manufactured home not assessed as real property that the individual owns, or that the individual is buying under a contract that provides that the individual is to pay property taxes on the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home, if the contract or a memorandum of the contract is recorded in the county recorder's office, and if:

- (1) the individual is blind or the individual has a disability;
- (2) the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home is principally used and occupied by the individual as the individual's residence;
- (3) the individual's taxable gross income for the calendar year preceding the year in which the deduction is claimed did not exceed seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000); and
- (4) the individual:
 - (A) owns the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home; or
 - (B) is buying the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home under contract;

on the date the statement required by section 12 of this chapter is filed.

(b) For purposes of this section, taxable gross income does not include income which is not taxed under the federal income tax laws.

(c) For purposes of this section, "blind" has the same meaning as the definition contained in ~~IC 12-7-2-21(1)~~. **IC 12-7-2.1-38(1)**.

(d) For purposes of this section, "individual with a disability" means a person unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which:

- (1) can be expected to result in death; or
- (2) has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve (12) months.

(e) An individual with a disability filing a claim under this section shall submit proof of the disability. Proof that a claimant is eligible to receive disability benefits under the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) shall constitute proof of disability for purposes of this section.



(f) An individual with a disability not covered under the federal Social Security Act shall be examined by a physician and the individual's status as an individual with a disability determined by using the same standards as used by the Social Security Administration. The costs of this examination shall be borne by the claimant.

(g) An individual who has sold real property, a mobile home not assessed as real property, or a manufactured home not assessed as real property to another person under a contract that provides that the contract buyer is to pay the property taxes on the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home may not claim the deduction provided under this section against that real property, mobile home, or manufactured home.

(h) This section applies only to property taxes imposed for an assessment date before January 1, 2025.

(i) This section expires January 1, 2027.

SECTION 25. IC 6-1.1-51.3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.230-2025, SECTION 60, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) An individual is entitled to a credit against local property taxes imposed on the individual's real property, or mobile home or manufactured home within the county, if:

- (1) the individual is blind or the individual has a disability;
- (2) the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home is principally used and occupied by the individual as the individual's residence; and
- (3) the individual:
 - (A) owns the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home; or
 - (B) is buying the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home under contract;

on the date the credit is claimed, and in the case of clause (B), the contract or a memorandum of the contract is recorded in the county recorder's office.

(b) The amount of the credit is equal to one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

(c) For purposes of this section, "blind" has the same meaning as the definition contained in ~~IC 12-7-2-21(1)~~. **IC 12-7-2.1-38(1)**.

(d) For purposes of this section, "individual with a disability" means a person unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which:

- (1) can be expected to result in death; or
- (2) has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve (12) months.



(e) An individual with a disability filing a claim under this section shall submit proof of the disability. Proof that a claimant is eligible to receive disability benefits under the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) shall constitute proof of disability for purposes of this section.

(f) An individual with a disability not covered under the federal Social Security Act shall be examined by a physician and the individual's status as an individual with a disability determined by using the same standards as used by the Social Security Administration. The costs of this examination shall be borne by the claimant.

(g) An individual who has sold real property, a mobile home not assessed as real property, or a manufactured home not assessed as real property to another person under a contract that provides that the contract buyer is to pay the property taxes on the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home may not claim the credit provided under this section against that real property, mobile home, or manufactured home.

(h) An individual wishing to claim a credit under this section must file a statement, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the county auditor and provide documentation necessary to substantiate the individual's eligibility for the credit. The statement must be completed and dated on or before January 15 of the calendar year in which the property taxes are first due and payable. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. An individual who remains eligible for the credit in the following year is not required to file a statement to apply for the credit in the following year. However, an individual who receives a credit under this section in a particular year and who becomes ineligible for the credit in the following year shall notify the auditor of the county in which the homestead is located of the individual's ineligibility not later than sixty (60) days after the individual becomes ineligible.

SECTION 26. IC 6-3.6-3-6, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1210-2026, SECTION 118, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028]. See: 6-

~~(a) This section applies to a county in which the county adopting body is a local income tax council.~~

~~(b) In the case of a city or town that lies within more than one (1) county, the county auditor of each county shall base the allocations required by subsections (d) and (e) on the population of that part of the city or town that lies within the county for which the allocations are being made.~~

~~(c) Each local income tax council has a total of one hundred (100)~~



votes:

(d) Each county, city, or town that is a member of a local income tax council is allocated a percentage of the total one hundred (100) votes that may be cast. The percentage that a city or town is allocated for a year equals the same percentage that the population of the city or town bears to the population of the county. The percentage that the county is allocated for a year equals the same percentage that the population of all areas in the county not located in a city or town bears to the population of the county.

(e) This subsection applies only to a county with a single voting bloc. Each individual who sits on the fiscal body of a county, city, or town that is a member of the local income tax council is allocated for a year the number of votes equal to the total number of votes allocated to the particular county, city, or town under subsection (d) divided by the number of members on the fiscal body of the county, city, or town. This subsection expires May 31, 2028.

(f) On or before January 1 of each year, the county auditor shall certify to each member of the local income tax council the number of votes, rounded to the nearest one hundredth (0.01); each member has for that year.

(g) This subsection applies only to a county with a single voting bloc. On or before January 1 of each year, in addition to the certification to each member of the local income tax council under subsection (f), the county auditor shall certify to each individual who sits on the fiscal body of each county, city, or town that is a member of the local income tax council the number of votes, rounded to the nearest one hundredth (0.01); each individual has under subsection (e) for that year. This subsection expires May 31, 2028.

SECTION 27. IC 6-3.6-3-8, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1210-2026, SECTION 119, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028]. See: 8:
(a) This section applies to a county in which the county adopting body is a local income tax council.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e), any member of a local income tax council may present an ordinance for passage. To do so, the member must adopt a resolution to propose the ordinance to the local income tax council and distribute a copy of the proposed ordinance to the county auditor. The county auditor shall treat any proposed ordinance distributed to the auditor under this section as a casting of all that member's votes in favor of the proposed ordinance.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (f), the county auditor shall deliver copies of a proposed ordinance the auditor receives to all members of the local income tax council within ten (10) days after



receipt. Subject to subsection (d); once a member receives a proposed ordinance from the county auditor, the member shall vote on it within thirty (30) days after receipt.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (h); if, before the elapse of thirty (30) days after receipt of a proposed ordinance, the county auditor notifies the member that the members of the local income tax council have cast a majority of the votes on the local income tax council for or against the proposed ordinance the member need not vote on the proposed ordinance.

(e) This subsection applies only to a county with a single voting bloc that proposes to increase (but not decrease) a tax rate in the county. The fiscal body of any county, city, or town that is a member of a local income tax council may adopt a resolution to propose an ordinance to increase a tax rate in the county to be voted on by the local income tax council as a whole as required under section 9.5 of this chapter and distribute a copy of the proposed ordinance to the county auditor. The county auditor shall treat the vote tally on the resolution adopted under this subsection for each individual who is a member of the fiscal body of the county, city, or town as the voting record for that individual either for or against the ordinance being proposed for consideration by the local income tax council as a whole under section 9.5 of this chapter. This subsection expires May 31, 2028.

(f) This subsection applies only to a county with a single voting bloc that proposes to increase (but not decrease) a tax rate in the county. The county auditor shall deliver copies of a proposed ordinance the auditor receives under subsection (e) to the fiscal officers of all members of the local income tax council (other than the member proposing the ordinance under subsection (e)) within ten (10) days after receipt. Subject to subsection (h); once a member receives a proposed ordinance from the county auditor, the member shall vote on it within thirty (30) days after receipt. This subsection expires May 31, 2028.

(g) This subsection applies only to a county with a single voting bloc that proposes to increase (but not decrease) a tax rate in the county. The fiscal body of each county, city, or town voting on a resolution to propose an ordinance under subsection (e), or voting on a proposed ordinance being considered by the local income tax council as a whole under section 9.5 of this chapter, must take a roll call vote on the resolution or the proposed ordinance. If an individual who sits on the fiscal body is absent from the meeting in which a vote is taken or abstains from voting on the resolution or proposed ordinance, the fiscal officer of the county, city, or town shall nevertheless consider that individual's vote as a "no" vote against the resolution or the



proposed ordinance being considered; whichever is applicable; for purposes of the vote tally under this section and shall note on the vote tally that the individual's "no" vote is due to absence or abstention. The fiscal body of each county, city, or town shall certify the roll call vote on a resolution or a proposed ordinance; either for or against; to the county auditor as set forth under this chapter. This subsection expires May 31, 2028.

(h) This subsection applies only to a county with a single voting bloc that proposes to increase (but not decrease) a tax rate in the county. If, before the elapse of thirty (30) days after receipt of a proposed ordinance under subsection (e), the county auditor notifies the member that the individuals who sit on the fiscal bodies of the county, cities, and towns that are members of the local income tax council have cast a majority of the votes on the local income tax council for or against a proposed ordinance voting as a whole under section 9.5 of this chapter, the member need not vote on the proposed ordinance under subsection (e). This subsection expires May 31, 2028.

SECTION 28. IC 6-3.6-6-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.230-2025, SECTION 82, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]. Sec. 12:

(a) Except as provided in this chapter and IC 6-3.6-11, this section applies to an allocation of certified shares in all counties:

(b) The allocation amount of a civil taxing unit during a calendar year must be based on the amounts for the calendar year preceding the distribution year and is equal to the amount determined using the following formula:

STEP ONE: Determine the sum of the total property taxes being imposed by the civil taxing unit.

STEP TWO: Determine the sum of the following:

(A) Amounts appropriated from property taxes to pay the principal of or interest on any debenture or other debt obligation issued after June 30, 2005, other than an obligation described in subsection (c):

(B) Amounts appropriated from property taxes to make payments on any lease entered into after June 30, 2005, other than a lease described in subsection (d):

STEP THREE: Subtract the STEP TWO amount from the STEP ONE amount.

STEP FOUR: In the case of a qualifying municipality as defined in IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(d) that is located in a county described in IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(a); and only for the allocation of certified shares in 2027 and 2028; STEP THREE multiplied by seventy percent (70%).



STEP FIVE: Determine the sum of:

(A) the:

(i) STEP THREE amount; or

(ii) STEP FOUR amount in the case of a qualifying municipality as defined in IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(d) that is located in a county described in IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(a);

(B) the civil taxing unit's certified shares plus the amount distributed under section 3(a)(2) of this chapter for the previous calendar year; plus

(C) in the case of a qualifying municipality as defined in IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(d) that is located in a county described in IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(a); and only for the allocation of certified shares in 2026; the amount of the levy for the municipality's debt service and lease rental funds that was certified in 2025 multiplied by fifty-four and five-tenths percent (54.5%). This clause expires January 1, 2027.

The allocation amount is subject to adjustment as provided in IC 36-8-19-7.5.

(c) Except as provided in this subsection, an appropriation for the calendar year preceding the distribution year from property taxes to repay interest and principal of a debt obligation is not deducted from the allocation amount for a civil taxing unit if:

(1) the debt obligation was issued; and

(2) the proceeds were appropriated from property taxes;

to refund or otherwise refinance a debt obligation or a lease issued before July 1, 2005. However, an appropriation from property taxes related to a debt obligation issued after June 30, 2005, is deducted if the debt extends payments on a debt or lease beyond the time in which the debt or lease would have been payable if the debt or lease had not been refinanced or increases the total amount that must be paid on a debt or lease in excess of the amount that would have been paid if the debt or lease had not been refinanced. The amount of the deduction is the annual amount for each year of the extension period or the annual amount of the increase over the amount that would have been paid.

(d) Except as provided in this subsection, an appropriation for the calendar year preceding the distribution year from property taxes to make payments on a lease is not deducted from the allocation amount for a civil taxing unit if:

(1) the lease was issued; and

(2) the proceeds were appropriated from property taxes;

to refinance a debt obligation or lease issued before July 1, 2005. However, an appropriation from property taxes related to a lease



entered into after June 30, 2005; is deducted if the lease extends payments on a debt or lease beyond the time in which the debt or lease would have been payable if the debt or lease had not been refinanced or increases the total amount that must be paid on a debt or lease in excess of the amount that would have been paid if the debt or lease had not been refinanced. The amount of the deduction is the annual amount for each year of the extension period or the annual amount of the increase over the amount that would have been paid.

SECTION 29. IC 6-3.6-9-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.230-2025, SECTION 85, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2028]. Sec. 15. (a) If the budget agency determines that the balance in a county trust account exceeds fifteen percent (15%) (or the percentage set forth in subsection (g); if applicable) of the certified distributions to be made to the county in the determination year, the budget agency shall make a supplemental distribution to the county from the county's trust account. The budget agency shall use the trust account balance as of December 31 of the year that precedes the determination year by two (2) years (referred to as the "trust account balance year" in this section).

(b) A supplemental distribution described in subsection (a) must be:

- (1) made at the same time as the determinations are provided to the county auditor under subsection (d)(3); and
- (2) allocated in the same manner as certified distributions for the purposes described in this article.

(c) The amount of a supplemental distribution described in subsection (a) is equal to the amount by which:

- (1) the balance in the county trust account; minus
- (2) the amount of any supplemental or special distribution that has not yet been accounted for in the last known balance of the county's trust account;

exceeds fifteen percent (15%) (or the percentage set forth in subsection (g); if applicable) of the certified distributions to be made to the county in the determination year.

(d) For a county that qualifies for a supplemental distribution under this section in a year, the following apply:

- (1) Before February 15, the budget agency shall update the information described in section 9 of this chapter to include the excess account balances to be distributed under this section.
- (2) Before May 2, the budget agency shall provide the amount of the supplemental distribution for the county to the department of local government finance and to the county auditor.
- (3) The department of local government finance shall determine for the county and each taxing unit within the county:



(A) the amount and allocation of the supplemental distribution attributable to the taxes that were imposed as of December 31 of the trust account balance year, including any specific distributions for that year; and

(B) the amount of the allocation for each of the purposes set forth in this article, using the allocation percentages in effect in the trust account balance year.

The department of local government finance shall provide these determinations to the county auditor before May 16 of the determination year.

(4) Before June 1, the county auditor shall distribute to each taxing unit the amount of the supplemental distribution that is allocated to the taxing unit under subdivision (3). However, for a county with a former tax to provide for a levy freeze under IC 6-3.6-11-1, the supplemental distribution shall first be distributed as determined in any resolution adopted under IC 6-3.6-11-1(d).

For determinations before 2019, the tax rates in effect under and the allocation methods specified in the former income tax laws shall be used for the determinations under subdivision (3).

(e) For any part of a supplemental distribution attributable to property tax credits under a former income tax or IC 6-3.6-5, the adopting body for the county may allocate the supplemental distribution to property tax credits for not more than the three (3) years after the year the supplemental distribution is received.

(f) Any income earned on money held in a trust account established for a county under this chapter shall be deposited in that trust account.

(g) This subsection applies only to counties that contain at least four (4) municipalities (cities or towns) each with a population greater than forty thousand (40,000); as determined by the most recent federal decennial census; in which at least one (1) of those municipalities meets the definition of a qualifying municipality under IC 6-1.1-18.5-31(d). The following percentages apply for purposes of the determinations under subsections (a) and (c):

(1) For the determination year beginning after December 31, 2025, and ending before January 1, 2027, twelve and five-tenths percent (12.5%);

(2) For the determination year beginning after December 31, 2026, and ending before January 1, 2028, ten percent (10%);

(3) For a determination year beginning after December 31, 2027, and ending before January 1, 2029, seven and five-tenths percent (7.5%);



(4) For the determination year beginning after December 31, 2028; and ending before January 1, 2030; five percent (5%);

(5) For the determination year beginning after December 31, 2029; and ending before January 1, 2031; two and one-half percent (2.5%);

(6) For the determination year beginning after December 31, 2030; one percent (1%);

SECTION 30. IC 8-1-31-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.61-2022, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "eligible infrastructure improvements" means projects that:

(1) are:

(A) new water or wastewater utility distribution or collection plant projects; or

(B) projects to relocate existing utility plant, including projects to relocate utility plant or equipment to accommodate the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of a highway, street, or road (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-23~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-22**), including projects under IC 8-25;

(2) do not increase revenues by connecting to new customers, even if the projects provide greater available capacity with respect to an eligible utility's distribution or collection plant; and

(3) either:

(A) for a public utility:

(i) are in service and used and useful; and

(ii) were not included in the public utility's rate base in its most recent general rate case; or

(B) for a municipally owned or not-for-profit utility:

(i) are or will be extensions or replacements of projects described in subdivision (1), as described in section 5.5(2)(B) or 5.5(3)(B) of this chapter, as applicable;

(ii) were not included on the utility's balance sheet as plant in service in the utility's most recent general rate case; and

(iii) are not infrastructure improvements that are being recovered or have been recovered through rates or another rate adjustment mechanism.

SECTION 31. IC 8-1-31-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.39-2023, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) The commission may not approve a petition filed under section 8 or 10 of this chapter to the extent it would:

(1) for a public utility, produce total adjustment revenues



exceeding ten percent (10%) of the eligible utility's base revenue level approved by the commission in the eligible utility's most recent general rate proceeding; or

(2) for a municipally owned or not-for-profit utility, produce total adjustment revenues over the course of each twelve (12) month recovery period that exceed ten percent (10%) of the eligible utility's base revenue level approved by the commission in the eligible utility's most recent general rate proceeding.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:

(1) infrastructure improvement costs associated with eligible infrastructure improvements that are placed in service due to the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of a highway, street, or road (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-23~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-22**), including projects under IC 8-25; or

(2) property taxes associated with eligible infrastructure improvements.

SECTION 32. IC 8-4.5-1-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.164-2020, SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. "Recreational trail" means a trail or path that:

(1) includes a corridor along any part of its length;

(2) is intended to be used for:

(A) bicycling;

(B) exercising;

(C) hiking;

(D) running;

(E) riding:

(i) in or on a vehicle of any kind, regardless of the means of propelling the vehicle; or

(ii) on any animal;

(F) walking; or

(G) any other recreational purpose; and

(3) is funded through the recreational trails program under IC 8-4.5-5.

However, the term does not include a highway, ~~road, or street, or road~~ (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-23~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-22**).

SECTION 33. IC 8-15.7-2-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.47-2006, SECTION 40, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. "Highway, street, or road" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 8-23-1-23~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-22**.

SECTION 34. IC 8-15.7-2-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.203-2007, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) Subject to IC 8-15.7-1-5, "project" means



all or part of the following:

- (1) A limited access facility (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-28~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-27**).
- (2) A tollway.
- (3) Roads and bridges.
- (4) Passenger and freight railroad systems, including:
 - (A) the costs of environmental impact studies;
 - (B) property, equipment, and appurtenances necessary to operate a railroad, including lines, routes, roads, rights-of-way, easements, licenses, permits, track upgrades, rail grade crossings, locomotives, passenger cars, freight cars, and other railroad cars of any type or class; and
 - (C) other costs that the department determines are necessary to develop a passenger or freight railroad system in Indiana.
- (5) All or part of a bridge, tunnel, overpass, underpass, interchange, structure, ramp, access road, service road, entrance plaza, approach, tollhouse, utility corridor, toll gantry, rest stop, service area, or administration, storage, or other building or facility, including temporary facilities and buildings or facilities and structures that will not be tolled, that the department determines is appurtenant, necessary, or desirable for the development, financing, or operation of the facilities described in subdivisions (1) through (4).
- (6) An improvement, betterment, enlargement, extension, or reconstruction of all or part of any of the facilities described in this section, including a nontolled part, that is separately designated by name or number.

(b) The term does not include a passenger railroad system that is operated by a commuter transportation district established under IC 8-5-15.

SECTION 35. IC 8-15.7-2-21, AS ADDED BY P.L.47-2006, SECTION 40, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 21. "Transportation plan" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 8-23-1-41~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-41**.

SECTION 36. IC 8-23-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. (Definitions for Indiana Department of Transportation Law).

SECTION 37. IC 8-23-1.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Chapter 1.1. Definitions

Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this article.



Sec. 2. The definitions in IC 36-1-2 apply to this article.

Sec. 3. "Abandonment" means the cessation of use of right-of-way activity upon a site with no intention to reclaim or use the site again for highway purposes.

Sec. 4. "Adjacent area" means an area that is adjacent to and within six hundred sixty (660) feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of an interstate or primary highway.

Sec. 5. "Agency" has the meaning set forth in IC 4-22-2-3.

Sec. 6. "Arterial highway" means a highway designed primarily for through traffic, usually on a continuous route.

Sec. 7. "Arterial street" means a street designed primarily for through traffic, usually on a continuous route.

Sec. 8. "Authority" refers to the Indiana finance authority established by IC 5-1.2-3.

Sec. 9. "Automobile graveyard" means an establishment or place of business that is maintained, used, or operated for storing, keeping, buying, or selling wrecked, scrapped, ruined, or dismantled motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts.

Sec. 10. (a) "Changeable message sign" means a sign that satisfies all of the following:

- (1) The message on the sign may be changed mechanically, electronically, or by remote control.
- (2) The static display on the face of the sign:
 - (A) does not display any copy or message that moves, appears to move, or flashes; and
 - (B) lasts at least eight (8) seconds.
- (3) A message change takes no more than two (2) seconds.

(b) The term includes electronic billboards and trimovement signs.

Sec. 11. "Commerce corridor" means that part of a recognized system of highways that:

- (1) directly facilitates intrastate, interstate, or international commerce and travel;
- (2) enhances economic vitality and international competitiveness; or
- (3) provides service to all parts of Indiana and the United States.

Sec. 12. "Commissioner" refers to the commissioner of the department.

Sec. 13. "County arterial highway system" means a system of highways designated by the county highway authority as having the greatest general importance to the county and for which



responsibility is assigned to the county highway authority.

Sec. 14. "County local highway system" means the roads and streets used primarily for access to residence, business, farm, or other abutting property and for which responsibility is assigned to the county highway authority.

Sec. 15. "Curb" means a stone or row of stones, or a similar construction of concrete or other material, along the margin of a roadway as a limit to the roadway and a restraint upon and protection to the adjoining sidewalk space.

Sec. 16. "Department" refers to the Indiana department of transportation established by IC 8-23-2-1.

Sec. 17. "Directional and other official signs and notices" includes signs and notices pertaining to natural, scenic, and historical attractions that are required or authorized by law and conform to the national standards adopted by the United States Secretary of Commerce under 23 U.S.C. 131(c).

Sec. 18. "Electronic billboard" means a programmable sign capable of presenting a large amount of:

- (1) text;
- (2) symbolic imagery; or
- (3) both text and symbolic imagery.

Sec. 19. "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any way bring into being or establish. The term does not include an activity performed as an incident to the change of an advertising message or normal maintenance or repair of a sign structure.

Sec. 20. "Executive" has the meaning set forth in IC 36-1-2-5. However, for a consolidated city, the term means the city-county council.

Sec. 21. "Extraordinary cost" means the cost to a utility to relocate existing facilities that is either:

- (1) more than ten percent (10%) of the total operating revenue received by the utility during the utility's most recent full fiscal year; or
- (2) more than fifty percent (50%) of the total estimated cost of a proposed highway or bridge construction or improvement project.

Sec. 22. "Highway, street, or road" means a public way for purposes of vehicular traffic, including the entire area within the right-of-way. However, the term does not include a highway for purposes of IC 8-2.1.

Sec. 23. "Information center" means an area or site established



and maintained at safety rest areas for the purpose of informing the public of places of interest within Indiana and providing other information that the department considers desirable.

Sec. 24. "Interstate system" means the part of the national system of interstate and defense highways located within Indiana as officially designated by the department and approved by the United States Secretary of Commerce under 23 U.S.C.

Sec. 25. "Junk" means old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste, or junked, dismantled, or wrecked automobiles or automobile parts, iron, steel, and other old scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

Sec. 26. "Junkyard" means an establishment or place of business that is maintained, operated, or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling junk, or for the maintenance or operation of an automobile graveyard. The term includes garbage dumps and sanitary fills. The term does not include a scrap metal processing facility.

Sec. 27. "Limited access facility" means a highway or street designed for through traffic, over, from, or to which owners or occupiers of abutting land or other persons have either no right or easement or a limited right or easement of direct access, light, air, or view because their property abuts upon the limited access facility or for any other reason. The highways or streets may be parkways from which trucks, buses, and other commercial vehicles are excluded or freeways open to use by all customary forms of highway and street traffic.

Sec. 28. "Maintain" means allow to exist.

Sec. 29. "Main-traveled way" means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. For a divided highway, the term includes the traveled way of each of the separated roadways for traffic in opposite directions. The term does not include frontage roads, turning roadways, or parking areas.

Sec. 30. "Municipal arterial street system" means a system of arterial streets and highways designated by the municipal street authority as having the greatest importance to the municipality and for which responsibility is assigned to the municipal street authority.

Sec. 31. "Municipal local street system" means roads and streets used primarily for access to residence, business, or other abutting property and for which responsibility is assigned to the municipal street authority.



Sec. 32. "Primary system" means the part of connected main highways as officially designated by the department and approved by the United States Secretary of Commerce under 23 U.S.C.

Sec. 33. "Road paving material" means bituminous or portland concrete surfaces.

Sec. 34. "Safety rest area" means an area or site established and maintained within adjacent areas by or under public supervision or control for the convenience of the traveling public.

Sec. 35. "Scrap metal processing facility" means an establishment having facilities for processing iron, steel, or nonferrous metal and whose principal product is scrap iron, steel, or scrap for sale for remelting purposes only.

Sec. 36. "Secretary" refers to the United States Secretary of Transportation.

Sec. 37. "Sign" means an outdoor sign, display, device, notice, bulletin, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, or other thing that is designated, intended, or used to advertise or inform.

Sec. 38. "State aid director" refers to the chief administrative officer of the office of the department that administers programs of state and federal aid to local units of government, or the officer's designee.

Sec. 39. "State highway system" means the system of highways and streets that are of general economic importance to Indiana as a whole and for which responsibility is assigned to the department.

Sec. 40. "Substantial completion" refers to the date, as determined by the department, when the construction of the contract is sufficiently completed in accordance with the plans and specifications, as modified by any change orders, so that the construction can be used for its intended purpose.

Sec. 41. "Transportation plan" means a statement evaluating transportation policy objectives and projecting specific long range comprehensive actions to accomplish policy objectives.

Sec. 42. "Traveled way" means the part of the roadway for the movement of vehicles. The term does not include shoulders or auxiliary lanes.

Sec. 43. "Trimovement sign" means a sign that displays three (3) separate images sequentially by rotating triangular cylinders.

Sec. 44. (a) "Unzoned commercial or industrial area" means an adjacent area not zoned under state or local statute, rule, or ordinance on which there is located one (1) or more permanent structures for commercial or industrial activities other than a sign



or upon which a commercial or an industrial activity is actually conducted, whether or not there is a permanent structure located upon the adjacent area, and the area:

- (1) extending six hundred (600) feet beyond the edge of the commercial or industrial activity as determined under subsection (c); and
- (2) located along either side of an interstate or a primary highway.

The term does not include land contiguous to an interstate or a primary highway that has been designated as scenic by the state.

(b) The term does not include the following areas:

- (1) Within three hundred (300) feet of a building used primarily as a residence, unless the owner of the building consents in writing to the particular commercial use.
- (2) Within five hundred (500) feet of the following:
 - (A) A public park garden.
 - (B) A recreation area or forest preserve.
 - (C) A church or school.
 - (D) An officially designated historic battlefield, museum, or historical monument.
 - (E) A safety rest or recreation area, publicly owned, controlled, and maintained under 23 U.S.C. 319.
 - (F) A sanitary or other facility for the accommodation of motorists, publicly owned, controlled, and maintained under 23 U.S.C. 319.
- (3) Within seven hundred fifty (750) feet of a strip of land in which an interest has been acquired by the state for the restoration, preservation, or enhancement of scenic beauty that is publicly controlled and maintained under 23 U.S.C. 319.

(c) Distance from a commercial or an industrial activity described under subsection (a):

- (1) must be:
 - (A) measured from the outer edges of the regularly used building, parking lot, storage areas, or processing areas of the commercial or industrial activity; and
 - (B) parallel to the edge of the pavement of the highway; and
- (2) may not be measured from the property line of the commercial or industrial activity, unless the property line is located on an area described in subdivision (1)(A).

Sec. 45. "Urban area" means:



- (1) an urbanized area designated by the Bureau of the Census;
- (2) if an urbanized area lies within more than one (1) state, the part of the area that lies within the boundaries of Indiana; or
- (3) an urban place designated by the Bureau of the Census having a population of at least five thousand (5,000) that is not within an urbanized area and is within boundaries cooperatively established by the department and local officials.

Sec. 46. "Utility" has the meaning set forth in IC 8-1-9-2(a).

Sec. 47. "Visible" means capable of being seen (whether or not legible) without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity using the highway system.

Sec. 48. "Work program" means a schedule of steps to be followed in implementing a transportation plan, including the following:

- (1) A description of the sequence of steps.
- (2) The time limit within which each step is to be completed.
- (3) The product of each step.
- (4) The staff and resources required.

Sec. 49. "Zoned commercial or industrial areas" means those areas that are zoned for business, industry, commerce, or trade under a zoning ordinance.

SECTION 38. IC 8-23-9.5-11, AS ADDED BY P.L.60-2023, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) As used in this chapter, "project" means services provided using a two-phase contract with a CMGC or a PDB for preconstruction services and construction services to design, construct, alter, or repair:

- (1) a state highway;
- (2) a limited access facility (as defined in IC 8-23-1-28); **IC 8-23-1.1-27**);
- (3) a public highway (as defined in IC 9-25-2-4);
- (4) a tollway;
- (5) a bridge; and
- (6) a passenger and freight railroad system.

(b) The term does not include a passenger railroad system that is operated by a commuter transportation district created by IC 8-5-15.

SECTION 39. IC 8-23-10-0.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.85-2017, SECTION 39, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.5. (a) The definitions in IC 5-16-13 apply to this section.

(b) For purposes of IC 5-16-13-10(c) and this section, a contractor



must be qualified under this chapter before doing any work on a public works project that is the construction, improvement, alteration, repair, or maintenance of a highway, street, or road (as defined by ~~IC 8-23-1-23~~) **in IC 8-23-1.1-22**) or alley.

(c) Notwithstanding the applicability date specified in IC 5-16-13-10(c) and subject to subsection (d), the requirement that a contractor must be qualified under this chapter before doing any work on a public works project applies to a public works contract awarded after December 31, 2016.

(d) This subsection applies to a public works project awarded after December 31, 2016, by a local unit. A contractor in any contractor tier is not required to be qualified under this chapter before doing any work on a public works project awarded by a local unit whenever:

- (1) the total amount of the contract awarded to the contractor for work on the public works project is less than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000); and
- (2) the local unit complies with IC 36-1-12 in awarding the contract for the public works project.

SECTION 40. IC 8-23-20-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The department and the United States Secretary of Commerce shall enter into agreements under 23 U.S.C. concerning the regulation of billboards, signs, junkyards, and scrap metal processing areas in areas adjacent to the interstate and primary highway systems. The agreements must conform to the provisions of 23 U.S.C. to ensure that federal funds to Indiana are continued.

(b) An agreement between the state and the United States Secretary of Commerce entered into under 23 U.S.C. 131 must contain the definition of "unzoned commercial or industrial area" found in ~~IC 8-23-1-43~~. **IC 8-23-1.1-44**. If the state has received from the Secretary a formal notice of a proposed determination to withhold funds from the state because of an asserted unacceptability of the definition, the governor shall modify the definition. The modification may be made during a hearing on the notice held by the Secretary under 23 U.S.C. 131, or, if as a matter of law the Secretary decides to withhold funds prior to a hearing, the governor:

- (1) may modify the definition before a hearing; and
- (2) shall request a hearing under 23 U.S.C. 131.

SECTION 41. IC 8-23-26-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) This chapter does not apply to a project let under IC 8-23-11.

(b) This chapter applies only to projects on the state highway system



(as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-40~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-39**).

SECTION 42. IC 8-23-32-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.120-2023, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a part of a road or bridge on the interstate system (as defined by ~~IC 8-23-1-25~~) in **IC 8-23-1.1-24**) or a U.S. route.

SECTION 43. IC 9-18.5-8-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.129-2018, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The bureau shall issue a permanent parking placard to an individual:

- (1) who is certified by a health care provider listed in subsection (b) as having:
 - (A) a permanent physical disability that requires the use of a wheelchair, a walker, braces, or crutches;
 - (B) permanently lost the use of one (1) or both legs; or
 - (C) a permanent and severe restriction in mobility due to a pulmonary or cardiovascular disability, an arthritic condition, or an orthopedic or neurological impairment;
- (2) who is certified to be permanently:
 - (A) blind (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-21(2)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-38(2)**);
 - or
 - (B) visually impaired (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-198~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-349**);
 by an optometrist or ophthalmologist who has a valid unrestricted license to practice optometry or ophthalmology in Indiana; or
- (3) who:
 - (A) has been issued; or
 - (B) is otherwise eligible to receive;
 a disabled Hoosier veteran license plate under IC 9-18.5-5 and requests a permanent parking placard.

The certification must be provided in a manner and form prescribed by the bureau.

(b) A certification required under subsection (a)(1) may be provided by the following:

- (1) A physician having a valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine.
- (2) A physician who is a commissioned medical officer of:
 - (A) the armed forces of the United States; or
 - (B) the United States Public Health Service.
- (3) A physician who is a medical officer of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (4) A chiropractor with a valid and unrestricted license under



IC 25-10-1.

(5) A podiatrist with a valid and unrestricted license under IC 25-29-1.

(6) An advanced practice registered nurse with a valid and unrestricted license under IC 25-23.

(7) A physician assistant with a valid and unrestricted license under IC 25-27.5.

(c) A permanent placard issued under this section remains in effect until:

(1) a health care provider listed in subsection (b); or

(2) an optometrist or ophthalmologist that has a valid unrestricted license to practice optometry or ophthalmology in Indiana;

certifies that the recipient's disability is no longer considered to be permanent.

SECTION 44. IC 9-18.5-8-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.256-2017, SECTION 136, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The bureau shall issue a temporary placard to an individual who is certified by:

(1) a health care provider listed in section 4(b) of this chapter as having:

(A) a temporary physical disability that requires the temporary use of a wheelchair, a walker, braces, or crutches;

(B) temporarily lost the use of one (1) or both legs; or

(C) a temporary and severe restriction in mobility due to a pulmonary or cardiovascular disability, an arthritic condition, or an orthopedic or neurological impairment; or

(2) an optometrist or ophthalmologist who has a valid unrestricted license to practice optometry or ophthalmology in Indiana to be temporarily:

(A) blind (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-21(2)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-38(2)**);
or

(B) visually impaired (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-198~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-349**).

(b) A certification under this section must:

(1) be in a manner and form prescribed by the bureau; and

(2) state the expected duration, including an end date, of the condition on which the certification is based.

(c) A temporary placard issued under this section expires on the earlier of the following:

(1) One (1) year after the date on which the placard is issued.

(2) The end date set forth in the certification under subsection (b).

SECTION 45. IC 9-20-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024,



SECTION 92, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) This subsection does not apply to any highway or street in the state highway system. Except as provided in subsection (e), local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may by ordinance:

- (1) prohibit the operation of vehicles upon any highway; or
- (2) impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated upon any highway;

for a total period not to exceed ninety (90) days in any one (1) year, whenever any highway by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions will be seriously damaged or destroyed without the regulation of vehicles.

(b) A local authority adopting an ordinance under subsection (a) shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained signs specifying the terms of the ordinance at each end of that part of any highway affected by the ordinance and at intersecting highways. The ordinance may not be enforced until the signs are erected and maintained.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (e), local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, except highways in the state highway system and state maintained routes through cities and towns, may by ordinance do the following:

- (1) Prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles.
- (2) Impose limitations as to the weight, size, or use of those vehicles on designated highways.

The prohibitions and limitations must be designated by appropriate signs placed on the highways.

(d) The Indiana department of transportation has the same authority granted to local authorities in subsections (a) and (c) to determine by executive order and to impose restrictions as to weight, size, and use of vehicles operated upon a highway in the state highway system, including state maintained routes through cities and towns. These restrictions may not be enforced until signs giving notice of the restrictions are erected upon the highway or part of the highway affected by the order.

(e) The commissioner of the Indiana department of transportation may designate an order adopted under subsection (d) as a rule and adopt the order as a rule under IC 4-22-2.

(f) A local authority may not, in an ordinance passed under subsection (a) or (c), prohibit the operation of buses that are not more than forty-five (45) feet in length on any segment of the primary system (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-33~~ **IC 8-23-1.1-32**) that was in existence on June 1, 1991.



SECTION 46. IC 9-24-9-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.116-2017, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in section 4.1 of this chapter, the application of an individual less than eighteen (18) years of age for a permit or driver's license under this chapter must be signed and sworn to or affirmed by one (1) of the following in order of preference:

- (1) The parent having custody of the minor applicant or a designee of the custodial parent specified by the custodial parent.
- (2) The noncustodial parent (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-83~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-164**) of the minor applicant or a designee of the noncustodial parent specified by the noncustodial parent.
- (3) The guardian having custody of the minor applicant.
- (4) In the absence of a person described in subdivisions (1) through (3), any other adult who is willing to assume the obligations imposed by the provisions of this chapter.

(b) The bureau shall require an individual signing an application under subsection (a) to present a valid form of identification in a manner prescribed by the bureau.

SECTION 47. IC 9-24-16-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.141-2024, SECTION 34, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) An identification card:

- (1) issued in the form of a physical credential must have the same dimensions and shape as a driver's license; and
- (2) in the form of a mobile credential must contain the same data contained in a driver's license;

but the card must have markings sufficient to distinguish the card from a driver's license.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (g), the front side of an identification card issued in the form of a physical credential must contain the expiration date of the identification card and the following information about the individual to whom the card is being issued:

- (1) Full legal name.
- (2) The address of the principal residence.
- (3) Date of birth.
- (4) Date of issue and date of expiration.
- (5) Unique identification number.
- (6) Gender.
- (7) Weight.
- (8) Height.
- (9) Color of eyes and hair.
- (10) Reproduction of the signature of the individual identified.



(11) Whether the individual is blind (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-21(1)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-38(1)**).

(12) If the individual is less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of issuance, the dates on which the individual will become:

- (A) eighteen (18) years of age; and
- (B) twenty-one (21) years of age.

(13) If the individual is at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of issuance, the date on which the individual will become twenty-one (21) years of age.

(14) Digital photograph of the individual.

(c) The information contained on the identification card as required by subsection (b)(12) or (b)(13) for an individual who is less than twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of issuance shall be notated prominently on the identification card issued in the form of a physical credential.

(d) If the individual complies with section 2(f) or 2(g) of this chapter, an indication of the individual's veteran status or status as the surviving spouse of a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, as applicable, shall be shown on the identification card issued in the form of a physical credential.

(e) If the applicant for an identification card issued in the form of a physical credential submits information to the bureau concerning the applicant's medical condition, the bureau shall place an identifying symbol on the face of the identification card issued in the form of a physical credential to indicate that the applicant has a medical condition of note. The bureau shall include information on the identification card issued in the form of a physical credential that briefly describes the medical condition of the holder of the card issued in the form of a physical credential. The information must be printed in a manner that alerts a person reading the card issued in the form of a physical credential to the existence of the medical condition. The applicant for an identification card issued in the form of a physical credential is responsible for the accuracy of the information concerning the medical condition submitted under this subsection. The bureau shall inform an applicant that submission of information under this subsection is voluntary.

(f) An identification card issued by the state to an individual who has temporary lawful status as indicated by:

- (1) a valid, unexpired nonimmigrant visa or has nonimmigrant visa status for entry in the United States;
- (2) a pending application for asylum in the United States;
- (3) a pending or approved application for temporary protected



status in the United States;

(4) having an approved deferred action status; or

(5) a pending application for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States or conditional permanent residence status in the United States;

must be issued in the form of a physical credential and clearly identified as a temporary identification card. A temporary identification card issued under this subsection may not be renewed without the presentation of valid documentary evidence proving that the holder of the identification card's temporary status has been extended.

(g) For purposes of subsection (b), an individual certified as a program participant in the address confidentiality program under IC 5-26.5 is not required to provide the address of the individual's principal residence, but may provide an address designated by the office of the attorney general under IC 5-26.5 as the address of the individual's principal residence.

(h) The bureau shall validate an identification card issued in the form of a physical credential for motor driven cycle operation upon a highway by endorsement to an individual who:

- (1) applies for or has previously been issued an identification card under this chapter;
- (2) makes the appropriate application for endorsement; and
- (3) satisfactorily completes the test required under section 3.6 of this chapter.

The bureau shall place a designation on the face of the identification card issued in the form of a physical credential to indicate that the individual has received a motor driven cycle endorsement.

SECTION 48. IC 9-30-14-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. To qualify as a victim impact program under section 2 of this chapter, a program must do the following:

- (1) Provide an opportunity to participate in a victim impact program in the county in which the court is located.
- (2) Present each victim impact program described in subdivision (1) with at least one (1) speaker who is one (1) of the following:
 - (A) A person who was injured as a result of the operation of a vehicle by another person who operated the vehicle under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II under IC 35-48-2.
 - (B) A family member or a friend of a person who was injured or died as a result of the operation of a vehicle by another



person who operated the vehicle under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II under IC 35-48-2.

(C) A person who was convicted in Indiana of a covered offense or in another state of an offense that is substantially similar to a covered offense.

(D) A person who has been or is involved in a program designed to control the use or otherwise rehabilitate a person who is an alcohol abuser (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-11~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-18**), a drug abuser (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-73~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-129**), or both.

(3) Require a person to visit a specified emergency medical care facility, a coroner facility, or a chronic alcoholism treatment center under supervision, as specified by the court.

SECTION 49. IC 10-13-3-2.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.146-2006, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. As used in this chapter, "caseworker" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-11~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-29.**

SECTION 50. IC 10-13-3-36, AS AMENDED BY P.L.51-2016, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 36. (a) The department may not charge a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history record if the request is made by a nonprofit organization:

- (1) that has been in existence for at least ten (10) years; and
- (2) that:

(A) has a primary purpose of providing an individual relationship for a child with an adult volunteer if the request is made as part of a background investigation of a prospective adult volunteer for the organization;

(B) is a community intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-39~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-77**);

(C) is a supervised group living facility licensed under IC 12-28-5;

(D) is an area agency on aging designated under IC 12-10-1;

(E) is a community action agency (as defined in IC 12-14-23-2);

(F) is the owner or operator of a hospice program licensed under IC 16-25-3; or

(G) is a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**).

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d), the department may not



charge a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history record made by the department of child services or the division of family resources if the request is made as part of a background investigation of an applicant for a license under IC 12-17.2 or IC 31-27.

(c) The department may not charge a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history if the request is made by a school corporation, special education cooperative, or nonpublic school (as defined in IC 20-18-2-12) as part of a background investigation of a prospective or current employee or a prospective or current adult volunteer for the school corporation, special education cooperative, or nonpublic school.

(d) As used in this subsection, "state agency" means an authority, a board, a branch, a commission, a committee, a department, a division, or another instrumentality of state government, including the executive and judicial branches of state government, the principal secretary of the senate, the principal clerk of the house of representatives, the executive director of the legislative services agency, a state elected official's office, or a body corporate and politic, but does not include a state educational institution. The department may not charge a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history if the request is made:

- (1) by a state agency; and
- (2) through the computer gateway that is administered by the office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1.

(e) The department may not charge a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history record made by the Indiana professional licensing agency established by IC 25-1-5-3 if the request is:

- (1) made through the computer gateway that is administered by the office of technology; and
- (2) part of a background investigation of a practitioner or an individual who has applied for a license issued by a board (as defined in IC 25-1-9-1).

(f) The department may not charge a church or religious society a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history record if:

- (1) the church or religious society is a religious organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (2) the request is made as part of a background investigation of a prospective or current employee or a prospective or current adult



volunteer; and

(3) the employee or volunteer works in a nonprofit program or ministry of the church or religious society, including a child care ministry registered under IC 12-17.2-6.

(g) The department may not charge the school of education of a public or private postsecondary educational institution a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history record if the request is made as part of a background investigation of a student before or after the student begins the student's field or classroom experience. However, the department may charge the student a fee for responding to a request for the release of a limited criminal history record.

SECTION 51. IC 10-13-3-39, AS AMENDED BY P.L.110-2023, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 39. (a) The department is designated as the authorized agency to receive requests for, process, and disseminate the results of national criminal history background checks that comply with this section and 42 U.S.C. 5119a.

(b) A qualified entity may contact the department to request a national criminal history background check on any of the following persons:

(1) A person who seeks to be or is employed with the qualified entity. A request under this subdivision must be made not later than three (3) months after the person is initially employed by the qualified entity.

(2) A person who seeks to volunteer or is a volunteer with the qualified entity. A request under this subdivision must be made not later than three (3) months after the person initially volunteers with the qualified entity.

(3) A person for whom a national criminal history background check is required under any law relating to the licensing of a home, center, or other facility for purposes of day care or residential care of children.

(4) A person for whom a national criminal history background check is permitted for purposes of:

(A) placement of a child in a foster family home, a prospective adoptive home, or the home of a relative, legal guardian to whom IC 29-3-8-9 applies, or other caretaker under section 27.5 of this chapter or IC 31-34;

(B) a report concerning an adoption as required by IC 31-19-8;

(C) collaborative care host homes and supervised independent living arrangements as provided in IC 31-28-5.8-5.5; or



(D) reunification of a child with a parent, guardian, or custodian as provided in IC 31-34-21-5.5.

(5) A person for whom a national criminal history background check is required for the licensing of a group home, child caring institution, child placing agency, or foster home under IC 31-27.

(6) A person for whom a national criminal history background check is required for determining the individual's suitability as an employee of a contractor of the state under section 38.5(a)(1) of this chapter.

(c) A qualified entity must submit a request under subsection (b) in the form required by the department and provide a set of the person's fingerprints and any required fees with the request.

(d) If a qualified entity makes a request in conformity with subsection (b), the department shall submit the set of fingerprints provided with the request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history background check. The department shall respond to the request in conformity with:

- (1) the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 5119a; and
- (2) the regulations prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States under 42 U.S.C. 5119a.

(e) Subsection (f):

- (1) applies to a qualified entity that:
 - (A) is not a school corporation or a special education cooperative; or
 - (B) is a school corporation or a special education cooperative and seeks a national criminal history background check for a volunteer; and
- (2) does not apply to a qualified entity that is a:
 - (A) home health agency licensed under IC 16-27-1; or
 - (B) personal services agency licensed under IC 16-27-4.

(f) After receiving the results of a national criminal history background check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the department shall make a determination whether the person who is the subject of a request has been convicted of:

- (1) an offense described in IC 20-26-5-11.2;
- (2) in the case of a foster family home, a nonwaivable offense as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-168**;
- (3) in the case of a prospective adoptive home, a nonwaivable offense under ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-168**;
- (4) any other felony; or
- (5) any misdemeanor;

and convey the determination to the requesting qualified entity.



(g) This subsection applies to a qualified entity that:

- (1) is a school corporation or a special education cooperative; and
- (2) seeks a national criminal history background check to determine whether to employ or continue the employment of a certificated employee, a noncertificated employee, or an adjunct teacher who holds a permit under IC 20-28-5-27 of a school corporation or an equivalent position with a special education cooperative.

After receiving the results of a national criminal history background check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the department may exchange identification records concerning convictions for offenses described in IC 20-26-5-11.2 with the school corporation or special education cooperative solely for purposes of making an employment determination. The exchange may be made only for the official use of the officials with authority to make the employment determination. The exchange is subject to the restrictions on dissemination imposed under P.L.92-544, (86 Stat. 1115) (1972).

(h) This subsection applies to a qualified entity (as defined in ~~IC 10-13-3-16~~ **section 16 of this chapter**) that is a public agency under IC 5-14-1.5-2(a)(1). After receiving the results of a national criminal history background check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the department shall provide a copy to the public agency. Except as permitted by federal law, the public agency may not share the information contained in the national criminal history background check with a private agency.

(i) This subsection applies to a qualified entity that is a:

- (1) home health agency licensed under IC 16-27-1; or
- (2) personal services agency licensed under IC 16-27-4.

After receiving the results of a national criminal history background check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the department shall make a determination whether the applicant has been convicted of an offense described in IC 16-27-2-5(a) and convey the determination to the requesting qualified entity.

(j) The department:

- (1) may permanently retain an applicant's fingerprints submitted under this section; and
- (2) shall retain the applicant's fingerprints separately from fingerprints collected under section 24 of this chapter.

SECTION 52. IC 10-16-7-22, AS AMENDED BY P.L.68-2005, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22. If a member of the Indiana National Guard or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United



States:

- (1) is a noncustodial parent (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-83~~;
IC 31-9-2.1-164);
- (2) misses parenting time as provided in an order issued under IC 31-14-14 or IC 31-17-4 due to participating in an activity required under this chapter; and
- (3) notifies the custodial parent at least seven (7) days before the member misses the anticipated parenting time described in subdivision (2), unless the member is unable to provide notice due to a government emergency;

the member shall be allowed to make up the lost parenting time at the member's earliest convenience but not later than one (1) month after the member misses the parenting time under this section, if exercising the lost parenting time does not conflict with the child's school schedule.

SECTION 53. IC 11-8-8-4.5, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1303-2026, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.5. (a) Except as provided in section 22 of this chapter, as used in this chapter, "sex offender" means a person convicted of any of the following offenses:

- (1) Rape (IC 35-42-4-1).
- (2) Criminal deviate conduct (IC 35-42-4-2) (before its repeal).
- (3) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).
- (4) Child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4).
- (5) Vicarious sexual gratification (including performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor) (IC 35-42-4-5).
- (6) Child solicitation (IC 35-42-4-6).
- (7) Child seduction (IC 35-42-4-7).
- (8) Sexual misconduct with a minor (IC 35-42-4-9) as a Class A, Class B, or Class C felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, or Level 5 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014), unless:
 - (A) the person is convicted of sexual misconduct with a minor as a Class C felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 5 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014);
 - (B) the person is not more than:
 - (i) four (4) years older than the victim if the offense was committed after June 30, 2007; or
 - (ii) five (5) years older than the victim if the offense was committed before July 1, 2007; and
 - (C) the sentencing court finds that the person should not be



required to register as a sex offender.

- (9) Incest (IC 35-46-1-3).
 - (10) Sexual battery (IC 35-42-4-8).
 - (11) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2), if the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age, and the person who kidnapped the victim is not the victim's parent or guardian.
 - (12) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3), if the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age, and the person who confined or removed the victim is not the victim's parent or guardian.
 - (13) Possession of child sex abuse material (IC 35-42-4-4(d) or IC 35-42-4-4(e)) (before July 1, 2026), or a child sex abuse material offense under IC 35-42-4-4.5 (after June 30, 2026).
 - (14) Promoting prostitution (IC 35-45-4-4) as a Class B felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 4 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).
 - (15) Promotion of human sexual trafficking under IC 35-42-3.5-1.1.
 - (16) Promotion of child sexual trafficking under IC 35-42-3.5-1.2(a).
 - (17) Promotion of sexual trafficking of a younger child (IC 35-42-3.5-1.2(c)).
 - (18) Child sexual trafficking (IC 35-42-3.5-1.3).
 - (19) Human trafficking under IC 35-42-3.5-1.4 if the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age.
 - (20) Sexual misconduct by a service provider with a detained or supervised child (IC 35-44.1-3-10(c)).
- (b) The term includes:
- (1) a person who is required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction;
 - (2) a person who has been designated:
 - (A) a sex offender;
 - (B) a sexually violent predator; or
 - (C) with a substantially equivalent designation;
 in another jurisdiction and who was or would be subjected to the sex offender registration reporting requirements in the other jurisdiction if the person resided, worked, volunteered, attended school, or owned real property in that jurisdiction, as determined by the department;
 - (3) a person who has been convicted of failure to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction; and
 - (4) a child who has committed a delinquent act, or a person prosecuted under IC 31-30-1-4(d) for an offense described in



subsection (a) committed when the person was less than eighteen (18) years of age, but who was at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the charge was filed, and who:

- (A) is at least fourteen (14) years of age;
- (B) is on probation, is on parole, is discharged from a facility by the department of correction, is discharged from a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**), or is discharged from a juvenile detention facility as a result of an adjudication as a delinquent child for an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult; and
- (C) is found by a court by clear and convincing evidence to be likely to repeat an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult.

(c) In making a determination under subsection (b)(4)(C), the court shall consider expert testimony concerning whether a child is likely to repeat an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult.

(d) A person ordered to register under subsection (b)(4) may petition the court to reconsider the order at any time after completing court ordered sex offender treatment. The court shall consider expert testimony concerning whether a child or person is likely to repeat an offense described in subsection (a) or an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult.

SECTION 54. IC 11-8-8-5, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1303-2026, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) Except as provided in section 22 of this chapter, as used in this chapter, "sex or violent offender" means a person convicted of any of the following offenses:

- (1) Rape (IC 35-42-4-1).
- (2) Criminal deviate conduct (IC 35-42-4-2) (before its repeal).
- (3) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).
- (4) Child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4).
- (5) Vicarious sexual gratification (including performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor) (IC 35-42-4-5).
- (6) Child solicitation (IC 35-42-4-6).
- (7) Child seduction (IC 35-42-4-7).
- (8) Sexual misconduct with a minor (IC 35-42-4-9) as a Class A, Class B, or Class C felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, or Level 5 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014), unless:

- (A) the person is convicted of sexual misconduct with a minor



as a Class C felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 5 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014);

(B) the person is not more than:

(i) four (4) years older than the victim if the offense was committed after June 30, 2007; or

(ii) five (5) years older than the victim if the offense was committed before July 1, 2007; and

(C) the sentencing court finds that the person should not be required to register as a sex offender.

(9) Incest (IC 35-46-1-3).

(10) Sexual battery (IC 35-42-4-8).

(11) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2), if the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age, and the person who kidnapped the victim is not the victim's parent or guardian.

(12) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3), if the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age, and the person who confined or removed the victim is not the victim's parent or guardian.

(13) Possession of child sex abuse material (IC 35-42-4-4(d) or IC 35-42-4-4(e)) (before July 1, 2026), or a child sex abuse material offense under IC 35-42-4-4.5 (after June 30, 2026).

(14) Promoting prostitution (IC 35-45-4-4) as a Class B felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 4 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).

(15) Promotion of human sexual trafficking under IC 35-42-3.5-1.1.

(16) Promotion of child sexual trafficking under IC 35-42-3.5-1.2(a).

(17) Promotion of sexual trafficking of a younger child (IC 35-42-3.5-1.2(c)).

(18) Child sexual trafficking (IC 35-42-3.5-1.3).

(19) Human trafficking under IC 35-42-3.5-1.4 if the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(20) Murder (IC 35-42-1-1).

(21) Voluntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-3).

(22) Sexual misconduct by a service provider with a detained or supervised child (IC 35-44.1-3-10(c)).

(b) The term includes:

(1) a person who is required to register as a sex or violent offender in any jurisdiction;

(2) a person who has been designated:

(A) a sex offender;



- (B) a sexually violent predator; or
- (C) with a substantially equivalent designation; in another jurisdiction, and who was or would be subjected to the sex offender registration reporting requirements in the other jurisdiction if the person resided, worked, volunteered, attended school, or owned real property in that jurisdiction, as determined by the department;
- (3) a person who has been convicted of failure to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction; and
- (4) a child who has committed a delinquent act, or a person prosecuted under IC 31-30-1-4(d) for an offense described in subsection (a) committed when the person was less than eighteen (18) years of age, but who was at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the charge was filed, and who:
 - (A) is at least fourteen (14) years of age;
 - (B) is on probation, is on parole, is discharged from a facility by the department of correction, is discharged from a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**), or is discharged from a juvenile detention facility as a result of an adjudication as a delinquent child for an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult; and
 - (C) is found by a court by clear and convincing evidence to be likely to repeat an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult.

(c) In making a determination under subsection (b)(4)(C), the court shall consider expert testimony concerning whether a child is likely to repeat an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult.

(d) A person ordered to register under subsection (b)(4) may petition the court to reconsider the order at any time after completing court ordered sex offender treatment. The court shall consider expert testimony concerning whether a child or person is likely to repeat an offense described in subsection (a) or an act that would be an offense described in subsection (a) if committed by an adult.

SECTION 55. IC 11-8-8-7, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:
 Sec. 7. (a) Subject to section 19 of this chapter, the following persons must register under this chapter:

- (1) A sex or violent offender who resides in Indiana. A sex or violent offender resides in Indiana if either of the following



applies:

(A) The sex or violent offender spends or intends to spend at least seven (7) days (including part of a day) in Indiana during a one hundred eighty (180) day period.

(B) The sex or violent offender owns real property in Indiana and returns to Indiana at any time.

(2) A sex or violent offender who works or carries on a vocation or intends to work or carry on a vocation full time or part time: ~~for a period:~~

(A) **for a period** exceeding seven (7) consecutive days; or

(B) for a total period exceeding fourteen (14) days;

during any calendar year in Indiana regardless of whether the sex or violent offender is financially compensated, volunteered, or is acting for the purpose of government or educational benefit.

(3) A sex or violent offender who is enrolled or intends to be enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis in any public or private educational institution, including any secondary school, trade, or professional institution, or postsecondary educational institution.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e), a sex or violent offender who resides in Indiana shall register with the local law enforcement authority in the county where the sex or violent offender resides. If a sex or violent offender resides in more than one (1) county, the sex or violent offender shall register with the local law enforcement authority in each county in which the sex or violent offender resides. If the sex or violent offender is also required to register under subsection (a)(2) or (a)(3), the sex or violent offender shall also register with the local law enforcement authority in the county in which the offender is required to register under subsection (c) or (d).

(c) A sex or violent offender described in subsection (a)(2) shall register with the local law enforcement authority in the county where the sex or violent offender is or intends to be employed or carry on a vocation. If a sex or violent offender is or intends to be employed or carry on a vocation in more than one (1) county, the sex or violent offender shall register with the local law enforcement authority in each county. If the sex or violent offender is also required to register under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(3), the sex or violent offender shall also register with the local law enforcement authority in the county in which the offender is required to register under subsection (b) or (d).

(d) A sex or violent offender described in subsection (a)(3) shall register with the local law enforcement authority in the county where the sex or violent offender is enrolled or intends to be enrolled as a student. If the sex or violent offender is also required to register under



subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2), the sex or violent offender shall also register with the local law enforcement authority in the county in which the offender is required to register under subsection (b) or (c).

(e) A sex or violent offender described in subsection (a)(1)(B) shall register with the local law enforcement authority in the county in which the real property is located. If the sex or violent offender is also required to register under subsection (a)(1)(A), (a)(2), or (a)(3), the sex or violent offender shall also register with the local law enforcement authority in the county in which the offender is required to register under subsection (b), (c), or (d).

(f) A sex or violent offender committed to the department shall register with the department before the sex or violent offender is placed in a community transition program, placed in a work release program, or released from incarceration, whichever occurs first. The department shall forward the sex or violent offender's registration information to the local law enforcement authority of every county in which the sex or violent offender is required to register. If a sex or violent offender released from the department under this subsection:

(1) informs the department of the offender's intended location of residence upon release; and

(2) does not move to this location upon release;

the offender shall, not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the date on which the offender is released, report in person to the local law enforcement authority having jurisdiction over the offender's current address or location.

(g) This subsection does not apply to a sex or violent offender who is a sexually violent predator. A sex or violent offender not committed to the department shall register not more than seven (7) days after the sex or violent offender:

(1) is released from a penal facility (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-232);

(2) is released from a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**);

(3) is released from a juvenile detention facility;

(4) is transferred to a community transition program;

(5) is placed on parole;

(6) is placed on probation;

(7) is placed on home detention; or

(8) arrives at the place where the sex or violent offender is required to register under subsection (b), (c), or (d);

whichever occurs first. A sex or violent offender required to register in more than one (1) county under subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e) shall



register in each appropriate county not more than seventy-two (72) hours after the sex or violent offender's arrival in that county or acquisition of real estate in that county.

(h) This subsection applies to a sex or violent offender who is a sexually violent predator. A sex or violent offender who is a sexually violent predator shall register not more than seventy-two (72) hours after the sex or violent offender:

- (1) is released from a penal facility (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-232);
- (2) is released from a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**);
- (3) is released from a juvenile detention facility;
- (4) is transferred to a community transition program;
- (5) is placed on parole;
- (6) is placed on probation;
- (7) is placed on home detention; or
- (8) arrives at the place where the sexually violent predator is required to register under subsection (b), (c), or (d);

whichever occurs first. A sex or violent offender who is a sexually violent predator required to register in more than one (1) county under subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e) shall register in each appropriate county not more than seventy-two (72) hours after the offender's arrival in that county or acquisition of real estate in that county.

(i) The local law enforcement authority with whom a sex or violent offender registers under this section shall make and publish a photograph of the sex or violent offender on the Indiana sex and violent offender registry website established under IC 36-2-13-5.5. The local law enforcement authority shall make a photograph of the sex or violent offender that complies with the requirements of IC 36-2-13-5.5 at least once per year. The sheriff of a county containing a consolidated city shall provide the police chief of the consolidated city with all photographic and computer equipment necessary to enable the police chief of the consolidated city to transmit sex or violent offender photographs (and other identifying information required by IC 36-2-13-5.5) to the Indiana sex and violent offender registry website established under IC 36-2-13-5.5. In addition, the sheriff of a county containing a consolidated city shall provide all funding for the county's financial obligation for the establishment and maintenance of the Indiana sex and violent offender registry website established under IC 36-2-13-5.5.

(j) When a sex or violent offender registers, the local law enforcement authority shall:



- (1) immediately update the Indiana sex and violent offender registry website established under IC 36-2-13-5.5;
- (2) notify every law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the county where the sex or violent offender resides; and
- (3) update the National Crime Information Center National Sex Offender Registry data base via the Indiana data and communications system (IDACS).

When a sex or violent offender from a jurisdiction outside Indiana registers a change of address, electronic mail address, instant messaging username, electronic chat room username, social networking website username, employment, vocation, or enrollment in Indiana, the local law enforcement authority shall provide the department with the information provided by the sex or violent offender during registration.

SECTION 56. IC 11-8-8-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.3-2008, SECTION 87, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Not more than seven (7) days before an Indiana sex or violent offender who is required to register under this chapter is scheduled to be released from a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**), or released from a juvenile detention facility, an official of the facility shall do the following:

- (1) Orally inform the sex or violent offender of the sex or violent offender's duty to register under this chapter and require the sex or violent offender to sign a written statement that the sex or violent offender was orally informed or, if the sex or violent offender refuses to sign the statement, certify that the sex or violent offender was orally informed of the duty to register.
 - (2) Deliver a form advising the sex or violent offender of the sex or violent offender's duty to register under this chapter and require the sex or violent offender to sign a written statement that the sex or violent offender received the written notice or, if the sex or violent offender refuses to sign the statement, certify that the sex or violent offender was given the written notice of the duty to register.
 - (3) Obtain the address where the sex or violent offender expects to reside after the sex or violent offender's release.
 - (4) Transmit to the local law enforcement authority in the county where the sex or violent offender expects to reside the sex or violent offender's name, date of release or transfer, new address, and the offense or delinquent act committed by the sex or violent offender.
- (b) Not more than seventy-two (72) hours after a sex or violent



offender who is required to register under this chapter is released or transferred as described in subsection (a), an official of the facility shall transmit to the state police the following:

- (1) The sex or violent offender's fingerprints, photograph, and identification factors.
- (2) The address where the sex or violent offender expects to reside after the sex or violent offender's release.
- (3) The complete criminal history data (as defined in IC 10-13-3-5) or, if the sex or violent offender committed a delinquent act, juvenile history data (as defined in IC 10-13-4-4) of the sex or violent offender.
- (4) Information regarding the sex or violent offender's past treatment for mental disorders.
- (5) Information as to whether the sex or violent offender has been determined to be a sexually violent predator.

(c) This subsection applies if a sex or violent offender is placed on probation or in a community corrections program without being confined in a penal facility. The probation office serving the court in which the sex or violent offender is sentenced shall perform the duties required under subsections (a) and (b).

(d) For any sex or violent offender who is not committed to the department, the probation office of the sentencing court shall transmit to the department a copy of:

- (1) the sex or violent offender's:
 - (A) sentencing order; and
 - (B) presentence investigation; and
- (2) any other information required by the department to make a determination concerning sex or violent offender registration.

SECTION 57. IC 11-8-8-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2013, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) To verify a sex or violent offender's current residence, the local law enforcement authority having jurisdiction over the area of the sex or violent offender's current principal address or location shall do the following:

- (1) Contact each offender in a manner approved or prescribed by the department at least one (1) time per year.
- (2) Contact each offender who is designated a sexually violent predator in a manner approved or prescribed by the department at least once every ninety (90) days.
- (3) Personally visit each sex or violent offender in the county at the sex or violent offender's listed address at least one (1) time per year, beginning seven (7) days after the local law enforcement



authority receives a notice under section 7 of this chapter or the date the sex or violent offender is:

- (A) released from a penal facility (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-232), a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**), or a juvenile detention facility;
- (B) placed in a community transition program;
- (C) placed in a community corrections program;
- (D) placed on parole; or
- (E) placed on probation;

whichever occurs first.

(4) Personally visit each sex or violent offender who is designated a sexually violent predator under IC 35-38-1-7.5 at least once every ninety (90) days, beginning seven (7) days after the local law enforcement authority receives a notice under section 7 of this chapter or the date the sex or violent offender is:

- (A) released from a penal facility (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-232), a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**), or a juvenile detention facility;
- (B) placed in a community transition program;
- (C) placed in a community corrections program;
- (D) placed on parole; or
- (E) placed on probation;

whichever occurs first.

(b) If a sex or violent offender appears not to reside at the sex or violent offender's listed address, the local law enforcement authority shall immediately notify the department and the prosecuting attorney.

SECTION 58. IC 11-10-4-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this chapter, the terms used in IC 12-26 have the meanings set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2~~; **IC 12-7-2.1**.

(b) As used in this chapter, "qualified medical personnel" has the meaning set out in IC 11-10-3-1.

SECTION 59. IC 11-10-12-5.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.6-2021, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5.7. (a) The department shall assist a committed offender who has a mental illness or addictive disorder in securing treatment through an approved Medicaid program, as the authorized representative as described in IC 11-10-3-7 or as a health navigator under the requirements of IC 27-19-2-12, so that the committed offender might be eligible for treatment when the offender is:



- (1) released on parole;
- (2) assigned to a community transition program;
- (3) discharged from the department; or
- (4) required to receive inpatient psychiatric services while incarcerated to the extent authorized under federal law.

(b) The department shall provide the assistance described in subsection (a) in sufficient time to ensure that the committed offender will be able to receive treatment at the time the committed offender is:

- (1) released on parole;
- (2) assigned to a community transition program; or
- (3) discharged from the department.

(c) Subject to federal law, an inmate placed in a work release program or other department program involving alternative sentencing programs is eligible for Medicaid covered services.

(d) The department may use a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**), hospital, mental health professional, or other provider certified or licensed by the division of mental health and addiction to provide treatment for a mental illness or addictive disorder through the Medicaid program.

(e) The department may permit an offender committed to the department to remain within a treatment facility operated by the department for not more than fourteen (14) days past the offender's mandatory release date, if:

- (1) the offender has a serious physical or mental disorder or disability;
- (2) the offender is being held in the treatment facility operated by the department until the offender may be placed in a similar treatment setting outside the department;
- (3) the department made a good faith effort to timely place the offender in a treatment setting outside the department on or before the offender's mandatory release date; and
- (4) the offender:
 - (A) consents to being held in a treatment facility operated by the department beyond the offender's mandatory release date; or
 - (B) has been ordered by a court to be committed to a treatment setting outside the department.

SECTION 60. IC 11-12-3.7-2.8, AS ADDED BY P.L.187-2015, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.8. As used in this chapter, "developmental disability" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-118**.

SECTION 61. IC 11-12-5-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.185-2015,



SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) This section is effective beginning September 1, 2015.

(b) The sheriff, in consultation with the county executive or a person designated by the county executive, shall assist an offender who has a mental illness or addictive disorder in securing treatment for the mental illness or for substance abuse addiction, as the authorized representative as described in IC 11-10-3-7 or as a health navigator under the requirements of IC 27-19-2-12, so that the offender might be eligible for treatment when the offender is subsequently released from the county jail or required to receive inpatient psychiatric services while incarcerated to the extent authorized under federal law.

(c) The sheriff shall provide the assistance described in subsection (b) in sufficient time to ensure that the offender will be able to receive treatment at the time the committed offender is released from the county jail.

(d) A sheriff shall use a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-78**) or a provider certified or licensed by the division of mental health and addiction, including a hospital or outreach eligibility worker, to assist with securing treatment for a mental illness or addictive disorder through the Medicaid program under this section.

SECTION 62. IC 12-7-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. (Definitions for Human Services Law).

SECTION 63. IC 12-7-2.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Chapter 2.1. Definitions

Sec. 1. "9-8-8 crisis response center", for purposes of IC 12-21-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-8-1.

Sec. 2. "9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline", for purposes of IC 12-21-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-8-1.2.

Sec. 3. "ABLE account", for purposes of IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-1.

Sec. 4. "Activities of daily living", for purposes of IC 12-10-10 and IC 12-10-11.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-1.5.

Sec. 5. "Addiction treatment team", for purposes of IC 12-23-19.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-19.5-1.

Sec. 6. "Administrator", for purposes of:

(1) IC 12-10-15, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-15-1.5;

and

(2) IC 12-24-17, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-17-1.



Sec. 7. "Adult entertainment establishment", for purposes of IC 12-13-14-4.5, means a place that provides adult oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an uncllothed state for entertainment.

Sec. 8. "Adult protective services unit", for purposes of IC 12-10-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-3-1.

Sec. 9. "Advance", for purposes of IC 12-20-25-41, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-25-41.

Sec. 10. "Advanced practice registered nurse", for purposes of IC 12-15-5-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-5-14(a).

Sec. 11. "Advisory committee", for purposes of IC 12-15-35-51, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-51.

Sec. 12. "Advocacy", for purposes of IC 12-28-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-1-2.

Sec. 13. "Advocate", for purposes of IC 12-26, refers to a person who:

- (1) is a court appointed special advocate (as defined in IC 31-9-2.1-67); or**
- (2) is a guardian ad litem (as defined in IC 31-9-2.1-117).**

Sec. 14. "Affected agency", for purposes of IC 12-16-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-16-1-1.

Sec. 15. "Aged", for purposes of IC 12-10-1 and IC 12-10-2, means an individual who is at least sixty (60) years of age.

Sec. 16. "Agency" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-12.7-2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-12.7-2-1.**
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-32-1, the meaning set forth in IC 12-32-1-1.**

Sec. 17. "Alcohol abuse", for purposes of IC 12-23, means repeated episodes of intoxication or drinking which impair health or interfere with an individual's effectiveness on the job, at home, in the community, or operating a motor vehicle.

Sec. 18. "Alcohol abuser", for purposes of IC 12-23, means an individual who has had repeated episodes of intoxication or drinking which impair the individual's health or interfere with the individual's effectiveness on the job, at home, in the community, or in operating a motor vehicle.

Sec. 19. "Alcohol and drug services program", for purposes of IC 12-23, means a service for a person:

- (1) arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony;**
- (2) against whom a:**



(A) complaint for an infraction is filed; or
 (B) judgment for an infraction is entered; or
 (3) who is referred to a program under IC 12-23-14-5;
 which provides intervention, education, referral, treatment, or
 rehabilitation, under the operation of a court or under private
 contract.

Sec. 20. "Alcoholic", for purposes of IC 12-23, means an individual who chronically and habitually uses alcoholic beverages to the extent that the individual:

- (1) loses the power of self-control with respect to the use of alcoholic beverages; and
- (2) becomes a menace to the public morals, health, safety, or welfare of the members of society in general.

Sec. 21. "Alcoholism", for purposes of IC 12-23, means the abnormal condition which the effect of alcohol produces in an alcoholic.

Sec. 22. "Alzheimer's and dementia special care", for purposes of IC 12-10-5.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-5.5-1.

Sec. 23. "Ancillary services", for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-2.

Sec. 24. "Applicant" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of the following statutes, a person who has applied for assistance for the applicant or another person under any of the following statutes:

- (A) IC 12-10-6.
- (B) IC 12-13.
- (C) IC 12-14.
- (D) IC 12-15.
- (E) IC 12-19.

- (2) For purposes of IC 12-17-12, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-12-1.

- (3) For purposes of IC 12-17-13, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-13-1.

- (4) For purposes of IC 12-17.2, a person who seeks a license to operate a child care center or child care home.

- (5) For purposes of IC 31-27, a person who seeks a license to operate a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency.

Sec. 25. "Appropriate and medically necessary", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-1.

Sec. 26. "Approved postsecondary educational institution" has the meaning set forth in IC 21-7-13-6(a).



Sec. 27. "Area agency", for purposes of IC 12-10-5.7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-5.7-1.

Sec. 28. "Asset disregard", for purposes of IC 12-15-39.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-39.6-10.

Sec. 29. "Assistance", for purposes of the following statutes, means money or services regardless of the source, paid or furnished under any of the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-10-6.**
- (2) IC 12-13.**
- (3) IC 12-14.**
- (4) IC 12-15.**
- (5) IC 12-19.**

Sec. 30. "Assisted living services", for purposes of IC 12-8-1.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-1.6-1.

Sec. 31. "Attendant care services", for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-3.

Sec. 32. "Authority", for purposes of IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-2.

Sec. 33. (a) "Autism", for purposes of IC 12-11-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-8-1.

(b) "Autism", for purposes of IC 12-11-1.1-6 and IC 12-28-4-13, refers to an autism spectrum disorder that is described in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.

Sec. 34. "Automated teller machine", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 35. "Basic necessities", for purposes of IC 12-20, includes those services or items essential to meet the minimum standards of health, safety, and decency, including the following:

- (1) Medical care described in IC 12-20-16-2.**
- (2) Clothing and footwear.**
- (3) Food.**
- (4) Shelter.**
- (5) Transportation to seek and accept employment on a reasonable basis.**
- (6) Household essentials.**
- (7) Essential utility services.**
- (8) Other services or items the township trustee determines are necessities.**

Sec. 36. "Basic services", for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-4.

Sec. 37. "Battery", for purposes of IC 12-10-3, includes battery



(IC 35-42-2-1), domestic battery (IC 35-42-2-1.3), and aggravated battery (IC 35-42-2-1.5).

Sec. 38. "Blind" means the following:

(1) For purposes of the following statutes, the term refers to an individual who has vision in the better eye with correcting glasses of 20/200 or less, or a disqualifying visual field defect as determined upon examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who has been designated to make such examinations by the county office and approved by the division of family resources or by the division in the manner provided in any of the following statutes:

- (A) IC 12-10-6.
- (B) IC 12-13.
- (C) IC 12-14.
- (D) IC 12-15.
- (E) IC 12-19.

(2) For purposes of the following statutes, the term refers to an individual who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the individual's better eye with the best correction or a field of vision that is not greater than twenty (20) degrees at its widest diameter:

- (A) IC 12-12-1.
- (B) IC 12-12-3.
- (C) IC 12-12-5.
- (D) IC 12-12-6.

Sec. 39. "Board" has the following meaning:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-8-6.5-14, the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-6.5-14(a).
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-8-6.5-14.1, the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-6.5-14.1(a).
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-8-6.5-14.3, the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-6.5-14.3(a).
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-8-6.5-15, the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-6.5-15(a).
- (5) For purposes of IC 12-10-10 and IC 12-10-11, the community and home options to institutional care for the elderly and disabled board established by IC 12-10-11-1.
- (6) For purposes of IC 12-11-14, the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-3.
- (7) For purposes of IC 12-15-35, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-2.

Sec. 40. "Body", for purposes of IC 12-8-2.5, has the meaning



set forth in IC 12-8-2.5-1.

Sec. 41. "Broker", for purposes of IC 12-15-30.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-30.5-1.

Sec. 42. "Bureau" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-10, the bureau of better aging established by IC 12-10-1-1.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-11, the bureau of disabilities services established by IC 12-11-1.1-1.
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-12, the rehabilitation services bureau of the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services established by IC 12-12-1-1.

Sec. 43. "Buy-in program", as used in IC 12-15-41, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-41-1.

Sec. 43.6. "Candy", for purposes of IC 12-14-30-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-30-10(a).

Sec. 44. "Caregiver", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means an individual who is assigned by a provider the responsibility for supervising a specific child in the care of the provider.

Sec. 45. "Caretaker", for purposes of IC 12-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-22-1.

Sec. 46. "Case management", for purposes of IC 12-10-1 and IC 12-10-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-1.

Sec. 47. "CCDF", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-7.2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-7.2-0.4.

Sec. 48. "Center", for purposes of IC 12-26, means a community mental health center.

Sec. 49. "Center for independent living", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-1.

Sec. 50. "Certified community behavioral health clinic", for purposes of IC 12-15-1.3-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-1.3-25.

Sec. 50.5 "Certified peer", for purposes of IC 12-21, means an individual who is trained and certified by the division of mental health and addiction or an approved nationally accredited certification body to provide ongoing support to individuals and families of individuals who are receiving mental health or substance use recovery supports and services.

Sec. 51. "Chemical test", for purposes of IC 12-23-14, means an analysis of an individual's:

- (1) blood;
- (2) breath;
- (3) hair;



- (4) sweat;
- (5) saliva;
- (6) urine; or
- (7) other bodily substance;

to determine the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance (as defined in IC 35-48-1.1-7).

Sec. 52. "Chief magistrate", for purposes of IC 12-28-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-3-3.

Sec. 53. "Child" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-17.2, an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-26, the meaning set forth in IC 31-9-2.1-32(d).

Sec. 54. "Child care", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a service that provides for the care, health, safety, and supervision of a child's social, emotional, and educational growth.

Sec. 55. "Child care center", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a nonresidential building where at least one (1) child receives child care from a provider:

- (1) while unattended by a parent, legal guardian, or custodian;
- (2) for regular compensation; and
- (3) for more than four (4) hours but less than twenty-four (24) hours in each of ten (10) consecutive days per year, excluding intervening Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Sec. 56. "Child care employee", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-7.2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-7.2-0.5.

Sec. 57. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), "child care home", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a residential structure in which at least eight (8) children, or at least four (4) children under twelve (12) months of age, (not including the children for whom the provider is a parent, stepparent, guardian, custodian, or other relative) at any time receive child care from a provider:

- (1) while unattended by a parent, legal guardian, or custodian;
- (2) for regular compensation; and
- (3) for more than six (6) hours per day but less than twenty-four (24) hours per day for ten (10) consecutive days, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

(b) The term includes:

- (1) a class I child care home; and
- (2) a class II child care home.



(c) A child who is:

- (1) a relative of a provider;
- (2) under the custody or guardianship of a provider; or
- (3) at least fourteen (14) years of age and does not require child care;

is not a child described under subsection (a).

Sec. 58. "Child care ministry", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means child care operated by a church or religious ministry that is a religious organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Sec. 59. "Child care program", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-3.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-3.5-1.2.

Sec. 60. "Child caring institution", for purposes of section 149(3) of this chapter and IC 12-26, means an institution that:

- (1) operates under a license issued under IC 31-27;
- (2) provides for delivery of mental health services that are appropriate to the needs of the individual; and
- (3) complies with the rules adopted under IC 4-22-2 by the department of child services.

Sec. 61. "Child in need of services", for purposes of the following statutes, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-34-1-1 through IC 31-34-1-9:

- (1) IC 12-13.
- (2) IC 12-14.
- (3) IC 12-15.
- (4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 62. "Child of a child care employee", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-7.2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-7.2-0.6.

Sec. 63. "Child welfare services", for purposes of the following statutes, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-9-2.1-52:

- (1) IC 12-13.
- (2) IC 12-14.
- (3) IC 12-15.

Sec. 64. "Children's hospital", for purposes of IC 12-15-15-1.2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-15-1.2(a).

Sec. 65. "Chronic pain" means pain that:

- (1) persists beyond the usual course of an acute disease or healing of an injury; or
- (2) may be associated with an acute or chronic pathologic process that causes continuous or intermittent pain for a period of months or years.

Sec. 66. "Chronic pain management", for purposes of



IC 12-15-5, means evidence based health care products and services intended to relieve chronic pain that has lasted for at least three (3) months. The term includes:

- (1) prescription drugs;
- (2) physical therapy;
- (3) occupational therapy;
- (4) chiropractic care; and
- (5) osteopathic manipulative treatment.

Sec. 67. "Chronically medically dependent" for purposes of IC 12-15-36, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-36-2.

Sec. 68. (a) As used in this chapter, "class I child care home" means a child care home that serves any combination of full-time and part-time children, not to exceed at any one (1) time twelve (12) children plus three (3) children who are enrolled in at least full-day kindergarten.

(b) A child:

- (1) for whom a provider of care in the child care home is a parent, stepparent, guardian, custodian, or other relative and who is at least seven (7) years of age; or
- (2) who is at least fourteen (14) years of age and does not require child care;

shall not be counted in determining whether the child care home is within the limit set forth in subsection (a).

Sec. 69. (a) As used in this chapter, "class II child care home" means a child care home that serves more than twelve (12) children but not more than any combination of sixteen (16) full-time and part-time children at any one (1) time.

(b) A child:

- (1) for whom a provider of care in the child care home is a parent, stepparent, guardian, custodian, or other relative and who is at least seven (7) years of age; or
- (2) who is at least fourteen (14) years of age and does not require child care;

shall not be counted in determining whether the child care home is within the limit set forth in subsection (a).

Sec. 70. (a) "Clean claim", for purposes of IC 12-15-13, except for IC 12-15-13-1 and IC 12-15-13-1.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13-0.5.

(b) "Clean claim", for purposes of IC 12-15-12.7, IC 12-15-13-1, and IC 12-15-13-1.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13-0.6.

Sec. 71. (a) "Coalition", for purposes of IC 12-18-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-18-8-1.



(b) "Coalition", for purposes of IC 12-18-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-18-9-1.

Sec. 72. "Commission" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-10-2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-2-1.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-12-2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-2-1.
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-13-14, the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-15-30.5, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-30.5-2.
- (5) For purposes of IC 12-15-33, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-33-1.
- (6) For purposes of IC 12-21-7.1, the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-7.1-1.
- (7) For purposes of IC 12-28-1, the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-1-3.

Sec. 73. "Commissioner", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-1.5.

Sec. 74. "Community action agency", for purposes of IC 12-14-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-23-2.

Sec. 75. "Community and home care services", for purposes of IC 12-10-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-2.

Sec. 76. "Community based residential program", for purposes of IC 12-22-2, refers to the programs described in IC 12-22-2-3.5.

Sec. 77. "Community intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities centers", for purposes of IC 12-29 (except as provided in IC 12-29-3-6), means a program of services that meets the following conditions:

- (1) Is approved by the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services.
- (2) Is organized for the purpose of providing multiple services for persons with developmental disabilities.
- (3) Is operated by one (1) of the following or any combination of the following:
 - (A) A city, a town, a county, or another political subdivision of Indiana.
 - (B) An agency of the state.
 - (C) An agency of the United States.
 - (D) A political subdivision of another state.
 - (E) A hospital owned or operated by a unit of government described in clauses (A) through (D).



- (F) A building authority organized for the purpose of constructing facilities to be leased to units of government.
 - (G) A corporation incorporated under IC 23-7-1.1 (before its repeal August 1, 1991) or IC 23-17.
 - (H) A nonprofit corporation incorporated in another state.
 - (I) A university or college.
- (4) Is accredited for the services provided by one (1) of the following organizations:
- (A) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), or its successor.
 - (B) The Council on Quality and Leadership in Supports for People with Disabilities, or its successor.
 - (C) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), or its successor.
 - (D) The National Commission on Quality Assurance, or its successor.
 - (E) An independent national accreditation organization approved by the secretary.

Sec. 78. "Community mental health center" means a program of services that meets the following conditions:

- (1) Is approved by the division of mental health and addiction.
- (2) Is organized for the purpose of providing multiple services for persons with mental illness or a chronic addictive disorder.
- (3) Is operated by one (1) of the following or any combination of the following:
 - (A) A city, a town, a county, or another political subdivision of Indiana.
 - (B) An agency of the state.
 - (C) An agency of the United States.
 - (D) A political subdivision of another state.
 - (E) A hospital owned or operated by a unit of government described in clauses (A) through (D).
 - (F) A building authority organized for the purpose of constructing facilities to be leased to units of government.
 - (G) A corporation incorporated under IC 23-7-1.1 (before its repeal August 1, 1991) or IC 23-17.
 - (H) A nonprofit corporation incorporated in another state.
 - (I) A university or college.

Sec. 79. "Community spouse", for purposes of IC 12-15-2, means an individual who:

- (1) is the spouse of an individual who resides in a nursing



facility or another medical institution; and

(2) does not reside in a nursing facility or another medical institution.

Sec. 80. "Compendia", for purposes of IC 12-15-35 and IC 12-15-35.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-3.

Sec. 81. "Comprehensive risk contract" has the meaning set forth in 42 CFR 438.2.

Sec. 82. "Consumer control", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-2.

Sec. 83. (a) "Continuum of care" means a range of services:

(1) defined by the division in rules adopted under IC 4-22-2 to provide a comprehensive continuum of care by a community mental health center or other provider; and

(2) based on recovery focused models of care and that are intended to meet the individual treatment needs of the behavioral health consumer.

(b) The continuum of care may include the following services:

(1) Wellness programs.

(2) Engagement services.

(3) Outpatient and inpatient services.

(4) Rehabilitative and habilitative services.

(5) Residential care and supported housing.

(6) Acute intensive services.

All services must support prevention and treatment of mental health and addiction for all populations.

Sec. 84. "Contracting county", for purposes of IC 12-30-7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-30-7-2.

Sec. 85. "Contracting state", for purposes of IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-4.

Sec. 86. "Contribution", for purposes of IC 12-17-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-12-2.

Sec. 87. "Control board", for purposes of IC 12-20-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-25-2.

Sec. 88. (a) "Cooperate", for purposes of IC 12-14-2-24, IC 12-14-7-2, and IC 12-14-7-3, includes, with regard to nonparent custodians or guardians, the following:

(1) To appear at appointments, in person or by telephone, with a prosecuting attorney related to:

(A) establishing:

(i) paternity; or

(ii) an order for child support; or

(B) enforcing an order for child support.



- (2) To return telephone calls and respond to correspondence when requested by a prosecuting attorney.
- (3) To supply information, to the extent known by the nonparent custodian or guardian, for a prosecuting attorney to proceed with appropriate actions to:
 - (A) establish paternity of a dependent child;
 - (B) locate parents; or
 - (C) establish a child support order with respect to a child.
- (4) To appear at hearings regarding:
 - (A) establishment of paternity of a child or a child support order; or
 - (B) enforcement of a child support order;
 if attendance is necessary as determined by the prosecuting attorney.
- (b) Information under subsection (a)(3) includes:
 - (1) identification of potential fathers of a dependent child, if known and paternity has not been established; and
 - (2) the following information, if known, regarding any parent or potential parent of a dependent child:
 - (A) The full legal name and nicknames.
 - (B) The Social Security number.
 - (C) The current or last known address and telephone number.
 - (D) The current or last known employer, including the name and address of the employer.
 - (E) If a student, the current or last known school.
 - (F) The criminal record, including where and when the parent or potential parent was incarcerated.
 - (G) The date of birth or age.
 - (H) The race.
 - (I) Any known group or organizational affiliations.
 - (J) The names and addresses of close friends or relatives.
 - (K) Any other information that the prosecuting attorney requests to help locate or identify a parent of a dependent child.
 - (L) A recent photograph.

Sec. 89. "Council" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-9-4, the meaning set forth in IC 12-9-4-1.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-12-8, the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-2.5.
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-13-4, the meaning set forth in



IC 12-13-4-1.

(4) For purposes of IC 12-12.7-2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-12.7-2-2.

(5) For purposes of IC 12-21-4, the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-4-1.

Sec. 90. "Counseling", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-4.

Sec. 91. "Countable asset" means the following:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-10-10, property that is included in determining assets in the same manner as determining an individual's eligibility for the Medicaid aged and disabled waiver.

(2) For purposes of IC 12-20, noncash property that is not necessary for the health, safety, or decent living standard of a household that:

(A) is owned wholly or in part by the applicant or a member of the applicant's household;

(B) the applicant or the household member has the legal right to sell or liquidate; and

(C) includes:

(i) real property other than property that is used for the production of income or that is the primary residence of the household;

(ii) savings and checking accounts, certificates of deposit, bonds, stocks, and other intangibles that have a net cash value; and

(iii) boats, other vehicles, or any other personal property used solely for recreational or entertainment purposes.

Sec. 92. "Countable income", for purposes of IC 12-20, means a monetary amount either paid to an applicant or a member of an applicant's household not more than thirty (30) days before the date of application for township assistance, or accrued and legally available for withdrawal by an applicant or a member of an applicant's household at the time of application or not more than thirty (30) days after the date of application for township assistance. The term includes the following:

(1) Gross wages before mandatory deductions.

(2) Social Security benefits, including Supplemental Security Income.

(3) Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

(4) Unemployment compensation.

(5) Worker's compensation (except compensation that is



restricted for the payment of medical expenses).

(6) Vacation pay.

(7) Sick benefits.

(8) Strike benefits.

(9) Private or public pensions.

(10) Taxable income from self-employment.

(11) Bartered goods and services provided by another individual for the payment of nonessential needs on behalf of an applicant or an applicant's household if monetary compensation or the provision of basic necessities would have been reasonably available from that individual.

(12) Child support.

(13) Gifts of cash, goods, or services.

(14) Other sources of revenue or services that the township trustee may reasonably determine to be countable income.

Sec. 93. "Countable resources", for purposes of IC 12-15-41, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-41-2.

Sec. 94. "County director" refers to a director of a county office of the division of family resources.

Sec. 95. "County home", for purposes of IC 12-20, means a residential facility owned, staffed, maintained, and operated by a county government for eligible county residents who are able to perform activities of daily living with little or no assistance, including the following activities:

(1) Bathing.

(2) Dressing.

(3) Grooming.

(4) Walking.

(5) Using the toilet.

(6) Eating.

Sec. 96. "County office" refers to a county office of the division of family resources.

Sec. 97. "Court", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a circuit or superior court.

Sec. 98. "Covered entity", for purposes of IC 12-15-23.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-23.5-1.

Sec. 99. "Covered medical services", for purposes of IC 12-16-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-16-1-2.

Sec. 100. "Covered outpatient drug", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-4.5.

Sec. 101. "Covered population", for purposes of IC 12-15-12.7 and IC 12-15-13-1.8, has the meaning set forth in



IC 12-15-13-1.8(a).

Sec. 102. "Creditor", for purposes of IC 12-20-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-25-3.

Sec. 103. "Crisis receiving and stabilization services", for purposes of IC 12-21-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-8-2.

Sec. 104. "Criteria", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-5.

Sec. 105. "Cross-disability", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-3.

Sec. 106. "Cross-indicated drug", for purposes of IC 12-15-35.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35.5-2.

Sec. 107. "Crowd out", for purposes of IC 12-17.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-2.

Sec. 108. "Custodial authority of a building", for purposes of the following statutes, means the person authorized to contract for the provision of vending services in the building:

(1) IC 12-12-5.

(2) IC 12-12-6.

Sec. 109. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "dangerous", for purposes of IC 12-26, means a condition in which an individual as a result of mental illness, presents a substantial risk that the individual will harm the individual or others.

(b) "Dangerous", for purposes of IC 12-26-5, means a condition in which an individual presents a substantial risk that the individual will harm the individual or others.

Sec. 110. "Dangerous felony", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means one (1) or more of the following felonies:

(1) Murder (IC 35-42-1-1).

(2) Attempted murder (IC 35-41-5-1).

(3) Voluntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-3).

(4) Involuntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-4).

(5) Reckless homicide (IC 35-42-1-5).

(6) Aggravated battery (IC 35-42-2-1.5).

(7) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).

(8) Rape (IC 35-42-4-1).

(9) Criminal deviate conduct (IC 35-42-4-2) (before its repeal).

(10) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).

(11) Sexual misconduct with a minor as a Class A felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 1 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014) under IC 35-42-4-9(a)(2) or a Class B felony (for a crime committed



before July 1, 2014) or a Level 2 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014) under IC 35-42-4-9(b)(2).

(12) Robbery as a Class A or Class B felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 2 or Level 3 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014) (IC 35-42-5-1).

(13) Burglary as a Class A or Class B felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 2 or Level 3 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014) (IC 35-43-2-1).

(14) Battery as a felony (IC 35-42-2-1).

(15) Domestic battery (IC 35-42-2-1.3).

(16) Strangulation (IC 35-42-2-9).

(17) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3).

(18) Sexual battery (IC 35-42-4-8).

Sec. 111. "Decertify", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-3.5, means to remove, for any period of less than two (2) years, a provider's eligibility to receive a voucher payment.

Sec. 112. "Delinquent child", for purposes of the following statutes, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-1 and IC 31-37-2:

(1) IC 12-13.

(2) IC 12-14.

(3) IC 12-15.

(4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 113. "Department", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 114. (a) "Dependent child", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means a needy individual who satisfies either of the following conditions:

(1) The individual is less than sixteen (16) years of age.

(2) The individual is less than eighteen (18) years of age and the county office that has jurisdiction of the individual finds all of the following:

(A) The individual regularly attends school.

(B) The individual has been deprived of parental support or care because of a parent's:

(i) death;

(ii) continued absence from the home; or

(iii) physical or mental incapacity.

(C) The individual's parent or other relative who is legally responsible for the child's support is not able to provide adequately for the individual without public assistance.

(D) The individual is living in the home of at least one (1) of the following relatives:



- (i) The individual's parent.
- (ii) The individual's sibling.
- (iii) The individual's grandparent.
- (iv) The individual's stepparent.
- (v) The individual's stepbrother or stepsister.
- (vi) The individual's aunt or uncle.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-13.
- (2) IC 12-14.
- (3) IC 12-15.
- (4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 115. "Designated beneficiary", for purposes of IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-5.

Sec. 116. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "designee" means an office director, division director, or other employee of the office of the secretary with expertise or knowledge concerning the area for which the individual is being designated.

(b) The definition set forth in subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

- (1) Designations for purposes of administrative proceedings under IC 4-21.5.
- (2) IC 12-11-1.1-10.
- (3) IC 12-15-11-2.5.
- (4) IC 12-15-13-3.5.
- (5) IC 12-15-13-4.
- (6) Designations of superintendents under IC 12-21-2-3 or IC 12-24-2-2.
- (7) IC 12-30-2-15.

Sec. 117. (a) "Destitute child", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means an individual:

- (1) who is needy;
- (2) who is not a public ward;
- (3) who is less than eighteen (18) years of age;
- (4) who has been deprived of parental support or care because of a parent's:
 - (A) death;
 - (B) continued absence from the home; or
 - (C) physical or mental incapacity;
- (5) whose relatives liable for the individual's support are not able to provide adequate care or support for the individual without public assistance; and
- (6) who is in need of foster care, under circumstances that do



not require the individual to be made a public ward.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-13.
- (2) IC 12-14.
- (3) IC 12-15.
- (4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 118. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that meets all of the following conditions:

(1) Is attributable to:

- (A) intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or autism; or
- (B) any other condition (other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness) found to be closely related to intellectual disability, because this condition results in similar impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior or requires treatment or services similar to those required for a person with an intellectual disability.

(2) Is manifested before the individual is twenty-two (22) years of age.

(3) Is likely to continue indefinitely.

(4) Results in substantial functional limitations in at least three (3) of the following areas of major life activities:

- (A) Self-care.
- (B) Understanding and use of language.
- (C) Learning.
- (D) Mobility.
- (E) Self-direction.
- (F) Capacity for independent living.
- (G) Economic self-sufficiency.

(b) The definition in subsection (a) does not apply and may not affect services provided to an individual receiving:

- (1) home and community based Medicaid waiver; or
- (2) ICF/IID;

services through the division on June 30, 2011.

Sec. 119. "Direct support professional", for purposes of IC 12-11-16, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-16-1.

Sec. 120. "Director" refers to the following:

- (1) With respect to a particular division, the director of the division.
- (2) With respect to a particular state institution, the director who has administrative control of and responsibility for the



state institution.

(3) For purposes of IC 12-10-15, the term refers to the director of the bureau of better aging.

(4) For purposes of IC 12-25, the term refers to the director of the division of mental health and addiction.

(5) For purposes of IC 12-26, the term:

(A) refers to the director who has administrative control of and responsibility for the appropriate state institution; and

(B) includes the director's designee.

(6) If subdivisions (1) through (5) do not apply, the term refers to the director of any of the divisions.

Sec. 121. "Discharge", for purposes of IC 12-26, means the final and complete release of an individual with a mental illness from the care, treatment, training, or detention at a facility to which the individual was committed or entered voluntarily for mental illness.

Sec. 122. "Dispense", for purposes of IC 12-23-18-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-18-8(a).

Sec. 123. "Distressed township", for purposes of IC 12-20-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-25-4.

Sec. 127. (a) "Division", except as provided in subsections (b), (c), and (d), refers to any of the following:

(1) The division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services established by IC 12-9-1-1.

(2) The division of family resources established by IC 12-13-1-1.

(3) The division of mental health and addiction established by IC 12-21-1-1.

(b) The term refers to the following:

(1) For purposes of the following statutes, the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services established by IC 12-9-1-1:

(A) IC 12-9.

(B) IC 12-10.

(C) IC 12-11.

(D) IC 12-12.

(E) IC 12-12.7.

(F) IC 12-28-5.

(2) For purposes of the following statutes, the division of family resources established by IC 12-13-1-1:

(A) IC 12-8-12.

(B) IC 12-13.

(C) IC 12-14.



- (D) IC 12-15.
- (E) IC 12-16.
- (F) IC 12-17.
- (G) IC 12-17.2.
- (H) IC 12-18.
- (I) IC 12-19.
- (J) IC 12-20.

(3) For purposes of the following statutes, the division of mental health and addiction established by IC 12-21-1-1:

- (A) IC 12-21.
- (B) IC 12-22.
- (C) IC 12-23.
- (D) IC 12-25.

(c) With respect to a particular state institution, the term refers to the division whose director has administrative control of and responsibility for the state institution.

(d) For purposes of IC 12-24, IC 12-26, and IC 12-27, the term refers to the division whose director has administrative control of and responsibility for the appropriate state institution.

Sec. 125. "Domestic violence", for purposes of IC 12-18-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 34-6-2.1-50.

Sec. 126. "Doula" means an individual who is trained and certified by a nationally recognized institution in providing emotional and physical support, but not medical or midwife care, to pregnant women before, during, and after childbirth.

Sec. 127. "Drug", for purposes of IC 12-23, means a drug or a controlled substance (as defined in IC 35-48-1.1).

Sec. 128. "Drug abuse", for purposes of IC 12-23, means:

- (1) psychological or physical dependence on the effect of drugs or harmful substances; or
 - (2) abuse of the use of drugs or harmful substances;
- that is harmful to the individual or society.

Sec. 129. "Drug abuser", for purposes of IC 12-23, means an individual who:

- (1) has developed a psychological or physical dependence on the effects of drugs or harmful substances; or
 - (2) abuses the use of drugs or harmful substances;
- so that the individual or society is harmed.

Sec. 130. "Drug-disease contraindication", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-6.

Sec. 131. "Drug-drug interaction", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-7.



Sec. 132. "Drug utilization review" or "DUR", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-8.

Sec. 133. "Early intervention services", for purposes of IC 12-12.7-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12.7-2-3.

Sec. 134. "EBT card", for purposes of IC 12-13-14-15, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-15(a).

Sec. 135. "EBT program", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 136. (a) "Eligible individual", for purposes of:

(1) IC 12-10-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-4; and

(2) IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-6.

(b) "Eligible individual" has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-18-1.5 for purposes of the following:

(1) IC 12-10-6.

(2) IC 12-14-2.

(3) IC 12-14-18.

(4) IC 12-14-19.

(5) IC 12-15-2.

(6) IC 12-15-3.

(7) IC 12-16-3.5.

(8) IC 12-20-5.5.

Sec. 137. (a) "Emergency", for purposes of IC 12-20, means an unpredictable circumstance or a series of unpredictable circumstances that:

(1) place the health or safety of a household or a member of a household in jeopardy; and

(2) cannot be remedied in a timely manner by means other than township assistance.

(b) "Emergency", for purposes of IC 12-17.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-2.6.

Sec. 138. "Emergency medical condition", for purposes of IC 12-15-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-12-0.3.

Sec. 138.7. "Emergency medical responder", for purposes of IC 12-10-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-21-1.

Sec. 139. "Emergency medical services", for purposes of IC 12-15-5-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-18-2-110.

Sec. 140. "Emergency services", for purposes of IC 12-15-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-12-0.5.

Sec. 141. (a) "Employed", "employee", "employment", or "employs", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-3.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-3.5-1.3.



(b) "Employee", for purposes of IC 12-23-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-23-1.

Sec. 142. "Endangered adult", for purposes of IC 12-8-1.5-18 and IC 12-10-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-3-2.

Sec. 143. "Endangered adult medical alert" means an alert indicating that law enforcement officials are searching for a missing endangered adult.

Sec. 144. "Enforcement action", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, refers to the following:

(1) Revocation or decertification of eligibility for a voucher payment under IC 12-17.2-3.5.

(2) Denial, suspension, or revocation of a:

(A) license under IC 12-17.2-4 or IC 12-17.2-5; or

(B) registration under IC 12-17.2-6.

Sec. 145. "Essential person", for purposes of IC 12-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-2-0.5.

Sec. 146. "Estate", for purposes of IC 12-15-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-9-0.5.

Sec. 146.5. "Ethical standards", for purposes of IC 12-23-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-25-1.

Sec. 147. "Executive authority", for purposes of IC 12-28-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-3-3.

Sec. 148. (a) "Expenses and obligations", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), refer to expenses, obligations, assistance, and claims:

(1) of a county office;

(2) incurred in the administration of the welfare services of the county;

(3) incurred as provided by law; and

(4) for:

(A) assistance for aged persons in need;

(B) assistance to dependent children; and

(C) other assistance or services that a county office is authorized by law to allow.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

(1) IC 12-13.

(2) IC 12-14.

(3) IC 12-15.

(4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 149. "Facility" means the following:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-17-12, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-12-3.



(2) For purposes of IC 12-17-13, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-13-2.

(3) For purposes of IC 12-26, a hospital, a health and hospital corporation established under IC 16-22-8, a psychiatric hospital, a community mental health center, another institution, a program, a managed care provider, or a child caring institution:

(A) where an individual with a mental illness can receive rehabilitative treatment, or habilitation and care, in the least restrictive environment suitable for the necessary care, treatment, and protection of the individual and others; and

(B) that has adequate space and treatment staff appropriate to the needs of the individual as determined by the superintendent of the facility.

The term includes all services, programs, and centers of the facility, wherever located.

(4) For purposes of IC 12-15-32, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-32-1.

Sec. 150. "Family or household member", for purposes of IC 12-18-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-18-8-3.

Sec. 151. "Federal act", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-3.2.

Sec. 152. "Federal department", for purposes of IC 12-26-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-26-9-1.

Sec. 153. "Federal facility", for purposes of IC 12-26-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-26-9-2.

Sec. 154. "Federal income poverty level", for purposes of IC 12-15-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-2-1.

Sec. 155. "Federal public benefit", for purposes of IC 12-32-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-32-1-2.

Sec. 156. "Financial institution", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 157. "Fiscal body", for purposes of IC 12-20, has the meaning set forth in IC 36-1-2-6.

Sec. 158. "Flight" or "fled", for purposes of IC 12-28-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-3-1.

Sec. 159. "Food retailer", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1(f).

Sec. 160. "Forcible felony", for purposes of IC 12-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-138.

Sec. 161. (a) "Foster care", for purposes of the statutes listed in



subsection (b), means living in a place licensed under IC 31-27.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-13.
- (2) IC 12-14.
- (3) IC 12-15.
- (4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 162. "Functional eligibility assessment", for purposes of IC 12-10-11.5-4.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-11.5-4.5(a).

Sec. 163. "Functional eligibility determination", for purposes of IC 12-10-11.5-4.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-11.5-4.5(b).

Sec. 164. "Fund" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-12-1-9, the fund described in IC 12-12-1-9.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-15-20, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-20-1.
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-17-12, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-12-4.
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-17.2-7.2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-7.2-4.7.
- (5) For purposes of IC 12-17.6, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-3.
- (6) For purposes of IC 12-21-9, the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-9-1.
- (7) For purposes of IC 12-23-2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-2-1.
- (8) For purposes of IC 12-23-18, the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-18-4.
- (9) For purposes of IC 12-24-6, the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-6-1.
- (10) For purposes of IC 12-24-14, the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-14-1.
- (11) For purposes of IC 12-30-7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-30-7-3.

Sec. 165. "Gatekeeper", for purposes of IC 12-24, IC 12-25, and IC 12-26, means an entity identified in IC 12-24-12-10 that is actively involved in the evaluation and planning of and treatment for a committed individual beginning after the commitment through the planning of the individual's transition back into the community, including case management services for the individual in the community.



Sec. 166. "Governmental entity", for purposes of IC 12-10-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-3-3.

Sec. 167. "Governor", for purposes of IC 12-28-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-3-3.

Sec. 168. "Grantee agency", for purposes of IC 12-8-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-10-2.

Sec. 169. (a) "Grant-in-aid", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means any money paid by the federal government to the state or any money paid by the state to a county for the purpose of defraying any of the expenses, claims, allowances, assistance, or obligations authorized by this title.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

(1) IC 12-13.

(2) IC 12-14.

(3) IC 12-15.

(4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 170. "Gravely disabled", for purposes of IC 12-26, means a condition in which an individual, as a result of mental illness, is in danger of coming to harm because the individual:

(1) is unable to provide for that individual's food, clothing, shelter, or other essential human needs;

(2) has a substantial impairment or an obvious deterioration of that individual's judgment, reasoning, or behavior that results in the individual's inability to function independently;
or

(3) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate shelter, resulting in the individual remaining outdoors in places not designed for or ordinarily used for sleeping during weather conditions that are likely to result in death or serious physical injury, if:

(A) the individual has refused transportation to a shelter or mental health service provider; and

(B) a shelter or mental health service provider was reasonably offered and available.

Sec. 171. "Group", for purposes of IC 12-8-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-10-3.

Sec. 172. "Group size", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-3.5, means the number of children who routinely work, learn, eat, sleep, and play together inside and outside a facility where a provider operates a child care program.

Sec. 173. "Guidelines", for purposes of IC 12-23-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-23-2.

Sec. 174. "Harmful substance", for purposes of IC 12-23, means



any substance used by an individual to produce the effect of a controlled substance, although the substance is not classified as a controlled substance under IC 35-48.

Sec. 175. "Health facility", for purposes of IC 12-10-5.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-5.5-2.

Sec. 176. "Health maintenance organization", for purposes of IC 12-15-39.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 27-13-1-19.

Sec. 177. "Health related services":

(1) for purposes of IC 12-10-15, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-15-2; and

(2) for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-5.

Sec. 178. "Holocaust victim's settlement payment" has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-18-1.7 for purposes of the following:

(1) IC 12-10-6.

(2) IC 12-14-2.

(3) IC 12-14-18.

(4) IC 12-14-19.

(5) IC 12-15-2.

(6) IC 12-15-3.

(7) IC 12-16-3.5.

(8) IC 12-20-5.5.

Sec. 179. "Home and community based services waiver", for purposes of IC 12-8-1.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-1.6-2.

Sec. 180. "Home health agency", for purposes of IC 12-15-34, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-34-1.

Sec. 181. "Home health services", for purposes of IC 12-15-34, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-34-2.

Sec. 182. "Hospice", for purposes of IC 12-15-40, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-40-2.

Sec. 183. "Hospice program", for purposes of IC 12-15-40, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-40-3.

Sec. 184. "Hospice program patient", for purposes of IC 12-15-40, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-40-4.

Sec. 185. "Hospice services", for purposes of IC 12-15-5 and IC 12-15-40, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-40-5.

Sec. 186. "Hospital" means the following:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-15-11.5, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-11.5-1.

(2) For purposes of IC 12-15-18, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-18-2.

(3) For purposes of IC 12-16, except IC 12-16-1, the term



refers to a hospital licensed under IC 16-21.

Sec. 187. "Household", for purposes of IC 12-20, means any of the following:

- (1) An individual living alone.
- (2) A family related by blood.
- (3) A group of individuals living together at one (1) residence as a domestic unit with mutual economic dependency.

Sec. 188. "Housing with services establishment", for purposes of IC 12-10-5.5, IC 12-10-11.5, and IC 12-10-15, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-15-3.

Sec. 189. (a) "Immediate family", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means the following:

- (1) If a Medicaid applicant is married, the applicant's spouse and dependent children less than twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (2) If a Medicaid applicant is not married, the following:
 - (A) If the applicant is divorced, the parent having custody.
 - (B) If the applicant is less than twenty-one (21) years of age:
 - (i) the parent having custody; and
 - (ii) the dependent children less than twenty-one (21) years of age of the parent or parents.
 - (C) If clauses (A) and (B) do not apply, the applicant's parents.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-14-1 through IC 12-14-8.
- (2) IC 12-15, except IC 12-15-32, IC 12-15-33, and IC 12-15-34.

Sec. 190. "Incapacitated", for purposes of IC 12-23, means having been judged incapacitated under IC 29-3 by a court.

Sec. 191. "Incapacitated by alcohol", for purposes of IC 12-23, means that an individual, as the result of the use of alcohol, has the individual's judgment impaired and is incapable of realizing and making a rational decision with respect to the individual's need for treatment.

Sec. 192. "Incapacitated individual", for purposes of IC 12-10-7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-7-1.

Sec. 193. "Indebtedness", for purposes of IC 12-20-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-25-5.

Sec. 194. "Indigent adult", for purposes of IC 12-10-7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-7-2.

Sec. 195. (a) "Individual in need of self-directed in-home care", for purposes of IC 12-8-1.7, has the meaning set forth in



IC 12-8-1.7-2.

(b) "Individual in need of self-directed in-home care", for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-6.

Sec. 196. (a) "Individual with a disability", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-3.4.

(b) "Individual with a disability", for purposes of IC 12-10-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-3.

Sec. 197. "Individual with a mental illness", for purposes of IC 12-21-2 and IC 12-24-17, means an individual who:

- (1) has a psychiatric disorder that substantially impairs the individual's mental health; and
- (2) requires care, treatment, training, or detention:
 - (A) because of the psychiatric disorder; or
 - (B) for the welfare of the individual or others of the community in which the individual resides.

Sec. 198. "Individual with a significant disability", for purposes of IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-3.6.

Sec. 199. "Infants and toddlers with disabilities", for purposes of IC 12-12.7-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12.7-2-4.

Sec. 200. "Institution", for purposes of IC 12-10-11.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-11.5-1.

Sec. 201. "Institutional provider", for purposes of IC 12-15-13-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13-4(a).

Sec. 202. (a) "Insurer", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means an insurance company, a health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-1-19), a self-funded employee benefit plan, a pension fund, a retirement system, or a similar entity that:

- (1) does business in Indiana; and
- (2) is under an obligation to make payments for medical services as a result of injury, illness, or disease suffered by an individual.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-14-1 through IC 12-14-8.
- (2) IC 12-15, except IC 12-15-32, IC 12-15-33, and IC 12-15-34.

Sec. 202.5. "Integrated reentry and correctional support" refers to mental health and substance use services and support, including certified peer support recovery resources and treatment, provided to individuals during incarceration and reentry.

Sec. 203. "Interim period", for purposes of IC 12-20-27, has the



meaning set forth in IC 12-20-27-1.5.

Sec. 204. "Intervention", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-9.

Sec. 205. "Intoxicated", for purposes of IC 12-23, means the state of an individual in which the individual's mental or physical functioning is substantially impaired as a result of the use of alcohol, drugs, or harmful substances.

Sec. 206. "Knew" or "know", for purposes of IC 12-15-23, means that a person, regarding information:

- (1) has actual knowledge of information;
- (2) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information; or
- (3) acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information.

Sec. 207. "Legal assistance developer", for purposes of IC 12-10-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-3.2.

Sec. 208. "Legal representative", for purposes of IC 12-10-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-3.3.

Sec. 209. "Level of services", for purposes of IC 12-8-1.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-1.6-3.

Sec. 210. "Licensed health professional", for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-7.

Sec. 211. "Licensee", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a person who holds a valid license issued under IC 12-17.2.

Sec. 212. "Life threatening emergency", for purposes of IC 12-10-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-3-4.

Sec. 213. "Local domestic violence fatality review team", for purposes of IC 12-18-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-18-8-5.

Sec. 214. "Long term care", for purposes of IC 12-15-39.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-39.6-1.

Sec. 215. (a) "Long term care facility", for purposes of IC 12-15-39.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-39.6-2.

(b) "Long term care facility", for purposes of IC 12-10-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-3.6.

Sec. 216. "Long term care insurance", for purposes of IC 12-15-39.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-39.6-3.

Sec. 217. "Low income utilization rate", for purposes of IC 12-15-16-6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-16-6(a).

Sec. 218. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "managed care organization" means a person that has a comprehensive risk contract with the office of Medicaid policy and planning under IC 12-15.



(b) "Managed care organization", for purposes of IC 12-15-12.7 and IC 12-15-13-1.8, means a person that contracts with the office of Medicaid policy and planning to provide services under a risk based managed care program for the covered population (as defined in section 101 of this chapter).

Sec. 219. "Managed care provider", for purposes of IC 12-14-1 through IC 12-14-8 and IC 12-15 (except IC 12-15-21, IC 12-15-33, and IC 12-15-34), means either of the following:

- (1) A physician licensed under IC 25-22.5 who:
 - (A) is primarily engaged in general practice, family practice, internal medicine, pediatric medicine, or obstetrics and gynecology; and
 - (B) has entered into a provider agreement for the provision of physician services under IC 12-15-11-4.
- (2) A partnership, corporation, or other entity that:
 - (A) employs or contracts with physicians licensed under IC 25-22.5 who are primarily engaged in general practice, family practice, internal medicine, pediatric medicine, or obstetrics and gynecology; and
 - (B) has entered into a provider agreement for the provision of physician services under IC 12-15-11-4.

Sec. 220. "Medicaid inpatient utilization rate", for purposes of IC 12-15-16 and IC 12-15-17-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-16-2(a).

Sec. 221. "Medicaid program" refers to the program established under IC 12-15.

Sec. 222. "Medical institution", for purposes of IC 12-15-8.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-8.5-1.

Sec. 223. "Medication assisted treatment" means evidence based addiction treatment that, to the extent needed by the patient, includes the following:

- (1) A treatment plan that encompasses comprehensive therapy with detoxification, psychosocial support, and counseling.
- (2) Access to federal Food and Drug Administration approved medications and devices that are used for the prevention of relapse and treatment of the following:
 - (A) Opioid dependence and with the treatment goal of opioid abstinence or the use of the lowest appropriate dose.
 - (B) Alcohol dependence.

Sec. 224. "Member", for purposes of IC 12-8-2.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-2.5-2.



Sec. 225. "Member of the applicant's household", for purposes of IC 12-20-6-0.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-6-0.5.

Sec. 226. "Mental illness" or "mentally ill" means the following:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-23-5, IC 12-24, and IC 12-26, a psychiatric disorder that:

(A) substantially disturbs an individual's thinking, feeling, or behavior; and

(B) impairs the individual's ability to function.

The term includes intellectual disability, alcoholism, and addiction to narcotics or dangerous drugs, and, for purposes of IC 12-26-5, the term includes temporary impairment as a result of alcohol or drug use.

(2) For purposes of IC 12-28-4 and IC 12-28-5, a psychiatric disorder that:

(A) substantially disturbs an individual's thinking, feeling, or behavior; and

(B) impairs the individual's ability to function.

The term does not include developmental disability.

Sec. 227. "Missing endangered adult", for purposes of IC 12-10-18, means an individual at least eighteen (18) years of age who is reported missing to a law enforcement agency and is, or is believed to be:

(1) a temporary or permanent resident of Indiana;

(2) at a location that cannot be determined by an individual familiar with the missing individual; and

(3) incapable of returning to the missing individual's residence without assistance by reason of:

(A) mental illness;

(B) intellectual disability;

(C) dementia; or

(D) another physical or mental incapacity of managing or directing the management of the individual's property or providing or directing the provision of self-care.

Sec. 228. "Mobile crisis team", for purposes of IC 12-21-8 and IC 12-29-5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-8-3.

Sec. 229. "Mobile integrated healthcare", for purposes of IC 12-29-5, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-31-12-1.

Sec. 230. "Monitor", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means observation to determine the licensee's continuing compliance with IC 12-17.2.

Sec. 231. "National criminal history background check", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, has the meaning set forth in IC 10-13-3-12.



Sec. 232. "Nonemergency medical transportation", for purposes of IC 12-15-30.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-30.5-3.

Sec. 233. "Noninstitutional provider", for purposes of IC 12-15-13-3.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13-3.5(a).

Sec. 234. "Nursing facility" has the meaning set forth in 42 U.S.C. 1396r(a).

Sec. 235. "Office" means the following:

- (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) through (5), the office of the secretary established by IC 12-8-1.5-1.**
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-10-13, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-4.**
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-15-13, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13-0.4.**
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-17.2-7.2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-7.2-3.**
- (5) For purposes of IC 12-17.6, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-4.**

Sec. 235. "Office" means the following:

- (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) through (7), the office of Medicaid policy and planning established by IC 12-8-6.5-1.**
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-10-13, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-4.**
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-15-5-14, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-5-14(b).**
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-15-5-15, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-5-15(b).**
- (5) For purposes of IC 12-15-5-16, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-5-16(b).**
- (6) For purposes of IC 12-15-13, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13-0.4.**
- (7) For purposes of IC 12-15-13.5, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-13.5-1.**
- (8) For purposes of IC 12-17.6, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-4.**

Sec. 236. "Office of the secretary" refers to the office of the secretary of family and social services established by IC 12-8-1.5-1, its offices, or divisions.

Sec. 237. (a) "Ombudsman", for purposes of IC 12-10-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-4.5.

(b) "Ombudsman", for purposes of IC 12-11-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-13-2.



Sec. 238. "Operator", for purposes of IC 12-10-15, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-15-4.

Sec. 239. "Opioid treatment program" means a program through which opioid agonist medication is dispensed to an individual in the treatment of opiate addiction and for which certification is required under 42 CFR Part 8.

Sec. 240. "Out-of-school-time program", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means child care provided to a child who is at least five (5) years of age but less than fifteen (15) years of age:

- (1) before school is in session or after the school day;**
- (2) during the summer; or**
- (3) any other time when school is not in session.**

Sec. 241. "Overutilization or underutilization", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-10.

Sec. 241.5. "Owner", for purposes of IC 12-23-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-25-2.

Sec. 242. "Paths to QUALITY program", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-2-14.2, refers to the program established by IC 12-17.2-2-14.2(b).

Sec. 243. "Patient" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-24-1-4, an individual who is admitted to a state institution for observation, diagnosis, or treatment.**
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-24-7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-7-1.**
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-24-6, IC 12-24-13, IC 12-24-14, and IC 12-24-15, an individual with a mental illness, an individual who appears to have a mental illness, or an individual with an intellectual disability who is:**
 - (A) in or under the supervision and control of a state institution; or**
 - (B) because of mental illness, under the supervision and control of a circuit, superior, or juvenile court.**
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-24-17, the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-17-2.**
- (5) For purposes of IC 12-27, an individual receiving mental health services or developmental training. The term includes a client of a service provider.**

Sec. 244. "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" refers to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152), as amended from time



to time, and regulations or guidance issued under those acts.

Sec. 245. "Peer", for purposes of IC 12-21-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-8-5.

Sec. 246. (a) "Person", except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), means an association, a corporation, a limited liability company, a governmental entity, an individual, or a partnership.

(b) "Person", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

(c) "Person", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means an individual who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a corporation, a partnership, a voluntary association, or other entity.

(d) "Person", for purposes of IC 12-15-2-20, means an individual who is:

- (1) at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and**
- (2) applying for or receiving Medicaid assistance.**

Sec. 247. "Person with a disability" means, for purposes of the following statutes, an individual who has a physical or mental disability and meets the program eligibility requirements of the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services:

- (1) IC 12-8-1.5-10.**
- (2) IC 12-12-1.**
- (3) IC 12-12-6.**

Sec. 248. "Personal services attendant", for purposes of IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-8.

Sec. 249. "Pharmacist", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-11.

Sec. 250. "Physician" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-10-17.1 and IC 12-15-35, an individual who is licensed to practice medicine in Indiana under IC 25-22.5.**
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-26, either of the following:**
 - (A) An individual who holds a license to practice medicine under IC 25-22.5.**
 - (B) A medical officer of the United States government who is in Indiana performing the officer's official duties.**

Sec. 251. "Physician services" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-15-11, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-11-1.**
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-15-12, services provided by an individual licensed under IC 25-22.5 while engaged in the practice of medicine (as defined in IC 25-22.5-1-1.1(a)).**

Sec. 252. "Plan", for purposes of IC 12-15-44.2 and



IC 12-15-44.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-44.5-2.

Sec. 253. "Planning authority", for purposes of IC 12-28-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-4-2.

Sec. 254. "Point of sale terminal", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 255. "Political subdivision", for purposes of the following statutes, has the meaning set forth in IC 36-1-2-13:

- (1) IC 12-8.
- (2) IC 12-13-4.
- (3) IC 12-32-1.

Sec. 256. "Post-stabilization care services", for purposes of IC 12-15-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-12-0.7.

Sec. 257. "Potential eligible provider or existing eligible provider", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-7.2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-7.2-5.5.

Sec. 258. "Preschool", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a program that provides an educational experience through an age appropriate written curriculum for children at least thirty (30) months of age who are not eligible to enter kindergarten and that:

- (1) conducts sessions for not more than four (4) hours a day;
- (2) enrolls children for only one (1) session a day;
- (3) does not serve meals on the premises;
- (4) maintains a child to staff ratio of not more than fifteen (15) children to one (1) staff member;
- (5) supervises children at all times with a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- (6) does not operate for more than ten (10) consecutive days.

Sec. 259. "Preschool child care program", for purposes of IC 12-17-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-13-3.

Sec. 260. "Preventative care services", for purposes of IC 12-15-44.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-44.5-2.3.

Sec. 261. "Primary business", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 262. "Private psychiatric institution", for purposes of IC 12-15-18, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-18-3.

Sec. 263. "Program" refers to the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-10-5.7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-5.7-2.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-10-7, the adult guardianship services program established by IC 12-10-7-5.
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-10-10, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-5.



(4) For purposes of IC 12-10-21, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-21-3.

(5) For purposes of IC 12-15-12.7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-12.7-1.

(6) For purposes of IC 12-17.2-2-14.2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-2-14.2(a).

(7) For purposes of IC 12-17.6, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-5.

Sec. 263.4. "Program participant", for purposes of IC 12-10-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-21-4.

Sec. 264. "Property", for purposes of IC 12-12-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-253.

Sec. 265. "Prospective DUR", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-13.

Sec. 266. "Protective services", for purposes of IC 12-10-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-3-5.

Sec. 267. "Provider" means the following:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-10-7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-7-3.

(2) For purposes of the following statutes, an individual, a partnership, a corporation, or a governmental entity that is enrolled in the Medicaid program under rules adopted under IC 4-22-2 by the office of Medicaid policy and planning:

(A) IC 12-14-1 through IC 12-14-8.

(B) IC 12-15, except IC 12-15-32, IC 12-15-33, and IC 12-15-34.

(C) IC 12-17.6.

(3) Except as provided in subdivisions (4) and (6), for purposes of IC 12-17.2, a person who operates a child care center or child care home under IC 12-17.2.

(4) For purposes of IC 12-17.2-3.5, a person that:

(A) provides child care; and

(B) is directly paid for the provision of the child care under the federal Child Care and Development Fund voucher program administered under 45 CFR 98 and 45 CFR 99.

The term does not include an individual who provides services to a person described in clauses (A) and (B), regardless of whether the individual receives compensation.

(5) For purposes of IC 12-21-1 through IC 12-29-2, an organization:

(A) that:

(i) provides mental health services, as defined under 42



U.S.C. 300x-2(c);

(ii) provides addiction services; or

(iii) provides children's mental health services;

(B) that has entered into a provider agreement with the division of mental health and addiction under IC 12-21-2-7 to provide services in the least restrictive, most appropriate setting; and

(C) that is operated by one (1) of the following:

(i) A city, town, county, or other political subdivision of the state.

(ii) An agency of the state or of the United States.

(iii) A political subdivision of another state.

(iv) A hospital owned or operated by a unit of government or a building authority that is organized for the purpose of constructing facilities to be leased to units of government.

(v) A corporation incorporated under IC 23-7-1.1 (before its repeal August 1, 1991) or IC 23-17.

(vi) An organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(vii) A university or college.

(6) For purposes of IC 12-17.2-2-10, the following:

(A) A person described in subdivision (4).

(B) A child care center licensed under IC 12-17.2-4.

(C) A child care home licensed under IC 12-17.2-5.

(7) For purposes of IC 12-11-13, an authorized provider entity that delivers services administered by the bureau of disabilities services.

Sec. 268. "Psilocybin", for purposes of IC 12-21-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-9-2.

Sec. 269. "Psychiatric disorder", for purposes of section 226(2) of this chapter, means a mental disorder or disease. The term does not include the following:

(1) An intellectual disability.

(2) A developmental disability.

(3) Alcoholism.

(4) Addiction to narcotic or dangerous drugs.

Sec. 270. "Psychiatric hospital", for purposes of section 149 of this chapter, means any of the following:

(1) A state institution.

(2) A general hospital:



- (A) licensed by the Indiana department of health; and
- (B) that maintains and operates facilities for the observation, care, treatment, and detention of individuals who have a mental illness.

(3) A private psychiatric hospital licensed by the division of mental health and addiction.

Sec. 271. (a) "Public welfare", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means any form of public welfare or Social Security provided for in the statutes listed in subsection (b). The term does not include direct township assistance as administered by township trustees under IC 12-20.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-13.
- (2) IC 12-14.
- (3) IC 12-15.
- (4) IC 12-19.

Sec. 272. "Qualified ABLE program", for purposes of IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-7.

Sec. 273. "Qualified disability expense", for purposes of IC 12-11-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-11-14-8.

Sec. 274. "Qualified entity", for purposes of IC 12-15-2.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-2.3-2.

Sec. 275. "Qualified long term care policy", for purposes of IC 12-15-39.6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-39.6-5.

Sec. 276. "Qualified Medicare beneficiary", for purposes of IC 12-15-2-26, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-2-26(b).

Sec. 277. "Qualified provider" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-15-1-16:
 - (A) a school based nurse; or
 - (B) another provider who:
 - (i) is licensed and in good standing with the Indiana professional licensing agency; and
 - (ii) is employed by or contracts with a school corporation that participates in Medicaid.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-15-4, a provider who:
 - (A) is enrolled in the Indiana Medicaid program; and
 - (B) maintains a valid agreement, as prescribed by the office, to make determinations concerning presumptive eligibility.

Sec. 278. "Qualifying individual", for purposes of IC 12-15-2-26, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-2-26(c).

Sec. 279. "Reason to believe", for purposes of IC 12-10-3, has



the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-3-6.

Sec. 280. "Reasonable means of communication", for purposes of IC 12-27-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-27-3-1.

Sec. 281. "Recipient" means the following:

(1) For purposes of the following statutes, a person who has received or is receiving assistance for the person or another person under any of the following statutes:

- (A) IC 12-10-6.**
- (B) IC 12-13.**
- (C) IC 12-14.**
- (D) IC 12-15.**
- (E) IC 12-19.**

(2) For purposes of IC 12-20-10 and IC 12-20-11:

- (A) a single individual receiving township assistance; or**
- (B) if township assistance is received by a household with at least two (2) individuals, the member of the household most suited to perform available work.**

Sec. 282. "Recovery residence" means an abstinence based living environment for individuals that promotes recovery from:

- (1) alcohol; and**
- (2) other drug;**

abuse and related issues. An abstinence based living environment, for purposes of opioid addiction, may include individuals who are in a treatment that includes medication assisted treatment with a goal of opioid abstinence or the minimum clinically necessary medication dose.

Sec. 158.3. "Recovery residence services", for purposes of IC 12-23-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-25-3.

Sec. 283. "Reentry court program", for purposes of IC 12-14-29, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-29-1.

Sec. 284. "Region", for purposes of IC 12-10-7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-7-4.

Sec. 285. (a) "Rehabilitation", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means a process of providing services to meet the current and future needs of persons with disabilities so that the individuals may prepare for and engage in gainful employment to the extent of their capabilities, as provided in 29 U.S.C. 720.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-8-1.5-10.**
- (2) IC 12-12-1.**
- (3) IC 12-12-3.**
- (4) IC 12-12-6.**



Sec. 286. "Rehabilitation center", for purposes of IC 12-12-3, refers to the rehabilitation center established under IC 12-12-3-1.

Sec. 287. "Rehabilitation technology", for purposes of IC 12-12-6, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-6-1.

Sec. 288. "Related", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means any of the following relationships to an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age by marriage, blood, or adoption:

- (1) Parent.
- (2) Grandparent.
- (3) Brother.
- (4) Sister.
- (5) Stepparent.
- (6) Stepgrandparent.
- (7) Stepbrother.
- (8) Stepsister.
- (9) First cousin.
- (10) Uncle.
- (11) Aunt.

Sec. 289. "Request for proposals", for purposes of IC 12-8-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-8-12-3.

Sec. 290. "Research institution", for purposes of IC 12-21-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-9-3.

Sec. 291. "Resident" has the following meaning:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-10-15, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-15-5.
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-16, except IC 12-16-1, an individual who has actually resided in Indiana for at least ninety (90) days.
- (3) For purposes of IC 12-20-8, the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-8-1.
- (4) For purposes of IC 12-24-5, the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-5-1.

Sec. 292. "Residential facility", for purposes of IC 12-28-4 and IC 12-28-5, refers to a residential facility for individuals with a developmental disability.

Sec. 293. "Residential facility for individuals with a developmental disability", for purposes of IC 12-28-4 and IC 12-28-5, means a facility that provides residential services for individuals with a developmental disability in a program described in IC 12-11-1.1-1(e)(1) or IC 12-11-1.1-1(e)(2).

Sec. 294. (a) "Responsible party", for purposes of IC 12-24-6, IC 12-24-13, IC 12-24-14, and IC 12-24-15, means any of the



following:

- (1) The patient.
 - (2) The parents of the patient if the patient is not more than eighteen (18) years of age.
 - (3) The spouse of the patient.
 - (4) The estate of the patient.
 - (5) A legal guardian of the patient in the guardian's representative capacity.
 - (6) A trustee of the patient if the trust authorizes payment for the care, treatment, maintenance, or support of the patient.
- (b) The term does not include the children of the patient.

Sec. 295. "Retailer", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 296. "Retrospective DUR", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-14.

Sec. 297. "Safe sleeping practices", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means standards for infants concerning safe sleeping and sudden unexpected infant death risk reduction that have been approved by the division of family resources.

Sec. 298. "School", for purposes of IC 12-14-2-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-2-23(b).

Sec. 299. "School age child care program", for purposes of IC 12-17-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-12-5.

Sec. 300. "School based nurse", for purposes of section 277 of this chapter, means a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed under IC 25-23-1 who is employed by or contracts with a school corporation that participates in Medicaid to provide school based Medicaid covered services for a Medicaid recipient.

Sec. 301. "School corporation", for purposes of IC 12-17-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17-12-6.

Sec. 302. "School property", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means a building owned or leased by a:

- (1) school corporation;
- (2) public school; or
- (3) private school;

within the school district in which the school is located.

Sec. 303. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "secretary" refers to the secretary of family and social services appointed under IC 12-8-1.5-2.

(b) "Secretary", for purposes of IC 12-13-14, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-13-14-1.

Sec. 304. "Self-directed in-home health care", for purposes of



IC 12-10-17.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-17.1-9.

Sec. 305. "Service provider", for purposes of IC 12-27, means any of the following:

- (1) A state institution.
- (2) A private psychiatric hospital licensed under IC 12-25.
- (3) A community mental health center.
- (4) A community intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities center.
- (5) A service provider certified by the division of mental health and addiction to provide substance abuse treatment programs.
- (6) A service provider or program receiving money from or through a division.
- (7) Any other service provider, hospital, clinic, program, agency, or private practitioner if the individual receiving mental health services or developmental training was admitted without the individual's consent.
- (8) A managed care provider (as defined in section 219 of this chapter).

Sec. 306. "Services" means the following:

- (1) For purposes of IC 12-10-1 and IC 12-10-2, those services designed to provide assistance to the aged and the aging, including the following:
 - (A) Nutritional programs.
 - (B) Facilities improvement.
 - (C) Transportation services.
 - (D) Senior volunteer programs.
 - (E) Supplementary health services.
 - (F) Programs for leisure time activities.
 - (G) Housing and employment counseling.
 - (H) Informational, referral, and counseling programs to aid the aging and aged in availing themselves of existing services intended to aid the aged in attaining and maintaining self-sufficiency, personal well-being, and maximum participation in community life.
 - (I) Other services required under regulations established under the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).
- (2) For purposes of IC 12-28-1, the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-1-4.

Sec. 307. (a) "Shelter", for purposes of IC 12-20, means a house, a mobile home, an apartment, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied or is intended for occupancy as separate living



quarters where the occupant or intended occupant:

(1) does not live and eat with any other individual in the building; and

(2) has direct access to the occupant's living quarters from the outside of the building or through a common hall.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), "shelter", for purposes of IC 12-20-17-2, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-17-2.

Sec. 308. "Single source drug" means an outpatient drug that is produced or distributed under an original new drug application approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including a drug product marketed by any cross-licensed producers or distributors operating under the new drug application.

Sec. 309. "SNAP" refers to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under 7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.

Sec. 310. "Social Services Block Grant" refers to the block grant under 42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.

Sec. 310.5. "Soft drink", for purposes of IC 12-14-30-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-30-10(b).

Sec. 311. "Solicitation", for purposes of IC 12-15-25-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-25-1.

Sec. 312. "Special needs", for purposes of IC 12-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-22-2.

Sec. 313. "Special skilled services", for purposes of IC 12-15-36, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-36-3.

Sec. 314. "Specialist", for purposes of IC 12-10-5.7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-5.7-3.

Sec. 315. "Specified low-income Medicare beneficiary", for purposes of IC 12-15-2-26, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-2-26(d).

Sec. 316. "Standards", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-15.

Sec. 317. "State domestic violence fatality review coordinator", for purposes of IC 12-18-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-18-9-2.

Sec. 318. (a) "State institution" means an institution:

(1) owned or operated by the state;

(2) for the observation, care, treatment, or detention of an individual; and

(3) under the administrative control of a division.

(b) The term includes the following:

(1) Evansville State Hospital.

(2) Evansville State Psychiatric Treatment Center for



Children.

(3) Logansport State Hospital.

(4) Madison State Hospital.

(5) Richmond State Hospital.

(6) The Neurodiagnostic Institute and Advanced Treatment Center.

Sec. 319. "State of Indiana general educational development (GED) diploma", for purposes of IC 12-14-5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-5-2.

Sec. 320. "State ombudsman", for purposes of IC 12-10-13, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-13-6.

Sec. 321. "State or local public benefit", for purposes of IC 12-32-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-32-1-3.

Sec. 322. "State plan", for purposes of:

(1) IC 12-8-6.5, refers to the state Medicaid plan for the Medicaid program; and

(2) IC 12-12-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-12-8-3.8.

Sec. 323. "Superintendent" has the following meaning:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-24, the term refers to the administrative head of a state institution appointed under IC 12-24-2-2.

(2) For purposes of IC 12-24-6, IC 12-24-15, and IC 12-24-17, the term includes:

(A) an employee; or

(B) an individual who holds a license to practice medicine under IC 25-22.5;

designated as a deputy or an agent of the individual described in subdivision (1).

(3) For purposes of IC 12-26, the term means the chief administrative officer of a facility and includes the chief administrative officer's designee.

Sec. 324. "Supervised group living facility", for purposes of IC 12-28-4 and IC 12-28-5, refers to a supervised group living facility for individuals with a developmental disability.

Sec. 325. "Supervised group living facility for individuals with a developmental disability", for purposes of IC 12-28-4 and IC 12-28-5, refers to a supervised group living facility for individuals with a developmental disability in a program described in IC 12-11-1.1-1(e)(1).

Sec. 326. "Support", for purposes of IC 12-20-25-41, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-25-41.

Sec. 327. "Supportive services", for purposes of IC 12-10-15,



has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-15-6.

Sec. 328. "SURS", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-16.

Sec. 329. "TANF", for purposes of IC 12-20, refers to the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program under 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.

Sec. 330. "TANF program" refers to the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program under 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.

Sec. 331. "Telehealth services", for purposes of IC 12-15-5-11, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-5-11(a).

Sec. 332. "Therapeutic appropriateness", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-17.

Sec. 333. "Therapeutic classification" or "therapeutic category", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-17.5.

Sec. 334. "Therapeutic duplication", for purposes of IC 12-15-35, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35-18.

Sec. 335. "Title IV-A" refers to Title IV-A of the federal Social Security Act.

Sec. 336. "Title IV-A Agency", for purposes of IC 12-17, refers to the division of family resources.

Sec. 337. "Total number of households containing township assistance recipients", for purposes of IC 12-20-28-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-28-3(c).

Sec. 338. "Total number of recipients", for purposes of IC 12-20-28-3, has the meaning set forth in the following:

(1) IC 12-20-28-3(d). This subdivision expires January 1, 2023.

(2) IC 12-20-28-3(e). This subdivision applies after December 31, 2022.

Sec. 339. "Total number of requests for assistance", for purposes of IC 12-20-28-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-20-28-3(f).

Sec. 340. "Treatment by the department", for purposes of IC 12-23, means treatment in a treatment program within Indiana that is certified under IC 12-23-1-6.

Sec. 341. "Treatment team", for purposes of IC 12-24-7, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-24-7-2.

Sec. 342. "Trustees", for purposes of IC 12-15-18, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-18-3.5.

Sec. 343. "Tuberculosis", for purposes of IC 12-30-7-27, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-30-7-27.

Sec. 344. "Unit", for purposes of IC 12-12-7, has the meaning set



forth in IC 12-12-7-1.

Sec. 345. "Vending facilities", for purposes of IC 12-12-5, means automatic vending machines and snack bars and the auxiliary equipment necessary for the sale of newspapers, periodicals, confections, tobacco products, foods, beverages, and other articles or services dispensed automatically or manually and prepared on or off the premises in accordance with all applicable health laws.

Sec. 346. "Veteran at risk" means a veteran or active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, the national guard, or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is known, based on information provided by a person making a report under IC 12-10-18-1, to have a physical or mental health condition that is related to the veteran's military service.

Sec. 347. "Veteran at risk alert" means an alert indicating that law enforcement officials are searching for a missing veteran at risk.

Sec. 348. "Veteran crisis line", for purposes of IC 12-21-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-21-8-5.5.

Sec. 349. (a) "Visually impaired", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), refers to an individual who has a visual acuity between 20/60 and 20/200 in the individual's better eye with the best correction or a corresponding loss in visual field.

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:

- (1) IC 12-12-1.**
- (2) IC 12-12-3.**

Sec. 350. "Vocational rehabilitation services", for purposes of IC 12-28-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-28-1-5.

Sec. 351. "Volunteer", for purposes of IC 12-17.2, means an individual who, without compensation, provides services to a child care home, child care center, provider (as defined in section 267(4) of this chapter), or child care ministry for at least eight (8) hours per month.

Sec. 352. "Voucher payment", for purposes of IC 12-17.2-3.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-3.5-3.

Sec. 353. "Waiver training", for purposes of IC 12-23-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-21-1.

Sec. 354. (a) "Warrant", for purposes of the statutes listed in subsection (b), means an instrument that is:

- (1) the equivalent of a money payment; and**
- (2) immediately convertible into cash by the payee for the full face amount of the instrument.**

(b) This section applies to the following statutes:



- (1) IC 12-10-6.
- (2) IC 12-13.
- (3) IC 12-14.
- (4) IC 12-15.
- (5) IC 12-19.

Sec. 355. "Waste", for purposes of IC 12-15-35.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-35.5-2.6.

Sec. 356. "Wasted resources", for purposes of IC 12-20, means:

- (1) the amount of money or resources expended by an applicant or an adult member of an applicant's household seeking township assistance during the thirty (30) days before the date of application for township assistance for items or services that are not basic necessities;
- (2) income, resources, or tax supported services lost or reduced as a result of a voluntary act during the sixty (60) days before the date of application for township assistance by an adult member of an applicant's household unless the adult member can establish a good reason for the act; or
- (3) lump sum amounts of money or resources from tax refunds, lawsuits, inheritances, or pension payments of at least four hundred dollars (\$400) that are expended by:
 - (A) an applicant seeking township assistance; or
 - (B) an adult member of the applicant's household;during the one hundred eighty (180) days immediately preceding the date of application for township assistance for items or services that are not basic necessities if, at the time of the expenditure, there were amounts due and owing for items or services constituting basic necessities.

SECTION 64. IC 12-8-1.5-6.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.179-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.1. (a) Subject to an approved state plan amendment or waiver under subsection (b), the office of the secretary shall, immediately upon request by the department of child services, provide to the department of child services address information that is maintained by the office of the secretary and that is necessary for the department of child services to:

- (1) respond to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect under IC 31-33; or
 - (2) take action concerning a child with regard to whom exigent circumstances (as defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-44.1~~) in IC 31-9-2.1-92 exist.
- (b) The office of the secretary shall apply for any state plan



amendment or waiver necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 65. IC 12-8-12-8, AS ADDED BY P.L.102-2022, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) This section does not apply to an individual who:

- (1) is less than eighteen (18) years of age;
- (2) is more than sixty-four (64) years of age;
- (3) is medically certified as:
 - (A) physically; or
 - (B) mentally;
 unfit for employment;
- (4) is pregnant;
- (5) is a parent or caretaker who personally provides care for a dependent child who has a:
 - (A) serious medical condition; or
 - (B) disability;
 as determined by the secretary;
- (6) is receiving unemployment compensation and complying with work requirements under IC 22-4;
- (7) is participating in a treatment and rehabilitation program for a drug or alcohol addiction;
- (8) is participating in:
 - (A) an adult basic education program;
 - (B) a workforce training, certification, or credentialing program; or
 - (C) a course of study at a postsecondary institution;
- (9) has been awarded a federal or state financial aid award or grant;
- (10) is a victim of domestic or family violence (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-42~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-84**);
- (11) separated from service in the armed forces (as defined in IC 36-8-4.7-3) not more than one hundred eighty (180) days before applying for TANF assistance; or
- (12) has experienced homelessness.

(b) As used in this section, "IMPACT mandatory" means, with respect to an individual who applies for or receives TANF assistance, a determination by the division that the individual is required, as a condition of receiving TANF assistance, to participate in the IMPACT program.

(c) The secretary shall adopt rules under this section that require, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) After submitting an application for TANF assistance, an



IMPACT mandatory applicant must, as a condition of eligibility, provide evidence of the applicant's job search activities. The evidence of job search activities must include, at a minimum, evidence of:

- (A) six (6) contacts by the applicant with employers; and
- (B) submission by the applicant of three (3) job applications or resumes;

after the applicant's submission of the application.

(2) An IMPACT mandatory individual whose application for TANF assistance is approved or who receives TANF assistance, whichever comes first, must participate in the IMPACT program as directed by the division.

(d) The secretary may suspend application of rules adopted by the secretary under subsection (c) to individuals residing in an area in which:

- (1) the unemployment rate is ten percent (10%) or greater; or
- (2) an insufficient number of jobs is available to provide employment for residents of the area, as demonstrated by one (1) or more of the following:

(A) The United States Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has designated the area as a labor surplus area.

(B) The United States Department of Labor has determined that the area qualifies for extended unemployment benefits.

(C) The area has a low and declining ratio of employment to population.

(D) The average unemployment rate in the area for the immediately preceding twenty-four (24) month period is twenty percent (20%) or more above the national average unemployment rate during the same twenty-four (24) month period.

SECTION 66. IC 12-9-2-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.117-2015, SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The secretary shall act for the division in entering into contracts for the disbursement of money and the providing of service for approved community intellectual disability and other developmental disability centers where constructed and operated or maintained by private nonprofit organizations, a local public agency, or any other state agency that the secretary determines to be best suited to advance programs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) Before entering into a contract under this section, the secretary shall submit the contract to the attorney general for approval as to form



and legality.

(c) A contract under this section must do the following:

(1) Specify the services to be provided and the client populations to whom services must be provided.

(2) Specify that the definition of developmental disability set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-118** must be used to determine the eligibility of an individual for reimbursement of the center by the division for the center's services for individuals with a developmental disability. The division shall reimburse the centers at rates established by rule.

(3) Provide for a reduction in funding for failure to comply with terms of the contract.

SECTION 67. IC 12-10-6-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 88, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) An individual who is determined under section 2.1(a)(2) of this chapter to be incapable of residing in the individual's own home because of mental illness may be admitted to a home or facility that provides residential care to the extent that money is available for the care.

(b) Within thirty (30) days after an individual with a mental illness is placed in a home or facility that provides residential care, a comprehensive care plan must be developed for the individual.

(c) The residential care facility, in cooperation with the community mental health center or an individual's ~~managed care~~ provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127(b)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-267(5)**) serving the area in which the residential care facility is located, shall develop the comprehensive care plan for the individual. The plan must include the following:

(1) Psychosocial rehabilitation services that are provided within the community.

(2) A comprehensive range of activities to meet multiple levels of need, including the following:

(A) Recreational and socialization activities.

(B) Social skills.

(C) Educational, training, occupational, and work programs.

(D) Opportunities for progression into less restrictive and more independent living arrangements.

(3) Appropriate alternate placement if the individual's needs cannot be met by the facility.

(d) The Indiana department of health shall, in coordination with the division of mental health and addiction and the division, adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to govern:



(1) residential care; and
 (2) the comprehensive care plan;
 provided to individuals with a mental illness who reside under this chapter in a home or facility that provides residential care.

SECTION 68. IC 12-10-10-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.167-2025, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "community and home care services" means services provided within the limits of available funding to an eligible individual. The term includes the following:

- (1) Homemaker services and attendant care, including personal care services.
- (2) Respite care services and other support services for primary or family caregivers.
- (3) Adult day care services.
- (4) Home health services and supplies.
- (5) Home delivered meals.
- (6) Transportation.
- (7) Attendant care services provided by a registered personal services attendant under IC 12-10-17.1 to persons described in IC 12-10-17.1-6.
- (8) Other services necessary to prevent and reduce:
 - (A) hospitalization and institutionalization; and
 - (B) the need for Medicaid home and community based services;
 of eligible individuals when feasible.
- (9) Other services, not covered by Medicaid, including equipment and building modifications, necessary to:
 - (A) prevent individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities from being institutionalized; and
 - (B) help an individual described in clause (A) to transition out of a health facility licensed under IC 16-28 or a group home (as defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-48.5~~ in **IC 31-9-2.1-115**).
- (10) Support services that provide education, resources, and strategies to help caregivers and family members of individuals with dementia.

SECTION 69. IC 12-14-2-16 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. If an investigation discloses that a child is a dependent child and the child is living or will live with at least one (1) of the relatives prescribed in ~~IC 12-7-2-58~~, **IC 12-7-2.1-114**, assistance may be allowed for the support of the child without complying with an Indiana law other than this article.

SECTION 70. IC 12-14-2-24, AS AMENDED BY P.L.80-2010,



SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 24. (a) A dependent child and a parent or an essential person are not eligible for TANF assistance under this chapter unless the mother of the dependent child:

- (1) initiates a court proceeding to establish paternity, other than an adoption proceeding, except as provided in IC 31-14-20-2;
- (2) executes a paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2-2.1; or
- (3) requests, at the time of application or renewal, that the Title IV-D agency or its agents file a paternity action under IC 31-14-4-3.

(b) A person applying for assistance under this chapter is not required to comply with subsection (a) if:

- (1) the father of the dependent child has been charged with an act of rape, incest, or child molesting that occurred against the dependent child's mother within ten (10) months before the birth of the dependent child;
- (2) the mother of the dependent child is deceased;
- (3) the division determines under rules adopted by the division under IC 4-22-2 that the mother of the dependent child could not know the identity of the child's father;
- (4) the mother of the dependent child provides proof, and the division agrees, that the physical health or safety of the mother or the dependent child would be jeopardized if the mother complies with subsection (a); or
- (5) the dependent child is living in the family home of a relative other than the mother of the child as described under IC 12-14-1-1(a) and the relative provides proof, and the division agrees, that the physical health or safety of the mother, relative, or dependent child would be jeopardized if the relative complies with subsection (a).

(c) If a dependent child's mother is a party to a paternity action filed under IC 31-14 (or IC 31-6-6.1 before its repeal), a county office shall revoke assistance under this chapter if the mother fails to pursue the paternity action.

(d) The office may not delay payments otherwise owing to a provider if the mother fails to comply with this section.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (b)(1), (b)(3), and (b)(5), if a child is residing with a nonparent guardian or custodian, the nonparent guardian or custodian shall make a good faith effort to cooperate with a prosecuting attorney or the division by providing to the prosecuting attorney or the division any information regarding the potential paternity of the child.



(f) The nonparent custodian or guardian is presumed to make a good faith effort under subsection (e) if the nonparent custodian or guardian does one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Responds to telephone calls from a prosecuting attorney or correspondence from a prosecuting attorney.
- (2) Appears for an appointment, in person or by telephone, with a prosecuting attorney.
- (3) Appears at a court hearing when requested by a prosecuting attorney.
- (4) Does one (1) or more of the following:
 - (A) Provides information described in ~~IC 12-7-2-43.5(b)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-88(b)**, to the extent the information is known.
 - (B) Affirms that the information described in ~~IC 12-7-2-43.5(b)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-88(b)** is not known.

(g) Before making a determination that the nonparent custodian or guardian is not making a good faith effort to cooperate, the prosecuting attorney shall consider one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Whether the nonparent custodian or guardian could reasonably be expected to provide the information.
- (2) The age of the child for whom child support is being sought.
- (3) The circumstances surrounding the conception of the child.
- (4) The age and mental capacity of the nonparent custodian or guardian.
- (5) The time that has expired since the nonparent custodian or guardian has last had contact with:
 - (A) the alleged father of the child;
 - (B) a parent of the child; or
 - (C) a relative of the persons listed in clause (A) or (B).
- (6) Any credible information that demonstrates an inability to provide correct information about an alleged father or a parent of the child because of deception by the alleged father or parent.
- (7) Any other credible information obtained by the prosecuting attorney that demonstrates the nonparent custodian or guardian has knowledge of the information sought by the prosecuting attorney.

SECTION 71. IC 12-14-7-2, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) If:

- (1) the parents of a dependent child are ~~(1)~~ separated or divorced; and
- (2) there is no court order for the support of the child;



the other parent shall cooperate, within federal regulations, with the state agency responsible for administering Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act in obtaining a support order.

(b) If a child is residing with a nonparent guardian or custodian, the nonparent guardian or custodian shall make a good faith effort to cooperate with the division and any agency responsible for administering Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act in obtaining and enforcing a child support order.

(c) The nonparent custodian or guardian is presumed to make a good faith effort under subsection (b) if the nonparent custodian or guardian does one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Responds to telephone calls from a prosecuting attorney or correspondence from a prosecuting attorney.
- (2) Appears for an appointment, in person or by telephone, with a prosecuting attorney.
- (3) Appears at a court hearing when requested by a prosecuting attorney.
- (4) Does one (1) or more of the following:
 - (A) Provides information described in ~~IC 12-7-2-43.5(b)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-88(b)**, to the extent the information is known.
 - (B) Affirms that the information described in ~~IC 12-7-2-43.5(b)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-88(b)** is not known.

(d) Before making a determination that the nonparent custodian or guardian is not making a good faith effort to cooperate, the prosecuting attorney shall consider one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Whether the nonparent custodian or guardian could reasonably be expected to provide the information.
- (2) The age of the child for whom child support is being sought.
- (3) The circumstances surrounding the conception of the child.
- (4) The age and mental capacity of the nonparent custodian or guardian.
- (5) The time that has expired since the nonparent custodian or guardian has last had contact with:
 - (A) the alleged father of the child;
 - (B) a parent of the child; or
 - (C) a relative of the persons listed in clause (A) or (B).
- (6) Any credible information that demonstrates an inability to provide correct information about an alleged father or a parent of the child because of deception by the alleged father or parent.
- (7) Any other credible information obtained by the prosecutor that demonstrates the nonparent custodian or guardian has knowledge of the information sought by the prosecuting attorney.



SECTION 72. IC 12-14-7-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.80-2010, SECTION 19, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) If a child is born out of wedlock, the mother shall, when establishing the paternity of the child and obtaining a support order, cooperate with the state agency responsible for administering Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, in compliance with federal regulations governing Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.

(b) If a child is residing with a nonparent guardian or custodian, the nonparent guardian or custodian shall make a good faith effort to cooperate with the division and with any agency responsible for administering Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act by providing any information known to the nonparent guardian or custodian regarding the potential paternity of the child.

(c) If a child is residing with a nonparent guardian or custodian, the nonparent guardian or custodian shall make a good faith effort to cooperate with the division and any agency responsible for administering Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act in the establishment and enforcement of a child support order.

(d) The nonparent custodian or guardian is presumed to make a good faith effort under subsections (b) and (c) if the nonparent custodian or guardian does one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Responds to telephone calls from a prosecutor or correspondence from a prosecuting attorney.
- (2) Appears for an appointment, in person or by telephone, with a prosecuting attorney.
- (3) Appears at a court hearing when requested by a prosecuting attorney.
- (4) Does one (1) or more of the following:
 - (A) Provides information described in ~~IC 12-7-2-43.5(b)~~, **IC 12-7-2.1-88(b)**, to the extent the information is known.
 - (B) Affirms that the information described in ~~IC 12-7-2-43.5(b)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-88(b)** is not known.

(e) Before making a determination that the nonparent custodian or guardian is not making a good faith effort to cooperate, the prosecuting attorney shall consider one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Whether the nonparent custodian or guardian could reasonably be expected to provide the information.
- (2) The age of the child for whom child support is being sought.
- (3) The circumstances surrounding the conception of the child.
- (4) The age and mental capacity of the nonparent custodian or guardian.



(5) The time that has expired since the nonparent custodian or guardian has last had contact with:

(A) the alleged father of the child;

(B) a parent of the child; or

(C) a relative of the persons listed in clause (A) or (B).

(6) Any credible information that demonstrates an inability to provide correct information about an alleged father or a parent of the child because of deception by the alleged father or parent.

(7) Any other credible information obtained by the prosecuting attorney that demonstrates the nonparent custodian or guardian has knowledge of the information sought by the prosecuting attorney.

SECTION 73. IC 12-14-31-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.57-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. A household that, at the time of the office of the secretary's initial determination of the household's income eligibility for purposes of entry into the CCDF program, includes a foster parent (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-47~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-109**) is eligible for assistance under the CCDF program for children in foster care (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.7~~). **IC 31-9-2.1-107**).

SECTION 74. IC 12-15-13.5-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.127-2020, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Subject to subsection (b), a recovery audit shall not require documentation, at the time of service, for services provided by a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-78**) when the documentation is part of an ongoing plan of treatment or a documentation of specific treatment methods.

(b) The direct service provider shall complete documentation described in subsection (a) within a reasonable time frame, but not later than thirty (30) days from the date of service, prior to Medicaid billing.

(c) Any supervising provider in a community mental health center is eligible to review documentation in order to certify a plan of treatment or review specific treatment methods at intervals not greater than ninety (90) days.

(d) A supervising provider described in subsection (c) may review the documentation described in subsection (c) regardless of:

(1) whether the supervising provider is providing direct supervision; and

(2) the location where the service was provided.

A review described under this subsection must be documented by the signature of the supervising provider.



(e) In developing a plan of treatment, the following must be completed to demonstrate active treatment with a client:

- (1) A signed client consent form.
- (2) The completion of a list of requirements concerning audit compliance, as determined by the division in collaboration with community mental health centers, that verifies active participation in the development of the client's plan of treatment.
- (3) Either:
 - (A) the signature of the client on the client's plan of treatment; or
 - (B) if the direct care provider, after a good faith effort, is unable to obtain the client's signature on the client's plan of treatment:
 - (i) the provision of documentation by the provider of the reasons the provider was unable to obtain the signature;
 - (ii) the continuation of attempting to obtain the client's signature on the client's plan of treatment; and
 - (iii) a determination by the division, based on the documentation in item (i), that the direct care provider has made a good faith effort to obtain the signature.

SECTION 75. IC 12-15-32-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.35-2016, SECTION 43, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) The office may assess community residential facilities for the developmentally disabled (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-64~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-118**) and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID) (as defined in IC 16-29-4-2) that are not operated by the state in an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the total annual revenue of the facility for the facility's preceding fiscal year.

(b) The assessments shall be paid to the office of Medicaid policy and planning in equal monthly amounts on or before the tenth day of each calendar month. The office may withhold Medicaid payments to a provider described in subsection (a) that fails to pay an assessment within thirty (30) days after the due date. The amount withheld may not exceed the amount of the assessments due.

(c) Revenue from the assessments shall be credited to a special account within the state general fund to be called the Medicaid assessment account. Money in the account may be used only for services for which federal financial participation under Medicaid is available to match state funds. An amount equivalent to the federal financial participation estimated to be received for services financed from assessments under subsection (a) shall be used to finance



Medicaid services provided by facilities described in subsection (a).

(d) If federal financial participation to match the assessments in subsection (a) becomes unavailable under federal law, the authority to impose the assessments terminates on the date that the federal statutory, regulatory, or interpretive change takes effect.

SECTION 76. IC 12-17.2-2-5.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5.5. (a) Notwithstanding ~~IC 12-7-2-149.1~~, **IC 12-7-2.1-267**, as used in this section, "provider" means a person who provides child care under this article.

(b) When the division adopts an administrative rule or a policy statement to administer this article, the division shall make the administrative rule or policy statement available to the public upon request.

(c) When the division adopts an administrative rule or a policy statement to administer this article, the administrative rule or policy statement must specifically identify the type of provider to which the administrative rule or policy statement applies.

(d) When the division provides information to the public concerning an administrative rule or a policy statement adopted by the division, each document provided must specifically identify the type of provider to which the administrative rule or policy statement applies.

SECTION 77. IC 12-17.2-4-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.121-2020, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for a denial of a license application:

(1) A determination by the department of child services established by IC 31-25-1-1 of child abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:

(A) the applicant;

(B) an employee of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care center during operating hours of the child care center; or

(C) a volunteer of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care center during operating hours of the child care center.

(2) A criminal conviction of the applicant, or an employee or volunteer of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care center during operating hours of the child care center, of any of the following:

(A) A felony:

(i) related to the health or safety of a child;



- (ii) that is a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);
 - (iii) that is a dangerous felony; or
 - (iv) that is not a felony otherwise described in items (i) through (iii), and less than ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the person was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever discharge date is latest.
- (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
- (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center without a license under section 35 of this chapter, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5-35, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (3) A determination by the division that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for licensure.
- (4) A determination by the division that the applicant made false statements in the records required by the division.
- (5) A determination by the division that the applicant previously operated a:
- (A) child care center without a license under this chapter; or
 - (B) child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), if:
- (1) a license application is denied due to a criminal conviction of an employee or a volunteer of the applicant; and
 - (2) the division determines that the employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the applicant;
- the criminal conviction of the former employee or former volunteer does not require denial of a license application.

SECTION 78. IC 12-17.2-4-32, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1202-2026, SECTION 24, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 32. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a license:

- (1) A determination by the department of child services of child abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:
 - (A) the licensee;
 - (B) an employee of the licensee who may be present on the premises of the child care center during operating hours of the child care center; or
 - (C) a volunteer of the licensee who may be present on the



premises of the child care center during operating hours of the child care center.

(2) A criminal conviction of the licensee, or an employee or volunteer of the licensee who may be present on the premises of the child care center during operating hours of the child care center, of any of the following:

(A) A felony:

- (i) related to the health or safety of a child;
- (ii) that is a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);
- (iii) that is a dangerous felony; or
- (iv) that is not a felony otherwise described in items (i) through (iii), and less than ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the person was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever discharge date is latest.

(B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.

(C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center without a license under section 35 of this chapter, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.

(D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5-35, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.

(3) A determination by the division that the licensee made false statements in the licensee's application for licensure.

(4) A determination by the division that the licensee made false statements in the records required by the division.

(5) A determination by the division that the licensee previously operated a:

- (A) child care center without a license under this chapter; or
- (B) child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5.

(6) A determination by the division that the operator of the child care center has failed to comply with an order of the department of homeland security.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), if:

- (1) a license is revoked due to a criminal conviction of an employee or a volunteer of the licensee; and
- (2) the division determines that the employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the licensee;

the criminal conviction of the former employee or former volunteer does not require revocation of a license.



SECTION 79. IC 12-17.2-5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.74-2022, SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for a denial of a license application:

(1) A determination by the department of child services established by IC 31-25-1-1 of child abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:

- (A) the applicant;
- (B) a member of the applicant's household;
- (C) an employee of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care home during operating hours of the child care home; or
- (D) a volunteer of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care home during operating hours of the child care home.

(2) A criminal conviction of the applicant, or an employee or volunteer of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care home during operating hours of the child care home, or a member of the applicant's household, of any of the following:

- (A) A felony:
 - (i) related to the health or safety of a child;
 - (ii) that is a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);
 - (iii) that is a dangerous felony; or
 - (iv) that is not a felony otherwise described in items (i) through (iii), and less than ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the person was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever discharge date is latest.
- (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
- (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4-35, or a substantially similar offense committed in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care home without a license under section 35 of this chapter, or a substantially similar offense committed in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.

(3) A determination by the division that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for licensure.

(4) A determination by the division that the applicant made false



statements in the records required by the division.

(5) A determination by the division that the applicant previously operated a:

- (A) child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4; or
- (B) child care home without a license under this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), if:

- (1) a license application is denied due to a criminal conviction of:
 - (A) an employee or a volunteer of the applicant; or
 - (B) a member of the applicant's household; and
- (2) the division determines that the:
 - (A) employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the applicant; or
 - (B) member of the applicant's household is no longer a member of the applicant's household;

the criminal conviction of the former employee, former volunteer, or former member does not require denial of a license application.

SECTION 80. IC 12-17.2-5-6.3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.74-2022, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.3. (a) To qualify for a license to operate a class I child care home under this chapter, a person must do the following:

- (1) Provide documentation to the division that the licensee has received a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate as described in IC 12-14-5-2.
- (2) Provide documentation to the division that the licensee:
 - (A) has completed;
 - (B) is enrolled in; or
 - (C) agrees to complete within the next three (3) years; a child development associate credential program or a similar program approved by the division.
- (3) Complete the training course taught or approved by the division concerning safe sleeping practices for a child within the person's care as described in IC 12-17.2-2-1(10).

The division may grant a waiver or variance of the requirement under subdivision (2).

(b) A class I child care home may serve three (3) school age children under ~~IC 12-7-2-33.7~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-68** if the child care home meets the following conditions:

- (1) Provides at least thirty-five (35) square feet for each child.
- (2) Maintains the child to staff ratio required under rules adopted by the division for each age group of children in attendance.
- (3) Has an illuminated exit sign over each required exit or emergency lighting for each required exit.



SECTION 81. IC 12-17.2-5-7.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.5. (a) The license issued to a person for the operation of a child care home under section 7 of this chapter shall indicate whether the child care home is licensed as a class I child care home or a class II child care home.

(b) A person who:

- (1) holds a license to operate a class I child care home; and
- (2) at any time serves a number of children greater than the number allowed under ~~IC 12-7-2-33.7~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-68**;

is subject to sanctions under section 33 of this chapter, a civil penalty under section 34 of this chapter, and the criminal penalty set forth in section 35 of this chapter.

(c) A person who:

- (1) holds a license to operate a class II child care home; and
- (2) at any time:
 - (A) serves a number of children greater than the number allowed under ~~IC 12-7-2-33.8~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-69**; or
 - (B) fails to comply with the requirements for class II child care homes set forth in section 6.5 of this chapter;

is subject to sanctions under section 33 of this chapter, a civil penalty under section 34 of this chapter, and the criminal penalty set forth in section 35 of this chapter.

SECTION 82. IC 12-17.2-5-32, AS AMENDED BY P.L.74-2022, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 32. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a license:

- (1) A determination by the department of child services of child abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:
 - (A) the licensee;
 - (B) a member of the licensee's household;
 - (C) an employee of the licensee who may be present on the premises of the child care home during operating hours of the child care home; or
 - (D) a volunteer of the licensee who may be present on the premises of the child care home during operating hours of the child care home.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the licensee, an employee or volunteer of the licensee who may be present on the premises of the child care home during operating hours of the child care home, or a member of the licensee's household of any of the following:
 - (A) A felony:



- (i) related to the health or safety of a child;
- (ii) that is a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);
- (iii) that is a dangerous felony; or
- (iv) that is not a felony otherwise described in items (i) through (iii), and less than ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the person was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever discharge date is latest.
- (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
- (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4-35, or a substantially similar offense committed in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care home without a license under section 35 of this chapter, or a substantially similar offense committed in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (3) A determination by the division that the licensee made false statements in the licensee's application for licensure.
- (4) A determination by the division that the licensee made false statements in the records required by the division.
- (5) A determination by the division that the licensee previously operated a:
 - (A) child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4; or
 - (B) child care home without a license under this chapter.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), if:
 - (1) a license is revoked due to a criminal conviction of:
 - (A) an employee or a volunteer of the licensee's; or
 - (B) a resident of the licensee's household; and
 - (2) the division determines that the:
 - (A) employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the licensee; or
 - (B) member of the licensee's household is no longer a member of the licensee's household;

the criminal conviction of the former employee, former volunteer, or former member does not require revocation of a license.

SECTION 83. IC 12-17.2-6-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.121-2020, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for denial of an application for registration under this chapter:

- (1) A determination by the department of child services of child



abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:

- (A) the applicant;
 - (B) an employee of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care ministry during operating hours of the child care ministry; or
 - (C) a volunteer of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care ministry during operating hours of the child care ministry.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the applicant, or an employee or volunteer of the applicant who may be present on the premises of the child care ministry during operating hours of the child care ministry, of any of the following:
- (A) A felony:
 - (i) related to the health or safety of a child;
 - (ii) that is a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);
 - (iii) that is a dangerous felony; or
 - (iv) that is not a felony otherwise described in items (i) through (iii), and less than ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the person was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever discharge date is latest.
 - (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
 - (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care ministry without a registration under this chapter, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
 - (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4-35, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
 - (E) A misdemeanor for operating a child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5-35, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (3) A determination by the division that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for registration.
- (4) A determination by the division that the applicant made false statements in the records required by the division.
- (5) A determination by the division that the applicant previously operated a:
- (A) child care ministry without a registration under this chapter;
 - (B) child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4; or



- (C) child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), if:
- (1) a registration application is denied due to a criminal conviction of an employee or a volunteer of the applicant; and
 - (2) the division determines that the employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the applicant;

the criminal conviction of the former employee or former volunteer does not require denial of the registration application.

SECTION 84. IC 12-17.2-6-19, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1202-2026, SECTION 29, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a registration under this chapter:

- (1) A determination by the department of child services of child abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:

- (A) the operator of the child care ministry;
- (B) an employee of the child care ministry who may be present on the premises of the child care ministry during operating hours of the child care ministry; or
- (C) a volunteer of the child care ministry who may be present on the premises of the child care ministry during operating hours of the child care ministry.

- (2) A criminal conviction of the operator of the child care ministry, or an employee or volunteer of the child care ministry who may be present on the premises of the child care ministry during operating hours of the child care ministry, of any of the following:

- (A) A felony:
- (i) related to the health or safety of a child;
 - (ii) that is a sex offense (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5.2);
 - (iii) that is a dangerous felony; or
 - (iv) that is not a felony otherwise described in items (i) through (iii), and less than ten (10) years have elapsed from the date the person was discharged from probation, imprisonment, or parole, whichever discharge date is latest.
- (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
- (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care ministry without a registration under this chapter, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4-35, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or



- indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (E) A misdemeanor for operating a child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5-35, or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction if the offense is directly or indirectly related to jeopardizing the health or safety of a child.
- (3) A determination by the division that the operator of the child care ministry made false statements in the child care ministry's registration application.
- (4) A determination by the division that the operator of the child care ministry made false statements in the records required by the division.
- (5) A determination by the division that the operator of the child care ministry previously operated a:
- (A) child care ministry without a registration under this chapter;
 - (B) child care center without a license under IC 12-17.2-4; or
 - (C) child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5.
- (6) A determination by the division that the operator of the child care ministry has failed to comply with an order of the department of homeland security.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), if:

- (1) a registration is revoked due to a criminal conviction of an employee or a volunteer of the child care ministry; and
- (2) the division determines that the employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the child care ministry;

the criminal conviction of the former employee or former volunteer does not require revocation of the registration.

SECTION 85. IC 12-17.2-7.6-3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 66, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2025, after soliciting and considering recommendations from appropriate stakeholders, the office of the secretary shall develop a regulatory model that:

- (1) is applicable only to micro facilities;
- (2) incorporates waivers or variances from the office of the secretary's rules applicable to providers under this article; and
- (3) provides for a balance between the goals of:
 - (A) increasing the availability of child care, particularly in geographic areas facing a critical shortage of child care, by reducing the costs of operating a micro facility; and
 - (B) ensuring the health and safety of children for whom a micro facility provides child care.



(b) In determining waivers or variances to be incorporated under subsection (a)(2), the office of the secretary shall consider efficiencies such as:

- (1) allowing a micro facility to be operated in either a residential or nonresidential building;
- (2) prescribing educational requirements for staff members of a micro facility that are tailored to the needs of providing child care to groups of thirty (30) children or less; and
- (3) allowing for supervision of children of diverse age groups in a manner that maximizes use of limited facility space.

(c) Not later than March 1, 2025, the office of the secretary shall establish and administer a pilot program under which:

- (1) a licensee under ~~IC 12-7-2-28.4~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-55** or ~~IC 12-7-2-28.8~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-58** that:

- (A) operates an existing micro facility; or
- (B) proposes to begin operating a new micro facility not more than sixty (60) days after the date of the licensee's application under this subdivision;

may apply to participate in the pilot program in a manner prescribed by the office of the secretary;

- (2) the office of the secretary shall select at least three (3) licensees that apply under subdivision (1) and:

- (A) allow a selected licensee described in subdivision (1)(A) to operate the licensee's existing micro facility; and
- (B) allow a selected licensee described in subdivision (1)(B) to operate the licensee's proposed micro facility;

under the regulatory model developed under subsection (a); and

- (3) the office of the secretary shall:

- (A) monitor the operation of the micro facilities operating under the regulatory model under subdivision (2); and
- (B) evaluate the degree to which the operation of the micro facilities under the regulatory model serves the balance described in subsection (a)(3).

(d) The office of the secretary shall, to the extent practicable, select licensees for participation in the pilot program such that the micro facilities operated by the licensees are located in areas:

- (1) that are geographically diverse from one another; and
- (2) in which there exists a critical shortage of child care providers.

(e) A waiver or variance applied to a micro facility under this section expires on the earlier of:

- (1) the date specified by the office of the secretary; or
- (2) December 31, 2027.



SECTION 86. IC 12-17.6-1-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. "Provider" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-149.1(2)~~. **IC 12-7-2.1-267(2)**.

SECTION 87. IC 12-21-2-3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 68, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1296-2026, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. The secretary or the secretary's designee shall do the following:

- (1) Organize the division, create the appropriate personnel positions, and employ personnel necessary to discharge the statutory duties and powers of the division or a bureau of the division.
- (2) Subject to the approval of the state personnel department, establish personnel qualifications for all deputy directors, assistant directors, bureau heads, and superintendents.
- (3) Subject to the approval of the budget director and the governor, establish the compensation of all deputy directors, assistant directors, bureau heads, and superintendents.
- (4) Study the entire problem of mental health, mental illness, and addictions existing in Indiana.
- (5) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 for the following:
 - (A) Standards for the operation of private institutions that are licensed under IC 12-25 for the diagnosis, treatment, and care of individuals with psychiatric disorders, addictions, or other abnormal mental conditions.
 - (B) Licensing or certifying community residential programs described in IC 12-22-2-3.5 for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI), serious emotional disturbance (SED), or chronic addiction (CA) with the exception of psychiatric residential treatment facilities.
 - (C) Subject to IC 12-29-2-21, certifying community mental health centers to operate in Indiana.
 - (D) Establish exclusive geographic primary service areas for community mental health centers. The rules must include the following:
 - (i) Criteria and procedures to justify the change to the boundaries of a community mental health center's primary service area.
 - (ii) Criteria and procedures to justify the change of an assignment of a community mental health center to a primary service area.
 - (iii) A provision specifying that the criteria and procedures



determined in items (i) and (ii) must include an option for the county and the community mental health center to initiate a request for a change in primary service area or provider assignment.

(iv) A provision specifying the criteria and procedures determined in items (i) and (ii) may not limit an eligible consumer's right to choose or access the services of any provider who is certified by the division of mental health and addiction to provide public supported mental health services.

(E) The implementation and administration of certification requirements and standards for the following:

(i) Certified community behavioral health clinics.

(ii) Recovery community organizations.

(iii) Recovery residences, for residential care and supported housing for chronic addiction in a recovery residence.

(iv) Certified peers.

(6) Institute programs, in conjunction with an accredited college or university and with the approval, if required by law, of the commission for higher education, for the instruction of students of mental health and other related occupations. The programs may be designed to meet requirements for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and to provide continuing education and research.

(7) Develop programs to educate the public in regard to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of all abnormal mental conditions.

(8) Make the facilities of the state institutions available for the instruction of medical students, student nurses, interns, and resident and fellow physicians under the supervision of the faculty of any accredited school of medicine or osteopathy located in Indiana or an accredited residency or fellowship training program in connection with research and instruction in psychiatric disorders.

(9) Institute a stipend program designed to improve the quality and quantity of staff that state institutions employ.

(10) Establish, supervise, and conduct community programs, either directly or by contract, for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of psychiatric disorders.

(11) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 concerning the records and data to be kept concerning individuals admitted to state institutions, community mental health centers, or other providers.



(12) Compile information and statistics concerning the ethnicity and gender of a program or service recipient.

(13) Establish standards for services described in ~~IC 12-7-2-40.6~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-83** for community mental health centers and other providers.

(14) Provide that the standards for services provided by recovery residences for residential care and supported housing for chronic addiction, when used as a recovery residence, be certified by the division or the division's designee to ensure adherence to standards determined by the division.

(15) Provide that the standards for services provided by recovery community organizations for behavioral health recovery, when used as a recovery community organization, be certified by the division or the division's designee to ensure adherence to standards determined by the division.

(16) Certify integrated reentry and correctional support programs to ensure adherence to standards determined by the division or a certification body approved by the division.

(17) Require the division to:

(A) provide best practice recommendations to community mental health centers; and

(B) work with community mental health centers in a collaborative manner in order to ensure improved health outcomes as a part of reviews or audits.

Documentation developed as a part of an incident or death reporting audit or review is confidential and may only be shared between the division and the community mental health center.

SECTION 88. IC 12-21-8-10, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 70, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) The division shall coordinate:

(1) available onsite response services of crisis calls using state and locally funded mobile crisis teams; and

(2) crisis receiving and stabilization services resulting from a 9-8-8 call.

(b) The mobile crisis teams must be certified by the division and must include:

(1) a peer certified by the division; and

(2) at least one (1) of the following:

(A) A behavioral health professional licensed under IC 25-23.6.

(B) An other behavioral health professional (OBHP), as defined in 440 IAC 11-1-12.



(C) Emergency medical services personnel licensed under IC 16-31.

(D) Law enforcement based coresponder behavioral health teams.

(c) Crisis response services provided by a mobile crisis team must be provided under the supervision of:

- (1) a behavioral health professional licensed under IC 25-23.6;
- (2) a licensed physician; or
- (3) an advanced practice registered nurse (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-3.1~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-10**).

The supervision required under this subsection may be performed remotely.

SECTION 89. IC 12-23-1-13, AS ADDED BY P.L.220-2011, SECTION 274, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. Notwithstanding the amendments made to IC 12-7-2-12 (**repealed July 1, 2026, and reenacted at IC 12-7-2.1-19**) by P.L.168-2002, a person participating in an alcohol and drug services program before July 1, 2002, solely as a result of committing an infraction may continue in the program until the person successfully completes the program or is removed for a violation or noncompliance, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 90. IC 12-24-19-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.99-2007, SECTION 121, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) This chapter applies only to a patient who is transferred or discharged from a state institution administered by the division of mental health and addiction.

(b) This chapter does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) An individual who is admitted to a state institution only for evaluation purposes.
- (2) An individual who is incompetent to stand trial.
- (3) An individual who has a developmental disability (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-118**).
- (4) An individual in an alcohol and drug services program who is not concurrently diagnosed with a mental illness.
- (5) An individual who has escaped from the facility to which the individual was involuntarily committed.
- (6) An individual who was admitted to a facility for voluntary treatment and who has left the facility against the advice of the attending physician.

SECTION 91. IC 12-29-2-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2011, SECTION 30, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) This section applies to Lake County.



(b) In addition to any other appropriation under this article, the county annually may fund each center serving the county from the county's general fund in an amount not exceeding the following:

(1) For 2004, the product of the amount determined under section 2(b)(1) of this chapter multiplied by seven hundred fifty-two thousandths (0.752).

(2) For 2005 and each year thereafter, the product of the amount determined under section 2(b)(2) of this chapter for that year multiplied by seven hundred fifty-two thousandths (0.752).

(c) The receipts from the tax levied under this section shall be used for the leasing, purchasing, constructing, or operating of facilities for community based residential programs (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-40~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-76**) for individuals with a mental illness.

(d) Money appropriated under this section must be:

(1) budgeted under IC 6-1.1-17; and

(2) included in the center's budget submitted to the division of mental health and addiction.

(e) Permission for a levy increase in excess of the levy limitations may be ordered under IC 6-1.1-18.5-15 only if the levy increase is approved by the division of mental health and addiction for a community mental health center.

SECTION 92. IC 13-20-25-10, AS AMENDED BY SEA 277-2026, SECTION 210, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) A person:

(1) who:

(A) is not required to submit a recycling activity report under section 9 of this chapter; but

(B) recycled recyclable materials during a calendar year;

(2) who:

(A) meets the definition of "scrap metal processing facility" set forth in ~~IC 8-23-1-36~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-35**;

(B) meets the definition of "automotive salvage recycler" set forth in IC 9-13-2-10;

(C) meets the definition of "recycling facility" set forth in IC 9-13-2-150.3;

(D) is engaged in business subject to IC 9-22-3;

(E) meets the definition of "automotive salvage rebuilder" set forth in IC 9-32-2.1-5;

(F) meets the definition of "scrap metal processor" set forth in IC 13-11-2-196.5;

(G) meets the definition of "core buyer" set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.2; or



(H) meets the definition of "valuable metal dealer" set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1(b); or

(3) who:

(A) is not required to submit a recycling activity report under section 9 of this chapter; but

(B) took action during a calendar year to recover, from the solid waste stream, for purposes of:

- (i) use or reuse;
- (ii) conversion into raw materials; or
- (iii) use in the production of new products;

materials that were not municipal waste;

may voluntarily submit a recycling activity report to the commissioner concerning the person's recycling activity during the calendar year.

(b) The commissioner may include information reported to the commissioner under this section in the annual reports that the commissioner is required to submit under IC 4-23-5.5-6.

SECTION 93. IC 14-19-3-1, AS AMENDED BY SEA 15-2026, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The department may not charge a price of admission to:

- (1) inpatients of state or federally owned or operated hospitals or institutions and their supervisors;
- (2) foster families who reside together in the same foster family home licensed under IC 31-27-4;
- (3) individuals who meet the definition of foster youth set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-110(b)**; or
- (4) a Gold Star family member who displays:
 - (A) an Indiana Gold Star family member license plate under IC 9-18.5-33; or
 - (B) a free annual pass;

for the use of any property owned or managed by the department for purposes of this article.

(b) If necessary, the department may adopt rules concerning the appropriate form of identification or documentation required for admission to a location described in subsection (a).

SECTION 94. IC 14-22-11-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.155-2015, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) This section does not apply to the following:

- (1) A person who is:
 - (A) a resident of Indiana; and
 - (B) an individual born before April 1, 1943.
- (2) A person who is less than eighteen (18) years of age.



- (3) A person who is legally blind.
 - (4) A person who is a resident patient of a state mental institution.
 - (5) A person who is:
 - (A) a resident of a health facility (as defined in IC 16-18-2-167) licensed in Indiana; and
 - (B) taking part in a supervised activity of the health facility.
 - (6) A person who:
 - (A) is a resident of Indiana; and
 - (B) has a developmental disability (as defined ~~by IC 12-7-2-61~~; **in IC 12-7-2.1-118**).
 - (7) A person whose only participation in fishing is to assist an individual described in subdivision (3), (4), (5), or (6).
 - (8) A resident of Indiana who fishes during a free sport fishing day designated under IC 14-22-18.
- (b) Every person must have a fishing license in the person's possession when fishing in:
- (1) waters containing state owned fish;
 - (2) waters of the state; or
 - (3) boundary waters of the state.
- (c) Every person must have a valid electronically generated trout-salmon stamp in the person's possession to legally fish for or take trout or salmon in:
- (1) waters containing state owned fish;
 - (2) waters of the state; or
 - (3) boundary waters of the state.
- SECTION 95. IC 14-22-12-1.8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.233-2015, SECTION 26, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.8. (a) As used in this section, "individual with special circumstances" means an individual who:
- (1) has a developmental disability (as defined ~~by IC 12-7-2-61~~; **in IC 12-7-2.1-118**);
 - (2) is determined to be a student with a disability (as defined in IC 20-35-1-8); or
 - (3) has a permanent disability as determined by rules adopted by the department.
- (b) As used in this section, "special circumstances hunter" means an individual with special circumstances who hunts under a special circumstances hunting safety card issued under this section.
- (c) As used in this section, "special circumstances hunting safety card" refers to the card issued to a special circumstances hunter.
- (d) The department may issue a special circumstances hunting safety card to a resident or nonresident who qualifies under the rules



adopted by the department as authorized under this section.

(e) The commission shall establish the criteria for determining qualifications for a special circumstances hunting safety card.

(f) A special circumstances hunter may hunt in Indiana if the special circumstances hunter attends the course of instruction in hunter education offered by the department or the department's agent under IC 14-22-35.

(g) A special circumstances hunter must:

(1) comply with the requirements under this article, including obtaining a valid hunting license issued under IC 14-22-11, and the rules adopted by the department; and

(2) while hunting, be accompanied by an individual who:

(A) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and

(B) holds a valid hunting license issued under IC 14-22-11.

(h) An individual described in subsection (g)(2) who accompanies a special circumstances hunter:

(1) must be in close enough proximity to monitor the special circumstances hunter's activities and communicate with the special circumstances hunter at all times; and

(2) may not accompany more than two (2) holders of a special circumstances hunting safety card at one (1) time.

(i) The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to carry out this section.

SECTION 96. IC 16-18-2-167, AS AMENDED BY P.L.117-2015, SECTION 32, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 167. (a) "Health facility":

(1) except for purposes of IC 16-28-15, means a building, a structure, an institution, or other place for the reception, accommodation, board, care, or treatment extending beyond a continuous twenty-four (24) hour period in a week of more than four (4) individuals who need or desire such services because of physical or mental illness, infirmity, or impairment; and

(2) for purposes of IC 16-28-15, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-28-15-3.

(b) The term does not include the premises used for the reception, accommodation, board, care, or treatment in a household or family, for compensation, of a person related by blood to the head of the household or family (or to the spouse of the head of the household or family) within the degree of consanguinity of first cousins.

(c) The term does not include any of the following:

(1) Hotels, motels, or mobile homes when used as such.

(2) Hospitals or mental hospitals, except for that part of a hospital



that provides long term care services and functions as a health facility, in which case that part of the hospital is licensed under IC 16-21-2, but in all other respects is subject to IC 16-28.

- (3) Hospices that furnish inpatient care and are licensed under IC 16-25-3.
- (4) Institutions operated by the federal government.
- (5) Foster family homes or day care centers.
- (6) Schools for individuals who are deaf or blind.
- (7) Day schools for individuals with an intellectual disability.
- (8) Day care centers.
- (9) Children's homes and child placement agencies.
- (10) Offices of practitioners of the healing arts.
- (11) Any institution in which health care services and private duty nursing services are provided that is listed and certified by the Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc.
- (12) Industrial clinics providing only emergency medical services or first aid for employees.
- (13) A residential facility (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-165~~): **IC 12-7-2.1-292**).
- (14) Maternity homes.
- (15) Offices of Christian Science practitioners.

SECTION 97. IC 16-18-2-179, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1358-2026, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 179. (a) "Hospital", except as provided in subsections (b) through (h), means a hospital that is licensed under IC 16-21-2.

(b) "Hospital", for purposes of IC 16-21, means an institution, a place, a building, or an agency that holds out to the general public that it is operated for hospital purposes and that it provides care, accommodations, facilities, and equipment, in connection with the services of a physician, to individuals who may need medical or surgical services. The term does not include the following:

- (1) Freestanding health facilities.
- (2) Hospitals or institutions specifically intended to diagnose, care, and treat the following:
 - (A) Individuals with a mental illness (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-117.6~~): **IC 12-7-2.1-197**).
 - (B) Individuals with developmental disabilities (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~): **IC 12-7-2.1-118**).
- (3) Offices of physicians where patients are not regularly kept as bed patients.



- (4) Convalescent homes, boarding homes, or homes for the aged.
- (5) Rural emergency hospitals.
- (c) "Hospital", for purposes of IC 16-22-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-22-8-5.
- (d) "Hospital", for purposes of IC 16-23.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-23.5-1-9.
- (e) "Hospital" or "tuberculosis hospital", for purposes of IC 16-24, means an institution or a facility for the treatment of individuals with tuberculosis.
- (f) "Hospital", for purposes of IC 16-34, means a hospital (as defined in subsection (b)) that:
 - (1) is required to be licensed under IC 16-21-2; or
 - (2) is operated by an agency of the United States.
- (g) "Hospital", for purposes of IC 16-38-7, means an institution, a place, a building, or an agency that holds out to the general public that it is operated for hospital purposes and that it provides care, accommodations, facilities, and equipment, in connection with the services of a physician, to individuals who may need medical or surgical services. The term does not include the following:
 - (1) Freestanding health facilities.
 - (2) Long term acute care hospitals.
 - (3) Hospitals that do not provide emergency services.
 - (4) Hospitals or institutions specifically intended to diagnose, care, and treat the following:
 - (A) Individuals with a mental illness.
 - (B) Individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - (5) Offices of physicians where patients are not regularly kept as bed patients.
 - (6) Convalescent homes, boarding homes, or homes for the aged.
 - (7) Rehabilitation facilities.
- (h) "Hospital", for purposes of IC 16-41-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-41-12-6.

SECTION 98. IC 16-18-2-224.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.203-2017, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 224.1. "Medication assisted treatment" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-128.7.~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-223.**

SECTION 99. IC 16-18-2-225.6, AS ADDED BY P.L.210-2025, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 225.6. "Mental health facility", for purposes of IC 16-31, means the following:

- (1) A certified community behavioral health clinic (as defined in IC 12-15-1.3-25(a)).



(2) A community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-78**) certified under IC 12-21-2-3(5)(C).

SECTION 100. IC 16-18-2-344, AS AMENDED BY P.L.10-2019, SECTION 68, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 344. "Superintendent", for purposes of IC 16-36-3, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-188(3)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-323(3)**.

SECTION 101. IC 16-21-14-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.133-2019, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) This section and section 2 of this chapter do not apply to the following:

(1) A hospital that primarily provides inpatient and outpatient services to a pediatric population.

(2) A psychiatric hospital (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-151~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-270**).

(b) Each hospital shall adopt, implement, and periodically update evidence based sepsis guidelines for the early recognition and treatment of patients with sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock that are based on generally accepted guidelines. The sepsis guidelines must include components specific to the identification, care, and treatment of adults.

SECTION 102. IC 16-32-4-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.56-2016, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "developmental disability" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-118**.

SECTION 103. IC 16-33-4-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. The Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home is established as a state residential school and home for the care of Indiana children who are in need of residential care and would qualify for educational service. Preference shall be given to the admission of children of members of the armed forces and children of families of veterans who meet these admission criteria. A child who requires residential placement in a secure facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-114~~); **IC 31-9-2.1-222**), a juvenile detention facility, or a detention center for the safety of the child or others may not be placed at the home.

SECTION 104. IC 16-35-2-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.99-2007, SECTION 159, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) An individual who:

(1) has autism (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-19(b)~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-33(b)**); and

(2) is less than twenty-one (21) years of age;



has an eligible medical condition under this chapter.

(b) The state department shall extend all care, services, and materials provided under this chapter to an individual described in subsection (a) who meets any additional eligibility criteria established by the state department under this chapter.

SECTION 105. IC 16-36-1.5-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. In order to comply with this chapter, a mental health provider needs to obtain only one (1) consent for mental health services for a patient while admitted in or treated as an outpatient at the main facility or a clinic of any of the following:

- (1) A psychiatric hospital (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-151~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-270**).
- (2) A hospital (as defined in IC 16-18-2-179(b)).
- (3) A community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**).

SECTION 106. IC 16-36-3-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "appropriate facility" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-82(3)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-149(3)**.

SECTION 107. IC 16-36-3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "superintendent" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-188(3)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-323(3)**.

SECTION 108. IC 16-37-2-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.138-2019, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) A person in attendance at a live birth shall do the following:

- (1) File with the local health officer the following:
 - (A) A certificate of birth.
 - (B) Any paternity affidavit executed under section 2.1(c)(1) of this chapter.

Except as provided in IC 16-37-1-3.1(f), the person in attendance at a live birth shall use the Indiana birth registration system established under IC 16-37-1-3.1 to electronically file a birth certificate or paternity affidavit under this subdivision.

- (2) Advise the mother of a child born out of wedlock of:
 - (A) the availability of paternity affidavits under section 2.1 of this chapter; and
 - (B) the existence of the putative father registry established by IC 31-19-5-2.

(b) If there was no person in attendance at the birth, one (1) of the



parents shall file with the local health officer the following:

- (1) A certificate of birth.
- (2) Any paternity affidavit executed under section 2.1 of this chapter.

(c) If:

- (1) no person was in attendance at the birth and neither parent is able to prepare the certificate; or
 - (2) the local health officer does not receive a certificate of birth;
- the local health officer shall prepare a certificate of birth from information secured from any person who has knowledge of the birth.

(d) A local health department shall inform the Title IV-D agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-130~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-244**) regarding each paternity affidavit executed under section 2.1 of this chapter that the local health department receives under this section.

(e) A paternity affidavit executed under section 2.1(c)(1) of this chapter shall be filed with the local health officer not more than five (5) days after the child's birth.

(f) An attorney or agency that arranges an adoption may at any time request that the state department search its records to determine whether a man executed a paternity affidavit under section 2.1 of this chapter in relation to a child who is or may be the subject of an adoption that the attorney or agency is arranging.

(g) Not more than ten (10) days after receiving a request from an attorney or agency under subsection (f), the state department shall submit an affidavit to the attorney or agency verifying whether a paternity affidavit has been filed under this section. If a paternity affidavit has been filed regarding a child who is the subject of a request under subsection (f), the state department shall release a copy of the paternity affidavit to the requesting attorney or agency.

SECTION 109. IC 16-39-2-6, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 94, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Without the consent of the patient, the patient's mental health record may only be disclosed as follows:

- (1) To individuals who meet the following conditions:
 - (A) Are employed by:
 - (i) the provider at the same facility or agency;
 - (ii) a managed care provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-219**); or
 - (iii) a health care provider or mental health care provider, if the mental health records are needed to provide health care or mental health services to the patient.
 - (B) Are involved in the planning, provision, and monitoring of



services.

(2) To the extent necessary to obtain payment for services rendered or other benefits to which the patient may be entitled, as provided in IC 16-39-5-3.

(3) To the patient's court appointed counsel and to the Indiana protection and advocacy services commission.

(4) For research conducted in accordance with IC 16-39-5-3 and the rules of the division of mental health and addiction, the rules of the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services, the rules of the provider, or the rules of the Indiana archives and records administration and the oversight committee on public records.

(5) To the division of mental health and addiction for the purpose of data collection, research, and monitoring managed care providers (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-219**) who are operating under a contract with the division of mental health and addiction.

(6) To the extent necessary to make reports or give testimony required by the statutes pertaining to admissions, transfers, discharges, and guardianship proceedings.

(7) To a law enforcement agency if any of the following conditions are met:

(A) A patient escapes from a facility to which the patient is committed under IC 12-26.

(B) The superintendent of the facility determines that failure to provide the information may result in bodily harm to the patient or another individual.

(C) A patient commits or threatens to commit a crime on facility premises or against facility personnel.

(D) A patient is in the custody of a law enforcement officer or agency for any reason and:

(i) the information to be released is limited to medications currently prescribed for the patient or to the patient's history of adverse medication reactions; and

(ii) the provider determines that the release of the medication information will assist in protecting the health, safety, or welfare of the patient.

Mental health records released under this clause must be maintained in confidence by the law enforcement agency receiving them.

(8) To a coroner or medical examiner, in the performance of the individual's duties.



- (9) To a school in which the patient is enrolled if the superintendent of the facility determines that the information will assist the school in meeting educational needs of the patient.
- (10) To the extent necessary to satisfy reporting requirements under the following statutes:
- (A) IC 12-10-3-10.
 - (B) IC 12-24-17-5.
 - (C) IC 16-41-2-3.
 - (D) IC 16-49-3-3.
 - (E) IC 16-49-4-5.
 - (F) IC 16-49-6-6.
 - (G) IC 16-49.5-2-6.
 - (H) IC 16-50-1-8.
 - (I) IC 31-25-3-2.
 - (J) IC 31-33-5-4.
 - (K) IC 34-30-16-2.
 - (L) IC 35-46-1-13.
- (11) To the extent necessary to satisfy release of information requirements under the following statutes:
- (A) IC 12-24-11-2.
 - (B) IC 12-24-12-3, IC 12-24-12-4, and IC 12-24-12-6.
 - (C) IC 12-26-11.
- (12) To another health care provider in a health care emergency.
- (13) For legitimate business purposes as described in IC 16-39-5-3.
- (14) Under a court order under IC 16-39-3.
- (15) With respect to records from a mental health or developmental disability facility, to the United States Secret Service if the following conditions are met:
- (A) The request does not apply to alcohol or drug abuse records described in 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2 unless authorized by a court order under 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2(b)(2)(c).
 - (B) The request relates to the United States Secret Service's protective responsibility and investigative authority under 18 U.S.C. 3056, 18 U.S.C. 871, or 18 U.S.C. 879.
 - (C) The request specifies an individual patient.
 - (D) The director or superintendent of the facility determines that disclosure of the mental health record may be necessary to protect a person under the protection of the United States Secret Service from serious bodily injury or death.
 - (E) The United States Secret Service agrees to only use the mental health record information for investigative purposes



and not disclose the information publicly.

(F) The mental health record information disclosed to the United States Secret Service includes only:

- (i) the patient's name, age, and address;
- (ii) the date of the patient's admission to or discharge from the facility; and
- (iii) any information that indicates whether or not the patient has a history of violence or presents a danger to the person under protection.

(16) To the statewide bureau of disabilities services ombudsman established under IC 12-11-13, in the performance of the ombudsman's duties.

(b) If a licensed mental health professional, a licensed paramedic, a representative of a mobile integrated healthcare program (as described in IC 16-31-12), or a representative of a mental health community paramedicine program in the course of rendering a treatment intervention, determines that a patient may be a harm to himself or herself or others, the licensed mental health professional, the licensed paramedic, the representative of the mobile integrated healthcare program (as described in IC 16-31-12), or the representative of the mental health community paramedicine program may request a patient's individualized mental health safety plan from a psychiatric crisis center, psychiatric inpatient unit, or psychiatric residential treatment provider. Each psychiatric crisis center, psychiatric inpatient unit, and psychiatric residential treatment provider shall, upon request and without the consent of the patient, share a patient's individualized mental health safety plan that is in the standard format established by the division of mental health and addiction under IC 12-21-5-6 with the following individuals who demonstrate proof of licensure and commit to protecting the information in compliance with state and federal privacy laws:

- (1) A licensed mental health professional.
- (2) A licensed paramedic.
- (3) A representative of a mobile integrated healthcare program (as described in IC 16-31-12).
- (4) A representative of a mental health community paramedicine program.

An individualized mental health safety plan disclosed under this subsection may be used only to support a patient's welfare and safety and is considered otherwise confidential information under applicable state and federal laws.

(c) After information is disclosed under subsection (a)(15) and if the



patient is evaluated to be dangerous, the records shall be interpreted in consultation with a licensed mental health professional on the staff of the United States Secret Service.

(d) A person who discloses information under subsection (a)(7), (a)(15), or (b) in good faith is immune from civil and criminal liability.

SECTION 110. IC 16-39-11-4.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2022, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.5. (a) As used in this chapter, "Indiana governmental entity" means:

- (1) the state (as defined in IC 5-11-1-16(b));
- (2) a state educational institution (as defined in IC 21-7-13-32);
- (3) a political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13); or
- (4) a public school corporation (as defined in IC 4-4-38.5-6.2).

(b) The term does not include the following:

- (1) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~): **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).
- (2) A hospital organized or operated under IC 16-22-1 through IC 16-22-5, IC 16-22-8, or IC 16-23-1.

SECTION 111. IC 16-41-21.2-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.125-2023, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "child care facility" means any of the following:

- (1) A child care center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.4~~): **IC 12-7-2.1-55**).
- (2) A child care home (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.6~~): **IC 12-7-2.1-57**).

SECTION 112. IC 16-41-21.2-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.125-2023, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "preschool" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-143.5~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-258**.

SECTION 113. IC 16-41-40-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.145-2006, SECTION 145, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) A program established under this chapter must include the distribution of readily understandable information and instructional materials regarding childhood hazards. Information concerning shaken baby syndrome, must explain its medical effects on infants and children and emphasize preventive measures.

(b) The information and instructional materials described in subsection (a) concerning shaken baby syndrome must be provided without cost by the following:

- (1) Each hospital licensed under IC 16-21, to a parent or guardian



of each newborn upon discharge from the hospital.

(2) The department of child services to each provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-149.1~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-267** or ~~IC 31-9-2-99.3~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-193**) when:

- (A) the provider applies for a license from the division or the department of child services under IC 12-17.2 or IC 31-27; or
- (B) the division or the department of child services inspects a facility operated by a provider.

SECTION 114. IC 16-42-5.2-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.139-2005, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. This chapter does not apply to the following:

- (1) Hospitals licensed under IC 16-21.
- (2) Health facilities licensed under IC 16-28.
- (3) Housing with services establishments that are required to file disclosure statements under IC 12-10-15.
- (4) Continuing care retirement communities required to file disclosure statements under IC 23-2-4.
- (5) Community mental health centers (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**).
- (6) Private mental health institutions licensed under IC 12-25.
- (7) An area agency on aging designated under IC 12-10-1 that provides food under a nutrition service program. However, the premises where the food is prepared is not exempt from the requirements under this chapter.
- (8) A food pantry that:
 - (A) is operated or affiliated with a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
 - (B) distributes food, which may include food from the United States Department of Agriculture, to needy persons.

However, a food bank or other facility that distributes donated food to other organizations is not exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

SECTION 115. IC 20-18-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.99-2007, SECTION 161, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. "Individualized education program" means a written statement developed for a child by a group that includes:

- (1) a representative of the school corporation or public agency responsible for educating the child;
- (2) the child's teacher;
- (3) the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;



- (4) if appropriate, the child; and
- (5) if the provision of services for a child with a serious emotional disability is considered, a mental health professional provided by:
 - (A) the community mental health center (as described in IC 12-29); or
 - (B) a ~~managed care~~ provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127(b)~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-267(5)**;

serving the community in which the child resides; and that describes the special education to be provided to the child.

SECTION 116. IC 20-19-3-17, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2025, SECTION 24, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. (a) As used in this section, "foster care" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.7~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-107.**

(b) As used in this section, "foster care youth" means students in foster care.

(c) As used in this section, "graduation rate" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-26-13-6.

(d) The state board shall, in collaboration with the department and the department of child services, annually prepare a report on foster care youth educational outcomes that includes the following:

- (1) The annual graduation rate of foster care youth, including the following information:
 - (A) The graduation rate for each of the following:
 - (i) Foster care youth who received a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.
 - (ii) Foster care youth who did not receive a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.
 - (B) The number and percentage of foster care youth who received each type of diploma.
- (2) The adjusted cohort graduation rate for foster care youth, including the adjusted cohort graduation rate for each of the following:
 - (A) Foster care youth who received a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.
 - (B) Foster care youth who did not receive a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.
- (3) The number and percentage for each of the following:
 - (A) Foster care youth who were promoted to the next grade



level at the end of the school year.

(B) Foster care youth who were retained in the same grade level for the next school year.

(C) Foster care youth who were suspended during the school year.

(D) Foster care youth who were expelled during the school year.

(E) Foster care youth who met academic standards on statewide assessment program tests (as defined in IC 20-32-2-2.3) administered during the school year.

The information reported under this subdivision must also be disaggregated by race, grade, gender, free or reduced price lunch status, and eligibility for special education.

(4) The number and percentage of eligible foster care youth who are enrolled in the prekindergarten program under IC 12-17.2-7.2.

(5) The number and percentage of foster care youth who passed the reading skills evaluation administered under IC 20-32-8.5-2.

(6) The number and percentage of foster care youth enrolled in schools, disaggregated by the category or designation of the school under IC 20-31-8-3.

(7) The number and percentage of foster care youth enrolled in schools, disaggregated by the type of school, including public schools, charter schools, and secure private facilities (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**).

(e) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall submit the report described in subsection (d) to the following:

(1) Department of child services.

(2) Legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

SECTION 117. IC 20-19-3-18, AS AMENDED BY P.L.214-2025, SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. (a) As used in this section, "graduation rate" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-26-13-6.

(b) The state board shall, in collaboration with the department and the department of child services, annually prepare a report on homeless youth educational outcomes that includes the following:

(1) The annual graduation rate of homeless youth, including the following information:

(A) The graduation rate for each of the following:

(i) Homeless youth who received a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.

(ii) Homeless youth who did not receive a waiver from



postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.

(B) The number and percentage of homeless youth who received each type of diploma.

(2) The adjusted cohort graduation rate for homeless youth, including the adjusted cohort graduation rate for each of the following:

(A) Homeless youth who received a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.

(B) Homeless youth who did not receive a waiver from postsecondary readiness competency requirements under IC 20-32-4-4.1.

(3) The number and percentage of each of the following:

(A) Homeless youth who were promoted to the next grade level at the end of the school year.

(B) Homeless youth who were retained in the same grade level for the next school year.

(C) Homeless youth who were suspended during the school year.

(D) Homeless youth who were expelled during the school year.

(E) Homeless youth who met academic standards on statewide assessment program tests (as defined in IC 20-32-2-2.3) administered during the school year.

The information reported under this subdivision must also be disaggregated by race, grade, gender, free or reduced price lunch status, and eligibility for special education.

(4) The number and percentage of eligible homeless youth who are enrolled in the prekindergarten program under IC 12-17.2-7.2.

(5) The number and percentage of homeless youth who passed the reading skills evaluation administered under IC 20-32-8.5-2.

(6) The number and percentage of homeless youth enrolled in schools, disaggregated by the category or designation of the school under IC 20-31-8-3.

(7) The number and percentage of homeless youth enrolled in schools, disaggregated by the type of school, including public schools, charter schools, and secure private facilities (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-223**).

(c) Not later than June 1 of each year, the department shall submit the report described in subsection (b) to the following:

(1) The Indiana housing and community development authority.

(2) The legislative council in an electronic format under



IC 5-14-6.

SECTION 118. IC 20-26-11-11.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024, SECTION 140, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11.5. (a) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) "ADM" means average daily membership (as defined in IC 20-18-2-2).

(2) "Facility" means a secure private facility described in ~~IC 31-9-2-115(a)(1)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-223(a)(1)**.

(3) "School corporation" means the Indiana school or charter school that is receiving state tuition support for the student at the time of the student's admission to the facility.

(4) "Student" means an individual who:

(A) is more than five (5) years of age and less than twenty-three (23) years of age;

(B) has been admitted to a facility; and

(C) was enrolled in a school corporation during the school year immediately preceding the student's admission to the facility.

(b) This section applies to a student if:

(1) the student is placed in a facility under the written order of a physician licensed under IC 25-22.5;

(2) the written order of the physician licensed under IC 25-22.5 is based on medical necessity, as determined by a physician licensed under IC 25-22.5; and

(3) the student receives educational services provided by the facility.

(c) A facility shall provide written notice to the school corporation not later than five (5) business days (excluding weekends and holidays) after a student described in subsection (b) is admitted to the facility.

The written notice must include the following:

(1) The student's name, address, and date of birth.

(2) The date on which the student was admitted to the facility.

(3) A copy of the physician's written order.

(4) A statement that the student has opted out of attending school under section 8 of this chapter.

(5) A statement that the facility will provide all educational services to the student during the student's admission in the facility.

(d) The school corporation shall pay the facility a daily per diem as determined under subsection (e) for the educational services provided by the facility to the student during the student's admission in the facility. The school corporation may not be required to pay for any



educational services provided to the student by the facility exceeding one hundred eighty (180) instructional days or an amount exceeding the student's proportionate share of state distributions paid to the school corporation, as determined under subsection (e).

(e) A school corporation shall pay to the facility an amount, prorated according to the number of instructional days for which the student receives the educational services, equal to:

- (1) the student's proportionate share (as compared to the school corporation's total ADM) of basic tuition support (as determined under IC 20-43-6-3) distributions that are made to the school corporation for the school year; and
- (2) any special education grants received by the school corporation for the student under IC 20-43-7.

Upon request of a facility, the department shall verify the amounts described in this subsection for a student admitted to the facility.

(f) A school corporation responsible for making a per diem payment under this section shall pay the facility not later than sixty (60) days after receiving an invoice from the facility. The school corporation and the facility are entitled to the same remedies for disagreements over amounts or nonpayment of an amount due as are provided under the laws governing transfer tuition.

(g) For each student admitted to a facility, the facility shall provide the following in accordance with rules adopted by the state board:

- (1) An educational opportunity, including special education and related services, that is comparable to that of a student attending a school in the school corporation.
- (2) A level of educational services from the facility that is comparable to that of a student attending a school in the school corporation.
- (3) Unless otherwise provided in a student's individualized education program (as defined in IC 20-18-2-9), educational services that include at least the following:
 - (A) An instructional day that meets the requirements of IC 20-30-2-2.
 - (B) A school year with at least one hundred eighty (180) student instructional days as provided under IC 20-30-2-3.
 - (C) Educationally appropriate textbooks and other materials.
 - (D) Educational services provided by licensed teachers.

(h) The state board shall adopt a rule under IC 4-22-2 that addresses the responsibilities of the school corporation and the facility with regard to a student with an individualized education program.

(i) This section does not limit a student's right to attend a school as



provided in section 8 of this chapter.

(j) The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 as necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 119. IC 20-27-9-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.2-2017, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) As used in this section, "developmental disability" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~. **IC 12-7-2.1-118.**

(b) A special education cooperative operating under IC 36-1-7, IC 20-35-5, or IC 20-26-10 or a school corporation may enter into an agreement with an agency or organization serving persons with a developmental disability in which a school bus or special purpose bus used by the special education cooperative or school corporation may be used to transport persons with a developmental disability who are at least two (2) years of age to and from programs for persons with a developmental disability.

(c) An increased cost of transportation for persons with a developmental disability shall be borne by the persons transported or the agency or organization serving persons with a developmental disability. However, a person with a developmental disability may not be required to pay for transportation provided under this section if the required payment is contrary to law.

SECTION 120. IC 20-27-12-0.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.167-2018, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.3. As used in this chapter, "foster care" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.7~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-107.**

SECTION 121. IC 20-33-2.5-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.125-2024, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. Each governing authority shall adopt a truancy prevention policy regarding absent students that includes the following:

- (1) A school shall immediately provide written notification to the parent of an absent student that includes the following information:
 - (A) That the student is an absent student based on the student's school attendance.
 - (B) That the parent is responsible for:
 - (i) monitoring the absent student's school attendance; and
 - (ii) ensuring the absent student attends school in accordance with compulsory attendance laws.
 - (C) That the school will be initiating truancy prevention measures regarding the absent student.
 - (D) That the parent is required to attend an attendance conference regarding the truancy prevention measures that the



school will be implementing for the absent student.

(E) That, if the student meets the requirements of a habitual truant, the:

(i) superintendent or attendance officer of the school is required to report the student to an intake officer of the juvenile court or the department of child services in accordance with IC 20-33-2-25;

(ii) juvenile court may determine that the student is committing a delinquent act as provided under IC 31-37-2-3; and

(iii) parent of the student may be subject to prosecution under IC 35-46-1-4.

(2) Except as provided under section 5 of this chapter, a school shall hold an attendance conference with at least the following individuals to discuss the student's absences and establish a plan for the student to prevent future absences:

(A) A representative of the school.

(B) A teacher of the student.

(C) The student's parent.

(D) A representative chosen by the student's parent who may provide insight into the student's absenteeism if the student's parent:

(i) makes a request to the school that the representative attend; and

(ii) provides notice to the school regarding the identification of the representative;

at least forty-eight (48) hours before the attendance conference.

(3) A school shall establish a plan under subdivision (2) that may include the following:

(A) Any wraparound services that are able to be provided to the absent student to ensure the absent student attends school.

(B) A specific description of the behavior that is required or prohibited for the absent student.

(C) The period for which the plan will be effective, not to exceed forty-five (45) instructional days after the date the plan is established.

(D) Any additional disciplinary action the school will take if the absent student does not comply with the plan.

(E) If applicable, a referral to counseling, mentoring, or other services for the student.

(F) If applicable, whether a parent is expected to attend the



counseling, mentoring, or other services under clause (E) with the student.

(G) To the extent possible, the signature of the parent of the student agreeing to comply with the plan.

(4) A school shall offer additional counseling or services to an absent student if the school determines that the student's absences are related to any of the following:

(A) The student's pregnancy.

(B) That the student is in foster care (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.7~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-107**).

(C) That the student is homeless.

(D) That the student has a severe or life threatening illness or related treatment.

SECTION 122. IC 20-35-6-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.245-2023, SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The secretary of education may contract with in-state or out-of-state public and private schools, state agencies, or child caring institutions (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-29(1)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-60(1)**) to pay, with any funds appropriated for this purpose, the excess costs of educating children of school age:

(1) who have been identified as eligible for special education services; and

(2) whose disability is of such intensity as to preclude achievement in the existing local public school setting.

The state shall pay the costs of the services that exceed the amount a school corporation is required to pay, as determined by the department under subsection (b).

(b) The department shall determine the amount a school corporation must pay before the state will pay excess costs described in subsection (a). At a minimum, school corporations shall pay their share of the total tuition costs for children with disabilities served under this section.

(c) The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 necessary to implement this section.

(d) Money appropriated for the purposes of this section does not revert to the state general fund.

SECTION 123. IC 20-50-3-1.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.46-2016, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.1. As used in this chapter, "foster care" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.7~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-107**.

SECTION 124. IC 20-51.4-5.5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025, SECTION 237, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 4: (a) If it is reasonably expected by the department that a



CSA participating entity will receive, from payments made under the CSA program, more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) during a particular school year, the CSA participating entity shall, on or before a date prescribed by the department, provide the department evidence, in a manner prescribed by the department, indicating that the CSA participating entity has unencumbered assets sufficient to pay the department an amount equal to the amount expected to be paid to the CSA participating entity under the CSA program during the particular school year.

(b) Each CSA participating entity that accepts payments made from a CSA account under this article shall provide a receipt to the parent of a career scholarship student or to the emancipated career scholarship student for each payment made.

SECTION 125. IC 21-12-6-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 118, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) Unless a student qualifies under subsection (b), to qualify to participate in the program, a student must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Be a resident of Indiana.
- (2) Be:
 - (A) enrolled in grade 7 or 8 at a:
 - (i) public school; or
 - (ii) nonpublic school that is accredited either by the Indiana state board of education or by a national or regional accrediting agency whose accreditation is accepted as a school improvement plan under IC 20-31-4.1-2; or
 - (B) otherwise qualified under the rules of the commission that are adopted under IC 21-18.5-4-9(2) to include students who are in grades other than grade 8 as eligible students.
- (3) Be a member of a household with an annual income of not more than the amount required for the individual to qualify for free or reduced price lunches under the national school lunch program, as determined for the immediately preceding taxable year for the household for which the student was claimed as a dependent.
- (4) Agree that the student will:
 - (A) graduate from a secondary school located in Indiana that meets the admission criteria of an eligible institution;
 - (B) not illegally use controlled substances (as defined in IC 35-48-1.1-7);
 - (C) not commit a crime or an infraction described in IC 9-30-5;



- (D) not commit any other crime or delinquent act (as described in IC 31-37-1-2 or IC 31-37-2-2 through IC 31-37-2-5 (or IC 31-6-4-1(a)(1) through IC 31-6-4-1(a)(5) before their repeal));
- (E) timely apply, when the eligible student is a senior in high school:
- (i) for admission to an eligible institution; and
 - (ii) for any federal and state student financial assistance available to the eligible student to attend an eligible institution;
- (F) achieve a cumulative grade point average upon graduation of:
- (i) at least 2.0, if the student graduates from high school before July 1, 2014; and
 - (ii) at least 2.5, if the student graduates from high school after June 30, 2014;
- on a 4.0 grading scale (or its equivalent if another grading scale is used) for courses taken during grades 9, 10, 11, and 12; and
- (G) complete an academic success program required under the rules adopted by the commission, if the student initially enrolls in high school after June 30, 2013.
- (b) A student qualifies to participate in the program if the student:
- (1) before or during grade 7 or grade 8, is placed by or with the consent of the department of child services, by a court order, or by a child placing agency in:
 - (A) a foster family home;
 - (B) the home of a relative or other unlicensed caretaker;
 - (C) a child caring institution; or
 - (D) a group home;
 - (2) meets the requirements in subsection (a)(1) through (a)(2); and
 - (3) agrees in writing, together with the student's caseworker (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-11~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-29**) or legal guardian, to the conditions set forth in subsection (a)(4).
- (c) The commission may require that an applicant apply electronically to participate in the program using an online Internet application on the commission's website.

SECTION 126. IC 21-12-6-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.107-2012, SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) This section applies to a student described in section 5(b) of this chapter.



(b) A caseworker (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-11~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-29**) shall provide each student to whom the caseworker is assigned information concerning the program at the appropriate time for the student to receive the information, shall explain the program to the student, and shall provide the student with information concerning:

- (1) Pell grants;
- (2) Chafee grants;
- (3) federal supplemental grants;
- (4) the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
- (5) individual development accounts (as described under IC 4-4-28); and
- (6) the commission for higher education's programs under IC 21-18.5-3-1.

(c) A student who receives information under this section shall sign a written acknowledgment that the student received the information. The written acknowledgment must be placed in the student's case file.

SECTION 127. IC 21-12-6-15, AS ADDED BY P.L.39-2010, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. A caseworker (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-11~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-29**) shall provide each foster parent of a student described in section 5(b) of this chapter to whom the caseworker is assigned information concerning individual development accounts (as described under IC 4-4-28).

SECTION 128. IC 21-18-20-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.213-2025, SECTION 250, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 5:~~
 (a) The commission shall develop and implement a comprehensive career navigation and coaching system for Indiana that does both of the following:

- (1) Provides timely, comprehensive, relevant, and useful information on careers, including at least:
 - (A) general and industry sector based regional, state, national, and global information to identify both immediate and potential career opportunities arising from:
 - (i) current employer needs;
 - (ii) developing or foreseeable talent needs and trends; and
 - (iii) other factors identified by the commission;
 - (B) state, regional, and local labor market supply and demand information from the department of workforce development, industry sectors, and other verifiable sources; and
 - (C) educational requirements and attainment information from employers, the department of workforce development, and other verifiable sources.



(2) Establishes strategies and identifies capacity to deliver career navigation and coaching to kindergarten through grade 12 students; including at least:

(A) processes for identifying an individual's aptitude for and interest in; and the education and training required for; various career and employment opportunities;

(B) the use of approved intermediaries; career coaches; and other coaching resources;

(C) qualifications for career coaches and a training program to enable the career coaches to provide relevant information to the individuals being served;

(D) the incorporation and ongoing usage of Internet based systems that are interoperable with the comprehensive career navigation and coaching system; and

(E) career exploration; engagement; and experience.

(b) All high schools in Indiana may participate in the comprehensive career navigation and coaching system developed under subsection (a).

(c) In developing and implementing the comprehensive career navigation and coaching system described in subsection (a); the commission shall:

(1) work in consultation with; and receive cooperation; support; and assistance from:

(A) the department of workforce development; governor's workforce cabinet; and department; and

(B) the resources; providers; and institutions that the department of workforce development; and department use and oversee;

(2) explore approaches and models from Indiana and other states and countries;

(3) where appropriate; use pilot programs or other scaling approaches to develop and implement the comprehensive career navigation and coaching system in a cost effective and efficient manner; and

(4) initially focus on students enrolled in high school.

SECTION 129. IC 22-3-2-2.3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 108, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.3. (a) As used in this section, "volunteer worker" means a person who:

(1) performs services:

(A) for a state institution (as defined in IC ~~12-7-2-184~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-318**); and

(B) for which the person does not receive compensation of any



nature; and

(2) has been approved and accepted as a volunteer worker by the director of:

(A) the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services; or

(B) the division of mental health and addiction.

(b) Services of any nature performed by a volunteer worker for a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) are governmental services. A volunteer worker is subject to the medical benefits described under this chapter through IC 22-3-6. However, a volunteer worker is not under this chapter through IC 22-3-6.

SECTION 130. IC 22-4-2-30, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 206, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 30. For all purposes of this article, the term "hospital" means:

(1) an institution defined in IC 16-18-2-179(b) and licensed by the Indiana department of health; or

(2) a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).

SECTION 131. IC 22-4-14-3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 214-2026, SECTION 35, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A claimant who is receiving benefits as determined under IC 22-4-15-1(c)(8) may restrict the claimant's availability because of the claimant's need to address the physical, psychological, or legal effects of being a victim of domestic or family violence (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-42~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-84**).

(b) An unemployed claimant shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the claimant:

(1) is physically and mentally able to work;

(2) is available for work;

(3) is found by the department to be actively making an effort to secure full-time work; and

(4) participates in reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities when directed by the department as provided under sections 3.2 and 3.5 of this chapter, unless the department determines that:

(A) the claimant has completed the reemployment services; or

(B) failure by the claimant to participate in or complete the reemployment services is excused by the director under IC 22-4-14-2(b).

(c) For the purpose of this article, unavailability for work of a claimant exists in, but is not limited to, any case in which, with respect



to any week, it is found:

- (1) that the claimant is engaged by any unit, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, in charge of public works or assistance through public employment, or any unit, agency, or instrumentality of this state, or any political subdivision thereof, in charge of any public works or assistance through public employment;
- (2) that the claimant is in full-time active military service of the United States, or is enrolled in civilian service as a conscientious objector to military service;
- (3) that the claimant is suspended for misconduct in connection with the ~~the~~ claimant's work; or
- (4) that the claimant is in attendance at a regularly established public or private school during the customary hours of the claimant's occupation or is in any vacation period intervening between regular school terms during which the claimant is a student. However, this subdivision does not apply to any claimant who is attending a regularly established school, has been regularly employed and upon becoming unemployed makes an effort to secure full-time work and is available for suitable full-time work with the claimant's last employer, or is available for any other full-time employment deemed suitable.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this section or IC 22-4-15-2, no otherwise eligible claimant shall be denied benefits for any week because the claimant is in training with the approval of the department, nor shall the claimant be denied benefits with respect to any week in which the claimant is in training with the approval of the department by reason of the application of the provisions of this section with respect to the availability for work or active search for work or by reason of the application of the provisions of IC 22-4-15-2 relating to failure to apply for, or the refusal to accept, suitable work. The department may by rule prescribe the conditions under which approval of such training will be granted.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (b), (c), or (d), or IC 22-4-15-2, an otherwise eligible claimant shall not be denied benefits for any week or determined not able, available, and actively seeking work, because the claimant is responding to a summons for jury service. The claimant shall:

- (1) obtain from the court proof of the claimant's jury service; and
 - (2) provide to the department, in the manner the department prescribes by rule, proof of the claimant's jury service.
- (f) If an otherwise eligible claimant is unable to work or unavailable



for work on any normal work day of the week, the claimant shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to such week reduced by one-third (1/3) of the claimant's weekly benefit amount for each day of such inability to work or unavailability for work.

(g) A claimant has made an effort to secure full-time work with respect to any week in which any of the following apply:

- (1) The claimant has completed activities directed by the department under sections 3.2 and 3.5 of this chapter.
- (2) The claimant has performed at least two (2) acceptable work search activities, including any work search activities provided by the department to the claimant through the claimant's uplink home page.
- (3) The claimant has affirmed that the claimant has made an effort to secure full-time work.
- (4) The claimant applies to, and accepts if offered, suitable jobs referred to the claimant by the department.

(h) For purposes of this section, acceptable work search activities may include:

- (1) creating a reemployment plan, in conjunction with a work one office;
- (2) creating a resume;
- (3) uploading the claimant's resume to Indiana career connect;
- (4) registering for work with Indiana career connect, a placement firm, temporary work agencies, or an educational institution with job placement offices;
- (5) using online career tools reasonably expected to improve the claimant's likelihood of finding employment;
- (6) logging on and looking for work in Indiana career connect;
- (7) using reemployment services in a work one center or completing similar online or self-service activities;
- (8) completing job applications for employers that have, or are reasonably expected to have, job openings, or following through on job referrals or job development attempts, as directed by state workforce or unemployment insurance staff;
- (9) applying for or participating in employment and training services provided by partner programs in work one centers;
- (10) creating a personal user profile on a professional networking site appropriate for the claimant's prior training and experience;
- (11) participating in work related networking events;
- (12) making contacts or in person visits to employers that have, or are reasonably expected to have, job openings;
- (13) taking a civil service exam; or



(14) going on interviews with employers virtually or in person.

(i) For purposes of this section, the department will determine whether work is suitable on a case by case basis pursuant to the criteria set forth in IC 22-4-15-2. The following apply with respect to suitable work:

(1) In order to maintain benefit eligibility, when the department directs, a claimant must apply for any available position.

(2) Suitable work must be accepted, if the offer is received by a claimant at any time after the claimant's separation from employment.

(3) Failure to accept suitable work, without good cause, will result in the claimant being ineligible for benefits.

(j) Except for activities that the department will verify under subsection (h)(1), (h)(3), (h)(5), (h)(6), and (h)(8), for a period of six (6) months following the week in which the work search activities occurred, the claimant must keep a detailed record of the claimant's weekly work search activities so that the department can verify the activity for an audit or eligibility review. A detailed record includes the following information:

(1) The date of the activity.

(2) The name of the employer, event host, organizer, platform, or other identifying information, such as a job reference number.

(3) Contact information, such as the employer's mailing address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or website address, and name of the person contacted, if available.

(4) Details of the position for which the claimant applied or activity in which the claimant participated.

(5) Method of contact or participation.

(6) Confirmation of the claimant's contact or participation.

(7) Results of the claimant's contact or participation.

(k) A contemporaneous document generated by an employer, an event host, an organizer, a platform, or other relevant third party that includes the date and details of an activity as well as confirmation of the claimant's submission or participation, will be presumed to satisfy the requirements of subsection (j).

(l) The department may allow a claimant to satisfy the requirements of subsection (j) through a document other than one described in subsection (j) or (k), but the claimant must demonstrate the reliability and appropriateness of the documentation.

SECTION 132. IC 22-4-15-1, AS AMENDED BY SEA 214-2026, SECTION 38, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) Regarding an individual's most recent



separation from employment before filing an initial or additional claim for benefits, an individual who voluntarily left the employment without good cause in connection with the work or was discharged from the employment for just cause is ineligible for waiting period or benefit rights for the week in which the disqualifying separation occurred and until:

- (1) the individual has earned remuneration in employment in at least eight (8) weeks; and
- (2) the remuneration earned equals or exceeds the product of the weekly benefit amount multiplied by eight (8).

If the qualification amount has not been earned at the expiration of an individual's benefit period, the unearned amount shall be carried forward to an extended benefit period or to the benefit period of a subsequent claim.

(b) When it has been determined that an individual has been separated from employment under disqualifying conditions as outlined in this section, the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim, as initially determined, shall be reduced by an amount determined as follows:

- (1) For the first separation from employment under disqualifying conditions, the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim is equal to the result of:

- (A) the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim, as initially determined; multiplied by
- (B) seventy-five percent (75%);

rounded (if not already a multiple of one dollar (\$1)) to the next higher dollar.

- (2) For the second separation from employment under disqualifying conditions, the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim is equal to the result of:

- (A) the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim determined under subdivision (1); multiplied by
- (B) eighty-five percent (85%);

rounded (if not already a multiple of one dollar (\$1)) to the next higher dollar.

- (3) For the third and any subsequent separation from employment under disqualifying conditions, the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim is equal to the result of:

- (A) the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current claim determined under subdivision (2); multiplied by
- (B) ninety percent (90%);

rounded (if not already a multiple of one dollar (\$1)) to the next



higher dollar.

(c) The disqualifications provided in this section shall be subject to the following modifications:

(1) An individual shall not be subject to disqualification because of separation from the individual's employment if:

(A) the individual left to accept with another employer previously secured permanent full-time work which offered reasonable expectation of continued covered employment and betterment of wages or working conditions and thereafter was employed on said job;

(B) having been simultaneously employed by two (2) employers, the individual leaves one (1) such employer voluntarily without good cause in connection with the work but remains in employment with the second employer with a reasonable expectation of continued employment; or

(C) the individual left to accept recall made by a base period employer.

(2) An individual whose unemployment is the result of medically substantiated physical disability and who is involuntarily unemployed after having made reasonable efforts to maintain the employment relationship shall not be subject to disqualification under this section for such separation.

(3) An individual who left work to enter the armed forces of the United States shall not be subject to disqualification under this section for such leaving of work.

(4) An individual whose employment is terminated under the compulsory retirement provision of a collective bargaining agreement to which the employer is a party, or under any other plan, system, or program, public or private, providing for compulsory retirement and who is otherwise eligible shall not be deemed to have left the individual's work voluntarily without good cause in connection with the work. However, if such individual subsequently becomes reemployed and thereafter voluntarily leaves work without good cause in connection with the work, the individual shall be deemed ineligible as outlined in this section.

(5) An otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits for any week because the individual is in training approved under Section 236(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, nor shall the individual be denied benefits by reason of leaving work to enter such training, provided the work left is not suitable employment, or because of the application to any week in training of provisions



in this law (or any applicable federal unemployment compensation law), relating to availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "suitable employment" means with respect to an individual, work of a substantially equal or higher skill level than the individual's past adversely affected employment (as defined for purposes of the Trade Act of 1974), and wages for such work at not less than eighty percent (80%) of the individual's average weekly wage as determined for the purposes of the Trade Act of 1974.

(6) An individual is not subject to disqualification because of separation from the individual's employment if:

- (A) the employment was outside the individual's labor market;
- (B) the individual left to accept previously secured full-time work with an employer in the individual's labor market; and
- (C) the individual actually became employed with the employer in the individual's labor market.

(7) An individual who, but for the voluntary separation to move to another labor market to join a spouse who had moved to that labor market, shall not be disqualified for that voluntary separation, if the individual is otherwise eligible for benefits. Benefits paid to the spouse whose eligibility is established under this subdivision shall not be charged against the employer from whom the spouse voluntarily separated.

(8) An individual shall not be subject to disqualification if the individual voluntarily left employment or was discharged due to circumstances directly caused by domestic or family violence (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-42~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-84**). An individual who may be entitled to benefits based on this modification may apply to the office of the attorney general under IC 5-26.5 to have an address designated by the office of the attorney general to serve as the individual's address for purposes of this article.

(9) An individual shall not be subject to disqualification if the individual:

- (A) has requested an exemption from an employer's COVID-19 immunization requirement;
- (B) has complied with the requirements set forth in IC 22-5-4.6; and
- (C) was discharged from employment for failing or refusing to receive an immunization against COVID-19.

As used in this subsection, "labor market" means the area surrounding an individual's permanent residence, outside which the individual



cannot reasonably commute on a daily basis. In determining whether an individual can reasonably commute under this subdivision, the department shall consider the nature of the individual's job.

(d) "Discharge for just cause" as used in this section is defined to include but not be limited to:

- (1) separation initiated by an employer for falsification of an employment application to obtain employment through subterfuge;
- (2) knowing violation of a reasonable and uniformly enforced rule of an employer, including a rule regarding attendance;
- (3) if an employer does not have a rule regarding attendance, an individual's unsatisfactory attendance, if good cause for absences or tardiness is not established;
- (4) damaging the employer's property through willful and wanton misconduct;
- (5) refusing to obey instructions;
- (6) conduct endangering safety of self or coworkers;
- (7) incarceration in jail following conviction of a misdemeanor or felony by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
- (8) any breach of duty in connection with work which is reasonably owed an employer by an employee.

(e) For purposes of subsection (d), the following apply:

- (1) An employer rule will be found to be reasonable if it:
 - (A) is lawful;
 - (B) is related to the employer's business operations;
 - (C) is intended by the employer to broadly apply to classes, categories, or all employees; and
 - (D) does not create a harsh or unconscionable requirement for employees.
- (2) In order to qualify as a breach of duty for unemployment insurance purposes, the duty must be:
 - (A) reasonably connected to the work;
 - (B) reasonably owed to the employer by the employee; and
 - (C) of a nature that a reasonable employee would recognize as a violation of the duty and would understand that a violation of the duty would subject the individual to discharge.
- (3) A breach of duty reasonably owed to an employer includes conduct that establishes that the individual:
 - (A) damaged the employer's trust and confidence in the individual's ability to effectively perform the job;
 - (B) willfully failed to meet the employer's reasonable expectation;



- (C) chose a course of action that the individual knew, or should have known, would negatively impact the employer's financial interests;
- (D) demonstrated an intentional or substantial disregard for the employer's interests;
- (E) intentionally or knowingly injured, or attempted to injure, the employer's financial interests;
- (F) intentionally chose a course of action that set the individual's interests against the employer's interests to the detriment of the employer;
- (G) showed carelessness or negligence to such a degree, or with such recurrence, as to cause damage to the employer's interests; or
- (H) performed some volitional act or exercised some control over the circumstances resulting in discharge from employment.

(f) To verify that domestic or family violence has occurred, an individual who applies for benefits under subsection (c)(8) shall provide one (1) of the following:

- (1) A report of a law enforcement agency (as defined in IC 10-13-3-10).
- (2) A protection order issued under IC 34-26-5.
- (3) A foreign protection order (as defined in IC 34-6-2.1-76).
- (4) An affidavit from a domestic violence service provider verifying services provided to the individual by the domestic violence service provider.

(g) An individual will not be considered to have voluntarily left employment for good cause in connection with the work unless it is established that a reasonable individual in the same or similar circumstances would also have left the employment.

(h) A voluntary leave of employment due to excessive discipline, or inappropriate comments or conduct by managers or coworkers, does not constitute good cause in connection with the work unless it is established that an individual in the same or similar circumstances would reasonably believe that the:

- (1) conduct was severe and pervasive;
- (2) conduct:
 - (A) was motivated by the individual's:
 - (i) race;
 - (ii) age;
 - (iii) sex;
 - (iv) national origin; or



- (v) religious beliefs or other status protected by law;
- (B) endangered the individual's physical safety; or
- (C) endangered the individual's mental health; and
- (3) the individual reported the conduct pursuant to the employer's procedures, if any, but no employer action was taken within a reasonable period of time.

(i) An individual who leaves employment in anticipation of an imminent discharge does so with good cause if it is established that the:

- (1) discharge was imminent; and
- (2) imminent discharge would not have been for just cause.

(j) If an employer gives an employee the opportunity to submit a resignation from employment, rather than be discharged, and the employee resigns, this is a quit in lieu of discharge, and the separation will be analyzed under the discharge for just cause criteria, as the employer is the moving party in the separation.

SECTION 133. IC 22-4.1-18-1, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1195-2026, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies to an individual who is:

- (1) at least eighteen (18) years of age; or
- (2) less than eighteen (18) years of age and meets the following requirements:

(A) The individual has completed:

- (i) the Indiana career explorer program; and
- (ii) an assessment approved by the department that measures Indiana high school equivalency test readiness.

(B) The individual has received a written recommendation from at least one (1) of the following, as applicable:

- (i) The individual's parent if the individual attends a nonaccredited nonpublic school that has less than one (1) employee.
- (ii) The superintendent (as defined in IC 20-18-2-21), principal, or head of the school the individual attends, or the appropriate designee, if the individual attends a school that employs more than one (1) employee.

(iii) A judge (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-68~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-141**).

SECTION 134. IC 22-12-7-15, AS ADDED BY P.L.160-2025, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) Except as provided by subsection (c), if a property is inspected by the department or plans were reviewed by the department, neither the department nor a political subdivision may require compliance with a new or different set of building, fire safety,



or equipment laws than were originally enforced by the department:

- (1) before July 1, 2025; or
- (2) two (2) years after the earlier of the date of the:
 - (A) initial inspection; or
 - (B) plan review.

(b) A child care home (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.6~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-57**) that was licensed to operate in a Class 2 structure by the office of the secretary of family and social services before July 1, 2025, may continue to operate in the structure notwithstanding the provisions of this article and 675 IAC 13.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) Any:
 - (A) fraud;
 - (B) material misrepresentation; or
 - (C) other act of bad faith;
 that results in misapplication of the appropriate requirements.
- (2) A change of use or occupancy of the structure or equipment.
- (3) A condition imposed in a variance issued by the:
 - (A) department; or
 - (B) commission.
- (4) Any new construction, addition, or alteration of the structure or equipment.
- (5) A violation that would qualify for an emergency order under section 6(a)(1) of this chapter.
- (6) Any maintenance requirements.

SECTION 135. IC 24-5-14-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. A caller may not use an automatic dialing-announcing device to make a telephone call to the following:

- (1) A hospital (as defined in IC 16-18-2-179(b)).
- (2) An ambulatory outpatient surgical center (as defined in IC 16-18-2-14).
- (3) A health facility (as defined in IC 16-18-2-167).
- (4) An emergency medical services facility (as defined in IC 16-18-2-111).
- (5) A business providing emergency ambulance services (as defined in IC 16-18-2-107).
- (6) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).
- (7) A private mental health institution licensed under IC 12-25.
- (8) A residential facility (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-165~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-292**).



(9) A law enforcement agency (as defined in IC 10-13-3-10).

(10) A fire department (as defined in IC 36-8-17-2).

SECTION 136. IC 25-1-9.5-2.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.109-2022, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) As used in this chapter, "health care services" includes the following:

(1) The following concerning a patient:

- (A) Assessment.
- (B) Diagnosis.
- (C) Evaluation.
- (D) Consultation.
- (E) Treatment.
- (F) Monitoring of a patient.

(2) Transfer of medical data.

(3) Patient health related education.

(4) Health administration.

(b) The term does not include case management services, care management services, service coordination services, or care coordination services:

(1) as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-25~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-46**;

(2) provided to individuals under the Indiana Medicaid program or Medicaid waivers; or

(3) provided to individuals under any other programs administered by the office of the secretary of family and social services or the Indiana department of health.

SECTION 137. IC 25-37.5-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.222-2013, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) When used in this chapter, "valuable metal" means any product made of metal that readily may be resold. The term:

(1) includes metal bosses and small component motor vehicle parts; and

(2) does not include the following:

- (A) A beverage can.
- (B) Used jewelry regulated under IC 24-4-13.
- (C) Precious metal regulated under IC 24-4-19.

(b) As used in this chapter, "valuable metal dealer" means any individual, firm, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership engaged in the business of purchasing and reselling valuable metal either at a permanently established place of business or in connection with a business of an itinerant nature, including junk shops, junk yards, junk stores, auto wreckers, scrap metal dealers or processors, salvage yards, collectors of or dealers in junk, and junk cars or trucks. The term



includes a core buyer. The term does not include a person who purchases a vehicle and obtains title to the vehicle.

(c) As used in this chapter, "purchase" means acquiring a valuable metal product for a consideration, but does not include purchases between scrap metal processing facilities (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-36~~): **IC 8-23-1.1-35**).

SECTION 138. IC 27-1-4.5-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.239-2025, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "insurer" includes the following:

- (1) An insurer (as defined in IC 27-1-2-3(x)) that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance (as defined in IC 27-8-5-1(a)). However, the term does not include the coverages described in IC 27-8-5-2.5(a).
- (2) A health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-1-19) that provides coverage for basic health care services (as defined in IC 27-13-1-4).
- (3) A managed care organization (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-218**) that provides services to a Medicaid recipient.
- (4) A prepaid health care delivery plan under IC 5-10-8-7(c) that provides group health coverage for state employees.

SECTION 139. IC 27-1-22-20.1, AS AMENDED BY SEA 15-2026, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20.1. (a) For purposes of this section, an individual is a "foster youth" if:

- (1) the department of child services; or
- (2) a designee of the department of child services;

certifies or acknowledges that the individual is a foster youth (as defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)~~): **IC 31-9-2.1-110(b)**).

(b) The department of child services established by IC 31-25-1-1 shall make available to foster youths and to the public a list, provided by the Insurance Institute of Indiana, identifying insurers that may provide automobile insurance coverage outside the plan described in subsection (c) for a minor without a guardian cosigner. The list of insurers shall be reviewed annually.

(c) An assigned risk automobile insurance plan established by insurers under section 20 of this chapter must, subject to the rules of the plan, make automobile insurance available to a foster youth who:

- (1) is at least sixteen (16) years of age and not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and
- (2) is receiving services from the department of child services.

(d) An applicant who is a foster youth is responsible for paying all



costs of a policy of automobile insurance issued under subsection (c). A state or local government agency, foster parent, or entity providing services to an applicant under a contract or at the direction of a state or local government agency shall not be required to pay any costs associated with a policy of automobile insurance issued under subsection (c) and shall not be liable for any damages that result from the foster youth's operation of an automobile owned and insured by the foster youth.

SECTION 140. IC 27-1-24.2-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.189-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) This chapter applies to a policy or contract that is issued, delivered, entered into, renewed, or amended after December 31, 2025.

(b) This chapter does not apply to the following:

- (1) Medicaid or a managed care organization (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-218**).
- (2) Except as provided in section 18 of this chapter, a state employee health plan (as defined in IC 5-10-8-6.7).

SECTION 141. IC 27-1-24.5-0.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.152-2024, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.7. As used in this chapter, "contract holder" means:

- (1) an individual or entity that offers health insurance coverage to its employees or members through a self-funded health benefit plan, including a self-funded health benefit plan that complies with the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);
- (2) a health plan; or
- (3) Medicaid or a managed care organization (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-218**) that provides services to a Medicaid recipient;

that contracts with a pharmacy benefit manager to provide services.

SECTION 142. IC 27-1-37.5-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.144-2025, SECTION 26, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the department shall establish, post, and maintain on the department's website a standardized prior authorization form for use by health care providers and utilization review entities for purposes of any notice or authorization required by a utilization review entity with respect to payment for a health care service rendered to a covered individual.

(b) After December 31, 2020, a Medicaid managed care organization (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-218**) shall use



a standardized prior authorization form prescribed by the office of the secretary of family and social services.

SECTION 143. IC 27-1-37.6-9, AS ADDED BY P.L.203-2023, SECTION 19, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) As used in this chapter, "health plan" means any of the following:

- (1) A policy of accident and sickness insurance (as defined in IC 27-8-5-1). However, the term does not include the coverages described in IC 27-8-5-2.5(a).
- (2) A contract with a health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-1-19) that provides coverage for basic health care services (as defined in IC 27-13-1-4).
- (3) A self-insurance program established under IC 5-10-8-7(b) to provide health care coverage.

(b) The term includes the following:

- (1) The insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance described in subsection (a)(1).
- (2) The health maintenance organization referred to in subsection (a)(2).
- (3) The entity with which the state contracts for the administration of the self-insurance program established under IC 5-10-8-7(b) to provide health care coverage.

(c) The term does not include a Medicaid managed care organization, as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-218**.

SECTION 144. IC 27-1-44.5-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.216-2025, SECTION 45, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "health payer" includes the following:

- (1) Medicare.
- (2) Medicaid or a managed care organization (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-218**) that has contracted with Medicaid to provide services to a Medicaid recipient.
- (3) An insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance (as defined in IC 27-8-5-1), except for the following types of coverage:
 - (A) Accident only, credit, dental, vision, long term care, or disability income insurance.
 - (B) Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance.
 - (C) Automobile medical payment insurance.
 - (D) A specified disease policy.
 - (E) A policy that provides indemnity benefits not based on any expense incurred requirements, including a plan that provides



coverage for:

- (i) hospital confinement, critical illness, or intensive care; or
- (ii) gaps for deductibles or copayments.
- (F) Worker's compensation or similar insurance.
- (G) A student health plan.
- (H) A supplemental plan that always pays in addition to other coverage.
- (4) A health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-1-19).
- (5) A pharmacy benefit manager (as defined in IC 27-1-24.5-12).
- (6) An administrator (as defined in IC 27-1-25-1).
- (7) A multiple employer welfare arrangement (as defined in IC 27-1-34-1).
- (8) An employee benefit plan that is subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), including a third party administrator of an employee benefit plan.
- (9) A state employee health plan (as defined in IC 5-10-8-6.7(a)).
- (10) An insurance producer, for purposes of the required reporting under IC 27-1-15.6-13.6.
- (11) Any other person identified by the commissioner for participation in the data base described in this chapter.

SECTION 145. IC 27-1-46.5-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.216-2025, SECTION 46, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter and except as provided in subsection (b), "hospital" means an acute care hospital licensed under IC 16-21.

(b) The term does not include the following:

- (1) A hospital specifically intended to diagnose, care, and treat the following:
 - (A) Individuals with a mental illness (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-117.6~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-197**).
 - (B) Individuals with a developmental disability (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-118**).
- (2) A hospital designated by the Medicaid program as a long term care hospital.
- (3) A hospital that is a Medicare certified, freestanding rehabilitation hospital.
- (4) A hospital that is operated by the federal government.
- (5) A critical access hospital.
- (6) A rural emergency hospital.

SECTION 146. IC 27-2-25.5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,



SECTION 295, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) A plan sponsor that contracts with a third party administrator, the office of the secretary of family and social services that contracts with a managed care organization (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-126.9~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-218**) to provide services to a Medicaid recipient, or the state personnel department that contracts with a prepaid health care delivery plan under IC 5-10-8-7(c) to provide group health coverage for state employees may, one (1) time in a calendar year and not earlier than six (6) months following a previously requested audit, request an audit of compliance with the contract. If requested by the plan sponsor, office of the secretary of family and social services, or state personnel department, the audit shall include full disclosure of the following concerning data specific to the plan sponsor, office of the secretary, or state personnel department:

- (1) Claims data described in section 1 of this chapter.
- (2) Claims received by the third party administrator, managed care organization, or prepaid health care delivery plan on any of the following:
 - (A) The CMS-1500 form or its successor form.
 - (B) The HCFA-1500 form or its successor form.
 - (C) The HIPAA X12 837P electronic claims transaction for professional services, or its successor transaction.
 - (D) The HIPAA X12 837I institutional form or its successor form.
 - (E) The CMS-1450 form or its successor form.
 - (F) The UB-04 form or its successor form.

The forms or transaction may be modified as necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191).

(3) Claims payments, electronic funds transfer, or remittance advice notices provided by the third party administrator, managed care organization, or prepaid health care delivery plan as ASC X12N 835 files or a successor format. The files may be modified only as necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191). In the event that paper claims are provided, the third party administrator, managed care organization, or prepaid health care delivery plan shall convert the paper claims to the ASC X12N 835 electronic format or a successor format.

(4) Any fees charged to the plan sponsor, office of the secretary of family and social services, or state personnel department



related to plan administration and claims processing, including renegotiation fees, access fees, repricing fees, or enhanced review fees.

(b) A third party administrator, managed care organization, or prepaid health care delivery plan may not impose:

(1) fees for:

(A) requesting an audit under this section; or

(B) selecting an auditor other than an auditor designated by the third party administrator, managed care organization, or prepaid health care delivery plan; or

(2) conditions that would restrict a party's right to conduct an audit under this section, including restrictions on the:

(A) time period of the audit;

(B) number of claims analyzed;

(C) type of analysis conducted;

(D) data elements used in the analysis; or

(E) selection of an auditor as long as the auditor:

(i) does not have a conflict of interest;

(ii) meets a threshold for liability insurance specified in the contract between the parties;

(iii) does not work on a contingent fee basis; and

(iv) does not have a history of breaching nondisclosure agreements.

(c) A third party administrator, managed care organization, or prepaid health care delivery plan shall provide claims data to the contract holder not later than fifteen (15) business days after the claims data is requested.

(d) Information provided in an audit under this section must be provided in accordance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191).

(e) A contract that is entered into, issued, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2024, may not contain a provision that violates this section.

(f) A violation of this section is an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance under IC 27-4-1-4.

(g) The department may also adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to set forth fines for a violation under this section.

SECTION 147. IC 27-8-5-15.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 245, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15.5. (a) ~~As used~~ **The following terms are defined for use** in this section:

"Alcohol abuse" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-10~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-17**.



"Community mental health center" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-38 and IC 12-7-2-39~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-77 and IC 12-7-2.1-78.**

"Division of mental health and addiction" refers to the division created under IC 12-21-1-1.

"Drug abuse" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-72~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-128.**

"Indiana department of health" refers to the department established by IC 16-19-1-1.

"Inpatient services" means services that require the beneficiary of the services to remain overnight in the facility in which the services are offered.

"Mental illness" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-130(1)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-226(1).**

"Psychiatric hospital" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-151~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-270.**

"Substance abuse" means drug abuse or alcohol abuse.

(b) An insurance policy that provides coverage for inpatient services for the treatment of:

- (1) mental illness;
- (2) substance abuse; or
- (3) both mental illness and substance abuse;

may not exclude coverage for inpatient services for the treatment of mental illness or substance abuse that are provided by a community mental health center or by any psychiatric hospital licensed by the Indiana department of health or the division of mental health and addiction to offer those services.

SECTION 148. IC 27-8-5-15.8, AS ADDED BY P.L.103-2020, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15.8. (a) As used in this section, "treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse" means:

- (1) treatment for a mental illness, as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-130(1)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-226(1);** and
- (2) treatment for drug abuse or alcohol abuse.

(b) As used in this section, "act" refers to the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act of 2008 and any amendments thereto, plus any federal guidance or regulations relevant to that act, including 45 CFR 146.136, 45 CFR 147.136, 45 CFR 147.160, and 45 CFR 156.115(a)(3).

(c) As used in this section, "nonquantitative treatment limitations" refers to those limitations described in 26 CFR 54.9812-1, 29 CFR 2590.712, and 45 CFR 146.136.

(d) An insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness



insurance that provides coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse shall submit a report to the department not later than December 31 of each year that contains the following information:

- (1) A description of the processes:
 - (A) used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse; and
 - (B) used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions.
- (2) Identification of all nonquantitative treatment limitations that are applied to:
 - (A) coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse; and
 - (B) coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions;
 within each classification of benefits.

(e) There may be no separate nonquantitative treatment limitations that apply to coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse that do not apply to coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions within any classification of benefits.

(f) An insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance that provides coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse shall also submit an analysis showing the insurer's compliance with this section and the act to the department not later than December 31 of each year. The analysis must do the following:

- (1) Identify the factors used to determine that a nonquantitative treatment limitation will apply to a benefit, including factors that were considered but rejected.
- (2) Identify and define the specific evidentiary standards used to define the factors and any other evidence relied upon in designing each nonquantitative treatment limitation.
- (3) Provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine the following:
 - (A) That the processes and strategies used to design each nonquantitative treatment limitation for coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse are comparable to, and applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to design each nonquantitative treatment limitation for coverage of services for treatment of



other medical or surgical conditions.

(B) That the processes and strategies used to apply each nonquantitative treatment limitation for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse are comparable to, and applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to apply each nonquantitative limitation for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions.

(g) The department shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with this section and the applicable provisions of the act.

SECTION 149. IC 27-8-23-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "insurer" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-120~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-202**.

SECTION 150. IC 27-13-7-14.2, AS ADDED BY P.L.103-2020, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14.2. (a) As used in this section, "treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse" means:

- (1) treatment for a mental illness, as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-130(1)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-226(1)**; and
- (2) treatment for drug abuse or alcohol abuse.

(b) As used in this section, "act" refers to the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act of 2008 and any amendments thereto, plus any federal guidance or regulations relevant to that act, including 45 CFR 146.136, 45 CFR 147.136, 45 CFR 147.160, and 45 CFR 156.115(a)(3).

(c) As used in this section, "nonquantitative treatment limitations" refers to those limitations described in 26 CFR 54.9812-1, 29 CFR 2590.712, and 45 CFR 146.136.

(d) An individual contract or a group contract that provides coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse shall submit a report to the department not later than December 31 of each year that contains the following information:

- (1) A description of the processes:
 - (A) used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse; and
 - (B) used to develop or select the medical necessity criteria for coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions.
- (2) Identification of all nonquantitative treatment limitations that are applied to:
 - (A) coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or



substance abuse; and

(B) coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions;

within each classification of benefits.

(e) There may be no separate nonquantitative treatment limitations that apply to coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse that do not apply to coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions within any classification of benefits.

(f) An individual contract or a group contract that provides coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse shall also submit an analysis showing the insurer's compliance with this section and the act to the department not later than December 31 of each year. The analysis must do the following:

(1) Identify the factors used to determine that a nonquantitative treatment limitation will apply to a benefit, including factors that were considered but rejected.

(2) Identify and define the specific evidentiary standards used to define the factors and any other evidence relied upon in designing each nonquantitative treatment limitation.

(3) Provide the comparative analyses, including the results of the analyses, performed to determine the following:

(A) That the processes and strategies used to design each nonquantitative treatment limitation for coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse are comparable to, and applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to design each nonquantitative treatment limitation for coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions.

(B) That the processes and strategies used to apply each nonquantitative treatment limitation for treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse are comparable to, and applied no more stringently than, the processes and strategies used to apply each nonquantitative limitation for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions.

(g) The department shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with this section and the applicable provisions of the act.

SECTION 151. IC 28-1-1-3.9, AS ADDED BY SEA 15-2026, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.9. For purposes of section 7 of this chapter, "foster youth" means an individual who is:

(1) at least sixteen (16) years of age; and



(2) certified or acknowledged as a foster youth (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-110(b)**) by the department of child services or a designee of the department of child services.

SECTION 152. IC 29-3-1-2.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.11-2023, SECTION 93, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. "Conduct a criminal history check" means to:

(1) request:

(A) the state police department to conduct a:

(i) fingerprint based criminal history background check of both national and state records data bases concerning a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age in accordance with IC 10-13-3-27 and IC 10-13-3-39; or

(ii) national name based criminal history record check (as defined in IC 10-13-3-12.5) of a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age as provided under IC 10-13-3-27.5; or

(B) if an individual has:

(i) a physical disability that prevents fingerprinting and a person approved by the department of child services who is trained to take fingerprints or a qualified medical practitioner (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-100.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-196**) verifies that the individual has a disabling condition that prevents fingerprinting; or

(ii) low quality fingerprints, as a result of age, occupation, or otherwise, that prevent fingerprint results from being obtained and the individual's fingerprints have been rejected the required number of times by automated fingerprint classification equipment or rejected by a person designated by the state police department to examine and classify fingerprints;

the state police department to conduct a national name based criminal history record check (as defined in IC 10-13-3-12.5) or request the state police department to release or allow inspection of a limited criminal history (as defined in IC 10-13-3-11) and the state police in every state the individual has resided in the past five (5) years to release or allow inspection of the individual's criminal history;

(2) collect each substantiated report of child abuse or neglect reported in a jurisdiction where a probation officer, a caseworker, or the department of child services has reason to believe that a person who is fourteen (14) years of age or older, or a person for whom a fingerprint based criminal history background check is



required under IC 31, resided within the previous five (5) years;
 (3) conduct a check of the national sex offender registry maintained by the United States Department of Justice for all persons who are at least fourteen (14) years of age; and
 (4) conduct a check of local law enforcement agency records in every jurisdiction where a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age has resided within the previous five (5) years unless the department of child services or a court grants an exception to conducting this check.

SECTION 153. IC 29-3-1-3.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.194-2017, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. "De facto custodian" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-35.5~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-72.**

SECTION 154. IC 29-3-1-7.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.5. "Incapacitated person" means an individual who:

- (1) cannot be located upon reasonable inquiry;
- (2) is unable:
 - (A) to manage in whole or in part the individual's property;
 - (B) to provide self-care; or
 - (C) to perform both activities in clauses (A) and (B);** because of insanity, mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness, infirmity, habitual drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, incarceration, confinement, detention, duress, fraud, undue influence of others on the individual, or other incapacity; or
- (3) has a developmental disability (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-61~~). **IC 12-7-2.1-118).**

SECTION 155. IC 29-3-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.68-2005, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The surviving parent of a minor does not have the right to custody of the minor without a proceeding authorized by law if the parent was not granted custody of the minor in a dissolution of marriage decree and the conditions specified in this section exist.

(b) If:

- (1) the surviving parent, at the time of the custodial parent's death, had required supervision during parenting time privileges granted under a dissolution of marriage decree involving the minor; or
- (2) the surviving parent's parenting time privileges with the minor had been suspended at the time of the death of the custodial parent;

the court on petition by any person, including a temporary custodian



named under IC 31-17-2-11 (or IC 31-1-11.5-27 before its repeal), or on the court's own motion, may appoint a temporary guardian for the minor for a specified period not to exceed sixty (60) days.

(c) If a petition is filed under this section, a court shall appoint a guardian ad litem (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-50~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-117**) or a court appointed special advocate (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-28~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-67**) for the child. A guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate appointed under this section serves until removed by the court.

(d) If a temporary guardian is appointed without notice and the minor files a petition that the guardianship be terminated or the court order modified, the court shall hold a hearing and make a determination on the petition at the earliest possible time.

(e) A temporary guardian appointed under this section has only the responsibilities and powers that are ordered by the court.

(f) A proceeding under this section may be joined with a proceeding under IC 29-3-4 or IC 29-3-5.

(g) The court shall appoint a guardian under this article if the court finds that the surviving parent is not entitled to the right of custody of the minor.

SECTION 156. IC 29-3-5-1.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.104-2015, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. A petitioner for appointment as a guardian of a minor in a guardianship to which IC 29-3-8-9 applies shall submit the necessary information, forms, or consents for the department of child services to conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) of the petitioner and any other household members before the court appoints the guardian under this chapter or during the guardianship administration.

SECTION 157. IC 29-3-8-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.48-2012, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) A probate or juvenile court may include in its order creating a guardianship of a minor the following:

- (1) A requirement that the minor must reside with the guardian until the guardianship is terminated or modified.
- (2) Any terms and conditions that a parent must meet in order to seek modification or termination of the guardianship.

(b) Except as provided in IC 29-3-12, if an order creating a guardianship contains terms and conditions described in subsection (a)(2), the court may modify or terminate the guardianship only if the parent:

- (1) complies with the terms and conditions; and



(2) proves the parent's current fitness to assume all parental obligations by a preponderance of the evidence.

(c) If:

(1) a petition is filed for modification, resignation, or removal of the guardian or termination of the guardianship before the parent complies with the court ordered terms and conditions described in subsection (a)(2); and

(2) the minor:

(A) was the subject of a petition alleging the child to be a child in need of services; or

(B) is participating in a program of informal adjustment;

the court shall refer the petition to the department of child services for the department of child services to determine the placement of the child in accordance with the best interests of the child.

(d) A court shall notify the department of child services:

(1) if:

(A) the court appoints a guardian for a minor who:

(i) was the subject of a petition alleging the minor to be a child in need of services; or

(ii) is participating in a program of informal adjustment; and

(B) a petition to modify or terminate the guardianship of the minor or a petition regarding the death, resignation, or removal of the guardian is filed; and

(2) of any hearings related to the petitions described under subdivision (1)(B).

(e) If a minor was the subject of a petition alleging the minor to be a child in need of services or is participating in a program of informal adjustment, the court shall do the following at a hearing regarding a petition filed under this section:

(1) Consider the position of the department of child services.

(2) If requested by the department of child services, allow the department of child services to present evidence regarding:

(A) whether the guardianship should be modified or terminated;

(B) the fitness of the parent to provide for the care and supervision of the minor at the time of the hearing;

(C) the appropriate care and placement of the child; and

(D) the best interests of the child.

(f) The department of child services or the proposed guardian shall notify the court creating a guardianship if the department of child services has approved financial assistance to a guardian for the benefit of the protected person, as a component of child services (as defined in



~~IC 31-9-2-17.8(1)(E)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-47(1)(E)**). If the guardian will be provided assistance as a component of child services, the court shall order the guardian to provide financial support to the protected person to the extent the following resources do not fully support the needs of the protected person:

- (1) The guardianship property of the protected person.
- (2) Child support or other financial assistance received by the guardian from the protected person's parent or parents.
- (3) Periodic payments the guardian receives from the department of child services for support of the protected person as set forth in the department of child service's rules or the terms of the guardianship assistance agreement.

SECTION 158. IC 29-3-9-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 83, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "department" means the department of child services established by IC 31-25-1-1.

(b) As used in this section and except as otherwise provided in this section, "foster care" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.7~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-107**.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (d) and (h), by a properly executed power of attorney, a parent of a minor or a guardian (other than a temporary guardian) of a protected person may delegate to another person for:

- (1) any period during which the care and custody of the minor or protected person is entrusted to an institution furnishing care, custody, education, or training; or
- (2) a period not exceeding twelve (12) months;

any powers regarding health care, support, custody, or property of the minor or protected person. A delegation described in this subsection is effective immediately unless otherwise stated in the power of attorney.

(d) A parent of a minor or a guardian of a protected person may not delegate under subsection (c) the power to:

- (1) consent to the marriage or adoption of a protected person who is a minor; or
- (2) petition the court to request the authority to petition for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, or annulment of marriage on behalf of a protected person as provided under section 12.2 of this chapter.

(e) Subject to IC 30-5-5-16, a person having a power of attorney executed under subsection (c) has and shall exercise, for the period during which the power is effective, all other authority of the parent or guardian respecting the health care, support, custody, or property of the



minor or protected person except any authority expressly excluded in the written instrument delegating the power. The parent or guardian remains responsible for any act or omission of the person having the power of attorney with respect to the affairs, property, and person of the minor or protected person as though the power of attorney had never been executed.

(f) A delegation of powers executed under subsection (c) does not, as a result of the execution of the power of attorney, subject any of the parties to any laws, rules, or regulations concerning the licensing or regulation of foster family homes, child placing agencies, or child caring institutions under IC 31-27.

(g) Any child who is the subject of a power of attorney executed under subsection (c) is not considered to be placed in foster care. The parties to a power of attorney executed under subsection (c), including a child, a protected person, a parent or guardian of a child or protected person, or an attorney in fact, are not, as a result of the execution of the power of attorney, subject to any foster care requirements or foster care licensing regulations.

(h) A foster family home licensed under IC 31-27-4 may not provide overnight or regular and continuous care and supervision to a child who is the subject of a power of attorney executed under subsection (c) while providing care to a child placed in the home by the department or under a juvenile court order under a foster family home license. Upon request, the department may grant an exception to this subsection.

(i) A parent who:

(1) is a member in the:

(A) active or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the:

- (i) United States Army;
- (ii) United States Navy;
- (iii) United States Air Force;
- (iv) United States Space Force;
- (v) United States Marine Corps;
- (vi) Indiana National Guard; or
- (vii) United States Coast Guard; or

(B) commissioned corps of the:

- (i) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or
- (ii) Public Health Service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

detailed by proper authority for duty with the United States Army or United States Navy; or



(2) is required to:

(A) enter or serve in the active military service of the United States under a call or order of the President of the United States; or

(B) serve on state active duty;

may delegate the powers designated in subsection (c) for a period longer than twelve (12) months if the parent is on active duty service. However, the term of delegation may not exceed the term of active duty service plus thirty (30) days. The power of attorney must indicate that the parent is required to enter or serve in the active military service of the United States and include the estimated beginning and ending dates of the active duty service.

(j) Except as otherwise stated in the power of attorney delegating powers under this section, a delegation of powers under this section may be revoked at any time by a written instrument of revocation that:

(1) identifies the power of attorney revoked; and

(2) is signed by the:

(A) parent of a minor; or

(B) guardian of a protected person;

who executed the power of attorney.

SECTION 159. IC 29-3-12-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.115-2012, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) If a protected person:

(1) is a minor; and

(2) has been adjudicated an incapacitated person;

the court may not terminate the guardianship of the protected person when the protected person attains eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) If a protected person is:

(1) a minor; and

(2) a recipient or beneficiary of financial assistance provided by the department of child services through a guardianship described in ~~IC 31-9-2-17.8(1)(E)~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-47(1)(E)**;

the court may not terminate the guardianship of the protected person when the protected person attains eighteen (18) years of age.

SECTION 160. IC 31-9-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. (Family Law and Juvenile Law Definitions).

SECTION 161. IC 31-9-2.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Chapter 2.1. Definitions

Sec. 1. The amendments made to IC 31-1-11.5-11(a) (before its repeal, now codified at section 99 of this chapter) by P.L.170-1988



do not apply to actions filed under IC 31-1-11.5-3 (before its repeal, now codified at IC 31-15-2-2, IC 31-15-2-3, and IC 31-16-2-2) that are filed before July 1, 1988.

Sec. 2. "Abandoned", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-2.

Sec. 3. "Abandoned infant", for purposes of IC 31-34-21-5.6, means a child who is less than twelve (12) months of age and whose parent, guardian, or custodian has knowingly or intentionally left the child in:

- (1) an environment that endangers the child's life or health;
or
- (2) a hospital or medical facility;

and has no reasonable plan to assume the care, custody, and control of the child.

Sec. 4. (a) "Account", for purposes of IC 31-25-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-4-3.

(b) "Account", for purposes of IC 31-26-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-1-1.

Sec. 5. "Act of rape", for purposes of IC 31-35-3.5, means an act described in:

- (1) IC 35-42-4-1;
- (2) IC 35-42-4-3; or
- (3) IC 35-42-4-9.

Sec. 6. "Active duty", for purposes of IC 31-14-13-6.3, IC 31-17-2-21.3, IC 31-33-8-7, and IC 31-33-14-3, means full-time service in:

- (1) the armed forces of the United States (as defined in IC 5-9-4-3); or
- (2) the National Guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4);

for a period that exceeds thirty (30) consecutive days in a calendar year.

Sec. 7. "Actual notice", for purposes of IC 31-19-3, means written notice that is actually received by the putative father.

Sec. 8. "Adoptee", for purposes of IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-25.5, means a person who has been legally adopted.

Sec. 9. "Adoption", for purposes of IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-25.5, means the judicial act of creating the relationship of parent and child where the relationship did not exist previously.

Sec. 10. "Adoption assistance state", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Adoption Assistance under IC 31-19-29, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-19-29-2.



Sec. 11. "Adoption history", for purposes of IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-24, means:

- (1) identifying information (as defined in section 122 of this chapter);**
- (2) the medical history (as defined in section 159 of this chapter); and**
- (3) nonidentifying information (as defined in section 165 of this chapter).**

Sec. 11.5. "Adoption or foster care service", for purposes of IC 31-10-3.5, refers to any one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Promoting foster parenting.**
- (2) Coordinating placement of a child in a home or facility licensed under IC 31-27.**
- (3) Recruiting a foster parent or an adoptive parent.**
- (4) Licensing or certifying a foster family home.**
- (5) Promoting adoption.**
- (6) Assisting with an adoption or supporting an adoptive parent.**
- (7) Performing or assisting with a home study.**
- (8) Assisting with a kinship guardianship or a kinship caregiver.**
- (9) Providing any family preservation service.**
- (10) Providing any family support service or temporary family reunification service.**

Sec. 12. "Adoption subsidy", for purposes of IC 31-19-26.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-19-26.5-1.

Sec. 13. "Adoptive parent", for purposes of IC 31-19-11 and IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-25.5, means an adult who has become a parent of a child through adoption.

Sec. 14. (a) "Adult", for purposes of IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-25.5, means a person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

(b) "Adult", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a person other than a child.

(c) "Adult", for purposes of IC 31-11, means:

- (1) a person at least eighteen (18) years of age; or**
- (2) a:**
 - (A) married minor who is at least sixteen (16) years of age;**
 - or**
 - (B) minor who has been completely emancipated by a court;****subject to specific constitutional and statutory age**



requirements and health and safety regulations that remain applicable to the person because of the person's age.

Sec. 15. "Advisory board", for purposes of IC 31-31-9, refers to the juvenile detention center advisory board described in IC 31-31-9.

Sec. 16. "Age or developmentally appropriate", for purposes of IC 31-34 and IC 31-37, means:

- (1) activities or items that are generally:
 - (A) accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity; or
 - (B) determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group; and
- (2) in the case of a specific child, activities or items that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child.

Sec. 17. "Alleged father", for purposes of IC 31-14, means any man claiming to be or charged with being a child's biological father.

Sec. 18. (a) "Applicant", for purposes of IC 31-25-3, IC 31-25-4, and IC 31-26-3.5, means a person who has applied for assistance for the applicant or another person.

(b) "Applicant", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a person who seeks a license to operate a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency.

Sec. 19. "Application", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 20. "Appropriate public authorities", for purposes of IC 31-28-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-28-4-3.

Sec. 21. "Assessment", for purposes of IC 31-25 and IC 31-33, means an initial and ongoing investigation or evaluation that includes:

- (1) a review and determination of the safety issues that affect a child and:
 - (A) a child's parents, guardians, or custodians; or
 - (B) another individual residing in the residence where the child resides or is likely to reside;
- (2) an identification of the underlying causes of the safety issues described in subdivision (1);



- (3) a determination whether child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment occurred; and
- (4) a determination of the needs of a child's family in order for the child to:
 - (A) remain in the home safely;
 - (B) be returned to the home safely; or
 - (C) be placed in an alternative living arrangement.

Sec. 22. "Assistance", for purposes of the following statutes, means money or services regardless of the source, paid or furnished under any of the following statutes:

- (1) IC 31-25-3.
- (2) IC 31-25-4.
- (3) IC 31-26-3.5.

Sec. 23. "At-risk child" or "at-risk children", for purposes of IC 31-32-3, means a child or children who:

- (1) are at risk of becoming involved in a juvenile proceeding;
- (2) are at risk of being suspended or expelled from school;
- (3) are at risk of dropping out of school;
- (4) were previously children in need of services and who are in need of ongoing supervision and assistance; or
- (5) have been victims of domestic violence.

Sec. 24. "Birth parent", for purposes of IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-25.5, means:

- (1) the woman who is legally presumed under Indiana law to be the mother of biological origin of an adoptee;
- (2) the man who is legally presumed under Indiana law to be the father of biological origin of an adoptee; or
- (3) a man who establishes paternity of a child born out of wedlock:
 - (A) in a court proceeding; or
 - (B) by executing a paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2-2.1.

Sec. 25. "Blind", for purposes of IC 31-25-3, IC 31-25-4, IC 31-28-1, IC 31-28-2, and IC 31-28-3, means an individual who has vision in the better eye with correcting glasses of 20/200 or less, or a disqualifying visual field defect as determined upon examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who has been designated to make such examinations by the local office and approved by the department.

Sec. 26. (a) "Board", for purposes of IC 31-25-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-4-34(a).

(b) "Board", for purposes of IC 31-26-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-4-2.



Sec. 27. "Bureau", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-4-1.

Sec. 28. "Case", for purposes of IC 31-33-18-1.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-33-18-1.5(d).

Sec. 29. "Caseworker", for purposes of the juvenile law (excluding IC 31-27), means an employee of the department of child services who is classified as a family case manager.

Sec. 30. "Center", for purposes of IC 31-31-9, means any secure juvenile detention center that operates in a county containing a consolidated city except for a center operated by the federal government. The term includes a juvenile detention facility.

Sec. 31. "Central authority", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 32. (a) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-15, IC 31-16 (excluding IC 31-16-12.5), and IC 31-17, means a child or children of both parties to the marriage. The term includes the following:

- (1) Children born out of wedlock to the parties.**
- (2) Children born or adopted during the marriage of the parties.**

(b) "Child", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

(c) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-19-5, includes an unborn child.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, "child", for purposes of the juvenile law and IC 31-27, means:

- (1) a person who is less than eighteen (18) years of age;**
- (2) a person:**
 - (A) who is eighteen (18), nineteen (19), or twenty (20) years of age; and**
 - (B) who either:**
 - (i) is charged with a delinquent act committed before the person's eighteenth birthday; or**
 - (ii) has been adjudicated a child in need of services before the person's eighteenth birthday; or**
- (3) a person:**
 - (A) who is alleged to have committed an act that would have been murder if committed by an adult;**
 - (B) who was less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the alleged act; and**
 - (C) who is less than twenty-one (21) years of age.**



(e) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-36-3, means a person who is less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(f) "Child", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

(g) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-16-12.5, means an individual to whom child support is owed under:

(1) a child support order issued under IC 31-14-10 or IC 31-16-6; or

(2) any other child support order that is enforceable under IC 31-16-12.5.

(h) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-32-5, means an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(i) "Child", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-3.

(j) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-35-2-4.5, means an individual who is:

(1) less than eighteen (18) years of age; and

(2) a delinquent child or a child in need of services.

(k) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-33, includes an individual who:

(1) is at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-one (21) years of age; and

(2) resides, or has previously resided, at a residential facility licensed by the department.

(l) "Child", for purposes of IC 31-42, means an unemancipated individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Sec. 33. (a) "Child abuse or neglect", for purposes of IC 31-32-11-1, IC 31-33, IC 31-34-7-4, and IC 31-39-8-4, refers to:

(1) a child described in IC 31-34-1-1 through IC 31-34-1-5 and IC 31-34-1-8 through IC 31-34-1-11, regardless of whether the child needs care, treatment, rehabilitation, or the coercive intervention of a court; or

(2) an individual who:

(A) is at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-one (21) years of age;

(B) resides, or has previously resided, at a residential facility licensed by the department; and

(C) is harmed or threatened with harm as a result of:

(i) a battery offense included in IC 35-42-2; or

(ii) sexual activity (as defined in IC 35-42-4-13(b));

committed by a member of the staff at the residential



facility.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a), the term under subsection (a) does not refer to a child who is alleged to be a victim of a sexual offense under IC 35-42-4-3 unless the alleged offense under IC 35-42-4-3 involves the fondling or touching of the buttocks, genitals, or female breasts, regardless of whether the child needs care, treatment, rehabilitation, or the coercive intervention of a court.

(c) "Child abuse or neglect", for purposes of IC 31-34-2.3 and IC 31-42, refers to acts or omissions by a person against a child as described in IC 31-34-1-1 through IC 31-34-1-11, regardless of whether the child needs care, treatment, rehabilitation, or the coercive intervention of a court.

(d) "Child abuse or neglect" does not include raising or referring to a child in a manner consistent with the child's biological sex.

Sec. 34. "Child advocacy center", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-14.5 and IC 31-33-18-2, means a child focused, trauma informed community based organization that:

(1) is:

(A) recognized by the Indiana Chapter of National Children's Alliance; and

(B) designed to collaborate on reports of child abuse or neglect;

(2) coordinates a multidisciplinary team; and

(3) facilitates forensic interviews.

Sec. 35. "Child at imminent risk of placement", for purposes of IC 31-26-5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-5-1.

Sec. 36. "Child born in wedlock", for purposes of IC 31-19-9, means a child born to:

(1) a woman; and

(2) a man who is presumed to be the child's father under IC 31-14-7-1(1) or IC 31-14-7-1(2) unless the presumption is rebutted.

Sec. 37. "Child born out of wedlock", for purposes of IC 31-19-3, IC 31-19-4-4, and IC 31-19-9, means a child who is born to:

(1) a woman; and

(2) a man who is not presumed to be the child's father under IC 31-14-7-1(1) or IC 31-14-7-1(2).

Sec. 38. "Child care", for purposes of section 40 of this chapter and IC 31-27, means a service that provides for the care, health,



safety, and supervision of a child's social, emotional, and educational growth.

Sec. 39. "Child care provider", for purposes of IC 31-33-26, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-33-26-1.

Sec. 40. "Child care worker", for purposes of IC 31-33, means an individual who:

- (1) is:
 - (A) employed, other than self-employed as an owner; or
 - (B) actively seeking employment;
 - with an agency, facility, or home described in section 71(b)(2) of this chapter;
- (2) is a child caregiver; or
- (3) has, or will have, direct contact with a child to whom the individual is not a relative (as defined in section 207(c)(1) through 207(c)(11) of this chapter) on a regular and continuing basis through current employment with any agency, facility, or home that provides:
 - (A) child care; or
 - (B) services to, or for the benefit of, a child who is a victim of child abuse or neglect (as described in section 33(c) of this chapter).

Sec. 41. "Child caregiver", for purposes of sections 40 and 71 of this chapter, means a person who provides, or is responsible for providing, care and supervision of a child (other than a child of whom the person is a parent, stepparent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, legal guardian, or custodian with whom the person resides) at a residential property that is not the child's place of residence, if the person:

- (1) is not required to be licensed as the operator of:
 - (A) a child care home under IC 12-17.2-5; or
 - (B) a foster family home under IC 31-27-4;
- (2) provides care and supervision of a child while unattended by the child's:
 - (A) parent;
 - (B) guardian; or
 - (C) custodian with whom the child resides; and
- (3) receives more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in annual compensation for providing care and supervision of a child or children.

Sec. 42. "Child caring institution", for purposes of IC 31-27, means:

- (1) a residential facility that provides child care on a



twenty-four (24) hour basis for more than ten (10) children;
or

(2) a residential facility with a capacity of not more than ten (10) children that does not meet the residential structure requirements of a group home.

Sec. 43. "Child custody determination", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-4.

Sec. 44. "Child custody proceeding", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-5.

Sec. 45. "Child in need of services", for purposes of this title, refers to a child described in IC 31-34-1.

Sec. 46. "Child placing agency", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a person that provides child welfare services to children and families, including:

(1) home studies, investigation, and recommendation of families for the purpose of placing, arranging, or causing the placement of children for adoption, foster care, or residential care; and

(2) supervision of those placements.

Sec. 47. "Child services", for purposes of this title, means the following:

(1) Services, other than services that are costs of secure detention, specifically provided by or on behalf of the department for or on behalf of children who are:

(A) adjudicated to be:

(i) children in need of services under IC 31-34; or

(ii) delinquent children under IC 31-37;

(B) parties in a child in need of services case filed under IC 31-34 or in a delinquency case filed under IC 31-37 before adjudication or entry of a dispositional decree;

(C) subject to temporary care or supervision by the department under any applicable provision of IC 31-33, IC 31-34, or IC 31-37;

(D) recipients or beneficiaries of a program of informal adjustment approved under IC 31-34-8 or IC 31-37-9; or

(E) recipients or beneficiaries of:

(i) adoption assistance or kinship guardianship assistance under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673), as amended;

(ii) adoption subsidies or assistance under IC 31-19-26.5;



(iii) assistance, including emergency assistance or assisted guardianships, provided under Title IV-A of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), as amended; or

(iv) other financial assistance provided to or for the benefit of a child who was previously adjudicated as a child in need of services or delinquent child, including a legal guardianship established to implement a permanency plan under IC 31-34-21-7.5(c)(1)(E) if IC 29-3-8-9 applies and the assistance is approved under a rule or published policy of the department.

(2) Costs of using an institution or facility for providing educational services to children described in subdivision (1)(A), under either IC 20-33-2-29 (if applicable) or IC 20-26-11-13 (if applicable).

Sec. 48. "Child support guidelines", for purposes of IC 31-16-8-1, refers to the guidelines adopted by the Indiana supreme court.

Sec. 49. "Child support order", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 50. "Child welfare agency", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-20.4 and IC 31-33-18-1.6, means:

(1) the department of child services; and
 (2) a person (as defined in IC 24-4-14-5) that, directly or indirectly, provides:

(A) services to a child or family of a child, for which payment is made, in whole or in part, by the department of child services or a local office of the department of child services;

(B) services to:

(i) a child who is; or
 (ii) a family with;

a child at imminent risk of placement (as defined in IC 31-26-5-1) who is referred by the department of child services or a local office of the department of child services to the person for family support or family preservation services; or

(C) assistance to or works in cooperation with the department of child services in the investigations of allegations of possible child abuse or neglect in accordance with IC 31-33.



Sec. 51. "Child welfare program", for purposes of this title, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-3.5-1.

Sec. 52. "Child welfare services", for purposes of this title, means services provided under a child welfare program.

Sec. 53. "Child with a disability", for purposes of IC 31-34-1-9, means an individual who:

- (1) is less than eighteen (18) years of age; and
- (2) has a disability (as defined in IC 22-9-1-3(r)).

Sec. 54. "Child with special needs", for purposes of IC 31-19-26.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-19-26.5-2.

Sec. 55. "Commencement", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-6.

Sec. 56. "Compact", for purposes of IC 31-37-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-2.

Sec. 57. (a) Subject to subsection (b), "concurrent planning", for purposes of IC 31-34 and IC 31-35, means the establishment of a case plan with concurrent permanency plan goals, including the following:

- (1) Return to or continuation of existing custodial care within the home of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or placement of the child with the child's noncustodial parent.
- (2) Placement of the child for adoption.
- (3) Placement of the child with a fit and willing relative who is able and willing to act as the child's permanent custodian and carry out the responsibilities required by the permanency plan.
- (4) Appointment of a legal guardian.
- (5) A supervised independent living arrangement or foster care for the child with a permanency plan of another planned, permanent living arrangement. However, a child less than sixteen (16) years of age may not have another planned, permanent living arrangement as the child's permanency plan.

(b) "Concurrent planning", for purposes of IC 31-34, requires the identification of two (2) permanency plan goals and simultaneous reasonable efforts toward both goals with knowledge of all participants.

Sec. 58. "Conduct a criminal history check", for purposes of IC 31-19, IC 31-26, IC 31-27, IC 31-28, IC 31-33, IC 31-34, IC 31-37, and IC 31-39-2-13.5, means to:

- (1) request:



(A) the state police department to conduct a:

- (i) fingerprint based criminal history background check of both national and state records data bases concerning a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age in accordance with IC 10-13-3-27 and IC 10-13-3-39; or**
- (ii) national name based criminal history record check (as defined in IC 10-13-3-12.5) of a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age as provided by IC 10-13-3-27.5; or**

(B) if an individual has:

- (i) a physical disability that prevents fingerprinting and a person approved by the department who is trained to take fingerprints or a qualified medical practitioner (as defined in section 196 of this chapter) verifies that the individual has a disabling condition that prevents fingerprinting; or**
 - (ii) low quality fingerprints, as a result of age, occupation, or otherwise, that prevent fingerprint results from being obtained and the individual's fingerprints have been rejected the required number of times by automated fingerprint classification equipment or rejected by a person designated by the Indiana state police department to examine and classify fingerprints;**
- the state police department to conduct a national name based criminal history record check (as defined in IC 10-13-3-12.5) or request the state police department to release or allow inspection of a limited criminal history (as defined in IC 10-13-3-11) and the state police in every state the individual has resided in the past five (5) years to release or allow inspection of the state's criminal history;**
- (2) collect each substantiated report of child abuse or neglect reported in a jurisdiction where a probation officer, a caseworker, or the department of child services has reason to believe that a person who is fourteen (14) years of age or older, or a person for whom a fingerprint based criminal history background check is required under this title, resided within the previous five (5) years;**
 - (3) conduct a check of the national sex offender registry maintained by the United States Department of Justice for all persons who are at least fourteen (14) years of age; and**
 - (4) conduct a check of local criminal records in every jurisdiction where a person who is at least eighteen (18) years**



of age has resided within the previous five (5) years unless the department of child services or a court grants an exception to conducting this check.

Sec. 59. "Contact", for purposes of IC 31-33-18-1.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-33-18-1.5(d).

Sec. 60. "Contact preference form" means the form prescribed by the state registrar under IC 31-19-25-4.6.

Sec. 61. "Controlled substance", for purposes of the juvenile law, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-48-1.1.

Sec. 62. "Convention", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 63. "Convention support order", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 64. "Costs of secure detention", for purposes of this title, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-40-1-1.5.

Sec. 65. "Council", for purposes of IC 31-31-9, refers to the city-county council of the consolidated city within the county.

Sec. 66. (a) "Court", for purposes of IC 31-15, IC 31-16, and IC 31-17, means the circuit, superior, or other courts of Indiana upon which jurisdiction to enter dissolution decrees has been or may be conferred.

(b) "Court", for purposes of IC 31-16-15, refers to the court having jurisdiction over child support orders.

(c) "Court", for purposes of IC 31-37-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-3.

(d) "Court", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

(e) "Court", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a circuit or superior court.

(f) "Court", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-7.

Sec. 67. (a) "Court appointed special advocate", for purposes of IC 31-15-6, IC 31-17-6, IC 31-19-16, IC 31-19-16.5, IC 31-28-5, IC 31-32-3-10.5, and the juvenile law, means a community volunteer who:

- (1) has completed a training program approved by the court;
- (2) has been appointed by a court to represent and protect the best interests of a child; and



(3) may research, examine, advocate, facilitate, and monitor a child's situation.

(b) "Court appointed special advocate", for purposes of IC 31-32-3-10.5, IC 31-33, IC 31-34, IC 31-35, and IC 31-37, means a community volunteer who:

(1) has completed a training program approved by the court that includes training in:

(A) the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and

(B) early childhood, child, and adolescent development; as required by 42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(xiii);

(2) has been appointed by a court to represent and protect the best interests of a child; and

(3) may research, examine, advocate, facilitate, and monitor a child's situation.

Sec. 68. "Crime", for purposes of the juvenile law, means an offense for which an adult might be imprisoned or incarcerated if convicted under the law of the jurisdiction in which the offense is committed.

Sec. 69. "Crime involving domestic or family violence" means a crime that occurs when a family or household member commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit any of the following against another family or household member:

- (1) A homicide offense under IC 35-42-1.
- (2) A battery offense under IC 35-42-2.
- (3) Kidnapping or confinement under IC 35-42-3.
- (4) A sex offense under IC 35-42-4.
- (5) Robbery under IC 35-42-5.
- (6) Arson or vandalism under IC 35-43-1.
- (7) Burglary or trespass under IC 35-43-2.
- (8) Disorderly conduct under IC 35-45-1.
- (9) Intimidation or harassment under IC 35-45-2.
- (10) Voyeurism under IC 35-45-4.
- (11) Stalking under IC 35-45-10.
- (12) An offense against the family under IC 35-46-1-2 through IC 35-46-1-8, IC 35-46-1-12, IC 35-46-1-15.1, or IC 35-46-1-15.3.
- (13) Human and sexual trafficking crimes under IC 35-42-3.5.
- (14) A crime involving animal cruelty and a family or household member under IC 35-46-3-12(b)(2) or IC 35-46-3-12.5.

Sec. 70. "Custodial parent", for purposes of IC 31-14-13-8,



IC 31-14-15, IC 31-16-6-1.5, IC 31-16-12.5, IC 31-17-2-22, and IC 31-17-4, means the parent who has been awarded physical custody of a child by a court.

Sec. 71. (a) "Custodian", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a person with whom a child resides.

(b) "Custodian", for purposes of IC 31-34-1, includes any person who is:

(1) a license applicant or licensee of:

(A) a foster home or residential child care facility that is required to be licensed or is licensed under IC 31-27;

(B) a child care center that is required to be licensed or is licensed under IC 12-17.2-4; or

(C) a child care home that is required to be licensed or is licensed under IC 12-17.2-5;

(2) a person who is responsible for care, supervision, or welfare of children while providing services as an owner, operator, director, manager, supervisor, employee, or volunteer at:

(A) a home, center, or facility described in subdivision (1);

(B) a child care ministry, as defined in IC 12-7-2.1-58, that is exempt from licensing requirements and is registered or required to be registered under IC 12-17.2-6;

(C) a home, center, or facility of a child care provider, as defined in IC 12-7-2.1-267(5);

(D) a home, center, or facility that is the location of a program that provides child care, as defined in section 38 of this chapter, to serve migrant children and that is exempt from licensing under IC 12-17.2-2-8(6), whether or not the program is certified as described in IC 12-17.2-2-9; or

(E) a school, as defined in section 220 of this chapter;

(3) a child caregiver, as defined in section 41 of this chapter;

(4) a member of the household of the child's noncustodial parent; or

(5) an individual who has or intends to have direct contact, on a regular and continuing basis, with a child for whom the individual provides care and supervision.

Sec. 72. "De facto custodian", for purposes of IC 31-14-13, IC 31-17-2, and IC 31-34-4, means a person who has been the primary caregiver for, and financial support of, a child who has resided with the person for at least:

(1) six (6) months if the child is less than three (3) years of



age; or

(2) one (1) year if the child is at least three (3) years of age.

Any period after a child custody proceeding has been commenced may not be included in determining whether the child has resided with the person for the required minimum period. The term does not include a person providing care for a child in a foster family home (as defined in section 108 of this chapter).

Sec. 73. (a) "Delinquent", for purposes of IC 31-16-15, refers to a situation in which an obligor is the equivalent of one (1) month in arrears in the payment of child support ordered by a court.

(b) "Delinquent", for purposes of IC 31-16-16, refers to a situation in which an obligor is in arrears in the payment of child support ordered by a court in Indiana or another state that has jurisdiction over the support order.

Sec. 74. (a) "Delinquent child", for purposes of the juvenile law, except as provided in subsection (b), means:

- (1) a child described in IC 31-37-1-1; or
- (2) a child described in IC 31-37-2-1.

(b) "Delinquent child", for purposes of IC 31-37-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-4.

Sec. 75. "Delinquent juvenile", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

Sec. 76. "Department", for purposes of this chapter, IC 31-19, and IC 31-25 through IC 31-40, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-2-1.

Sec. 77. "Dependent child" or "neglected child", for purposes of IC 31-37-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-5.

Sec. 78. "Destitute child", for purposes of this title, means an individual:

- (1) who is needy;
- (2) who is not a public ward;
- (3) who is less than eighteen (18) years of age;
- (4) who has been deprived of parental support or care because of a parent's:
 - (A) death;
 - (B) continued absence from the home; or
 - (C) physical or mental incapacity;
- (5) whose relatives liable for the individual's support are not able to provide adequate care or support for the individual without public assistance; and
- (6) who is in need of foster care, under circumstances that do



not require the individual to be made a public ward.

Sec. 79. "Detention tool" means a validated instrument that assesses a child's risk for rearrest in order to inform a decision on the use of secure detention.

Sec. 80. "Diagnostic assessment" means a clinical evaluation provided by a certified professional in order to gather information to determine appropriate behavioral health treatment for a child.

Sec. 81. "Direct request", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 82. "Director", for purposes of IC 31-25-1, IC 31-25-2, IC 31-33, IC 31-34, and IC 31-37, refers to the director of the department of child services.

Sec. 82.5. "Discriminate", for purposes of IC 31-10-3.5, includes any one (1) or more of the following acts when done wholly or partially based on a person's sincerely held religious belief:

(1) Denying or otherwise making unavailable any funding to the person, including:

- (A) a state grant;
- (B) a loan;
- (C) a scholarship;
- (D) a guarantee; or
- (E) an entitlement or a state benefit.

(2) Terminating, altering the terms of, or refusing to enter into a contract with the person, including a subcontract or cooperative agreement.

(3) Refusing to recognize or taking any adverse action against a person's:

- (A) license;
- (B) certificate;
- (C) custody award or agreement; or
- (D) any other similar status.

(4) Refusing to place a child with the person, except for the reasons set forth in IC 31-10-3.5-1.

(5) Altering in any way the person's tax treatment, including:

- (A) imposing a tax penalty;
- (B) denying or otherwise making unavailable an exemption from taxation; or
- (C) disallowing or otherwise making unavailable a deduction for state tax purposes of any charitable donation made by or to the person.

(6) Imposing on the person any of the following:



- (A) A monetary fine.
- (B) A fee.
- (C) A penalty.
- (D) A damages award.
- (E) An injunction.
- (7) Taking any of the following actions:
 - (A) Refusing to hire or promote the person.
 - (B) Forcing the person to resign.
 - (C) Firing, demoting, or disciplining the person.
 - (D) Altering the terms or conditions of the person's employment.
 - (E) Retaliating against the person.
 - (F) Taking any other adverse employment action against the person.

Sec. 83. "Dissolution decree", for purposes of IC 31-15, IC 31-16, and IC 31-17, means a judicial decree entered in a proceeding for the dissolution of marriage which:

- (1) has the effect of terminating the marriage and restoring the parties to the state of unmarried persons; and
- (2) may include those matters set forth in IC 31-15-2-16.

Sec. 84. "Domestic or family violence" means, except for an act of self-defense, the occurrence of one (1) or more of the following acts committed by a family or household member:

- (1) Attempting to cause, threatening to cause, or causing physical harm to another family or household member without legal justification.
- (2) Placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm without legal justification.
- (3) Causing a family or household member to involuntarily engage in sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress.
- (4) Abusing (as described in IC 35-46-3-0.5), torturing (as described in IC 35-46-3-0.5), mutilating (as described in IC 35-46-3-0.5), or killing a vertebrate animal without justification with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member.

For purposes of IC 22-4-15-1 and IC 34-26-5, domestic or family violence also includes stalking (as defined in IC 35-45-10-1) or a sex offense under IC 35-42-4, whether or not the stalking or sex offense is committed by a family or household member.

Sec. 85. "Drug or alcohol screen test" means a test used to determine the presence or use of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a drug in a person's bodily substance.



Sec. 86. "Duty of support", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 87. "Early intervention advocate", for purposes of IC 31-32-3, means a volunteer or staff member of a preventative program who is appointed by the court as an officer of the court to assist, represent, and protect the interests of at-risk children.

Sec. 88. "Emergency medical services provider" has the meaning set forth in IC 16-41-10-1.

Sec. 89. "Emergency shelter", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a short term place of residence, other than a private secure facility, that:

- (1) is not locked to prevent a child's departure unless the administrator determines that locking is necessary to protect the child's health; and**
- (2) provides twenty-four (24) hours a day temporary care for not more than sixty (60) consecutive days to a child who is admitted on an emergency basis.**

Sec. 90. "Evaluator", for purposes of IC 31-32-2 and IC 31-37-8-4.5, means a person responsible for providing mental health screening, evaluation, or treatment to a child in connection with a juvenile proceeding or probation proceeding under this title.

Sec. 91. "Executive authority", for purposes of IC 31-37-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-6.

Sec. 92. (a) "Exigent circumstances", as applied to an action by the department with regard to a child, means that:

- (1) the department has definite and articulable evidence giving rise to a reasonable suspicion that the child or a child residing in the home with the child:

 - (A) has been or is in imminent danger of being physically or sexually abused; or**
 - (B) has been or is in imminent danger of being neglected in a manner that would lead a reasonable person to believe the child's physical safety is seriously endangered;****
- (2) there is no less intrusive alternative to the department's action that would reasonably and sufficiently protect the child's imminent health or safety; and**
- (3) one (1) or more of the following applies:

 - (A) The parent, guardian, or custodian of the child:

 - (i) is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect of the child; or**
 - (ii) is allegedly aware of the abuse or neglect of the child******



and has allegedly not ensured the child's safety.

(B) There is reason to believe that:

- (i) the safety of the child might be jeopardized; or**
- (ii) essential evidence regarding signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect under subdivision (1) on or in the child's body might not be available;**

if the department's action is delayed or the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is notified before the department's action.

(C) The child is a homeless unaccompanied minor and is voluntarily receiving services at an emergency shelter or shelter care facility without the presence or consent of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

(b) An allegation of educational neglect does not qualify as an exigent circumstance.

Sec. 93. (a) An individual is a "family or household member" of another person if the individual:

- (1) is a current or former spouse of the other person;**
- (2) is dating or has dated the other person;**
- (3) is engaged or was engaged in a sexual relationship with the other person;**
- (4) is related by blood or adoption to the other person;**
- (5) is or was related by marriage to the other person;**
- (6) has or previously had an established legal relationship:**
 - (A) as a guardian of the other person;**
 - (B) as a ward of the other person;**
 - (C) as a custodian of the other person;**
 - (D) as a foster parent of the other person; or**
 - (E) in a capacity with respect to the other person similar to those listed in clauses (A) through (D); or**
- (7) has a child in common with the other person.**

(b) An individual is a "family or household member" of both persons to whom subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), or (a)(7) applies if the individual is a minor child of one (1) of the persons.

Sec. 94. "Family preservation services", for purposes of IC 31-26-5 and IC 31-26-6, means short term, highly intensive services designed to protect, treat, and support the following:

- (1) A family with a child at risk of placement by enabling the family to remain intact and care for the child at home.**
- (2) A family that adopts or plans to adopt an abused or neglected child who is at risk of placement or adoption**



disruption by assisting the family to achieve or maintain a stable, successful adoption of the child.

Sec. 95. "Family services", for purposes of the juvenile law, means services provided to:

- (1) prevent a child from being removed from a parent, guardian, or custodian;
- (2) reunite the child with a parent, guardian, or custodian; or
- (3) implement a permanent plan of adoption, guardianship, or emancipation of a child.

Sec. 96. "Fentanyl containing substance", for purposes of the juvenile law, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-130.6.

Sec. 97. "Fentanyl related substance", for purposes of the juvenile law, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-130.5.

Sec. 98. "Final agency action" means, with respect to an administrative action taken by the department, the issuance of an order by the ultimate authority of the department that:

- (1) disposes of all issues for all parties to an administrative proceeding regarding the action after the parties to the administrative proceeding have exhausted all administrative remedies concerning the action; and
- (2) is designated as a final order by the ultimate authority of the department.

Sec. 99. "Final separation", for purposes of IC 31-15-7, means the date of filing of the petition for dissolution of marriage under IC 31-15-2-4 (or IC 31-1-11.5-3 before its repeal). However, if:

- (1) a legal separation proceeding involving the parties was pending when the petition for dissolution of marriage under IC 31-15-2-4 (or IC 31-1-11.5-3 before its repeal) was filed; or
- (2) a provisional order or final decree for legal separation of the parties was in effect when the petition for dissolution of marriage under IC 31-15-2-4 (or IC 31-1-11.5-3 before its repeal) was filed;

the term means the date that the petition for legal separation was filed under IC 31-15-3-4 (or IC 31-1-11.5-3 before its repeal).

Sec. 100. "Financial institution", for purposes of IC 31-25-3 and IC 31-25-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-4-3.

Sec. 101. "Foreign central authority", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 102. "Foreign country", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.



Sec. 103. "Foreign support agreement", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 104. "Foreign support order", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 105. "Foreign tribunal", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 106. "Forensic interview", for purposes of section 34 of this chapter and IC 31-25-2-14.5, means an interview in response to a report of child abuse or neglect conducted by a professional specially trained in a nationally recognized model using a multidisciplinary team approach.

Sec. 107. "Foster care", for purposes of IC 31-25, IC 31-26, IC 31-27, IC 31-28-1, IC 31-28-2, IC 31-28-3, IC 31-34-21-7.6, and IC 31-37-22-10, means living in:

- (1) a place licensed under IC 31-27 or a comparable law of another state; or
- (2) the home of an adult relative who is not licensed as a foster family home.

Sec. 108. "Foster family home", for purposes of IC 31-27 and IC 31-34-23-6, means a place where an individual resides and provides care and supervision on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to a child, as defined in section 32(d) of this chapter, who is receiving care and supervision under a juvenile court order or for purposes of placement.

Sec. 109. "Foster parent", for purposes of the juvenile law, means an individual who provides care and supervision to a child in a foster family home (as defined in section 108 of this chapter). The term includes a licensed kinship caregiver and an unlicensed kinship caregiver.

Sec. 110. (a) "Foster youth", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-29, refers to an individual:

- (1) who is at least twelve (12) years of age;
- (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age;
- (3) who:
 - (A) is a child in need of services under IC 31-34-1; or
 - (B) is receiving collaborative care (as defined in IC 31-28-5.8-1); and
- (4) who is in an out-of-home placement.

(b) "Foster youth", for purposes of IC 31-26-4.5, refers to an



individual:

- (1) who is at least fifteen (15) years of age;
- (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and
- (3) who:
 - (A) is adjudicated a child in need of services under IC 31-34-1; or
 - (B) was in foster care when the individual became an adult (as defined in section 14(b) of this chapter).

Sec. 111. "Fund", for purposes of IC 31-26-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-4-3.

Sec. 112. (a) "Governmental entity", for purposes of IC 31-42, means the whole or any part of a branch, department, agency, or instrumentality, or an official, or other individual or entity, acting under color of law of any of the following:

- (1) State government.
- (2) A political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13).
- (3) An instrumentality of a governmental entity described in subdivision (1) or (2), including a state educational institution, a body politic, a body corporate and politic, or any other similar entity established by law.

(b) The term does not include a hospital that is established and operated under IC 16-22-2, IC 16-22-8, or IC 16-23.

Sec. 113. "Governor", for purposes of IC 31-18.5-8, in the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-8-1.

Sec. 114. "Grandparent visitation", for purposes of IC 31-17-2.2, means visitation rights granted to a grandparent under IC 31-17-5.

Sec. 115. "Group home", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a residential structure in which care is provided on a twenty-four (24) hour basis for not more than ten (10) children.

Sec. 116. (a) "Guardian", for purposes of IC 31-11-10-1, IC 31-15-2-5, and IC 31-15-3-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 29-3-1-6.

(b) "Guardian", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a person appointed by a court to have the care and custody of a child or the child's estate, or both.

Sec. 117. (a) "Guardian ad litem", for purposes of IC 31-15-6, IC 31-19-16, IC 31-19-16.5, IC 31-28-5, IC 31-32-3-10.5, and the juvenile law, means an attorney, a volunteer, or an employee of a county program designated under IC 33-24-6-4 who is appointed by a court to:



- (1) represent and protect the best interests of a child; and**
 - (2) provide the child with services requested by the court, including:**
 - (A) researching;**
 - (B) examining;**
 - (C) advocating;**
 - (D) facilitating; and**
 - (E) monitoring;**
- the child's situation.**

A guardian ad litem who is not an attorney must complete the same court approved training program that is required for a court appointed special advocate under section 67 of this chapter.

(b) "Guardian ad litem", for purposes of IC 31-32-3-10.5, IC 31-33, IC 31-34, IC 31-35, and IC 31-37, means an attorney, a volunteer, or an employee of a county program designated under IC 33-24-6-4 who:

- (1) is appointed by a court to represent and protect the best interests of a child;**
 - (2) is appointed by a court to provide the child with services requested by the court, including:**
 - (A) researching;**
 - (B) examining;**
 - (C) advocating;**
 - (D) facilitating; and**
 - (E) monitoring;**
- the child's situation; and**
- (3) has completed training appropriate for the person's role, including training in:**
 - (A) the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and**
 - (B) early childhood, child, and adolescent development; as required by 42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(xiii).**

A guardian ad litem who is not an attorney must complete the same court approved training program that is required for a court appointed special advocate under section 67 of this chapter.

Sec. 118. "Hard to place child" or "hard to place children", for purposes of IC 31-19 and IC 31-34, means a child who is or children who are disadvantaged:

- (1) because of:**
 - (A) ethnic background;**
 - (B) race;**
 - (C) color;**



- (D) language;
- (E) physical, mental, or medical disability; or
- (F) age; or

(2) because the child or children are members of a sibling group that should be placed in the same home.

Sec. 119. "Health care", for purposes of IC 31-42, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-36-1-1.

Sec. 120. "Health care provider", for purposes of IC 31-32-6-4, IC 31-32-11-1, and IC 31-33, means any of the following:

- (1) A licensed physician, intern, or resident.
- (2) An osteopath.
- (3) A chiropractor.
- (4) A dentist.
- (5) A podiatrist.
- (6) A registered nurse or other licensed nurse.
- (7) A mental health professional.
- (8) A paramedic or an emergency medical technician.
- (9) A social worker, an x-ray technician, or a laboratory technician employed by a hospital.
- (10) A pharmacist.
- (11) A person working under the direction of any of the practitioners listed in subdivisions (1) through (10).

Sec. 121. (a) "Home state", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-8.

(b) "Home state", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 122. "Identifying information", for purposes of IC 31-19-9-6 and IC 31-19-17 through IC 31-19-25.5, means:

- (1) any name that a party to an adoption has used or is using;
- (2) any address that a party to an adoption has used or is using;
- (3) the original certificates of birth stored with the Indiana department of health with evidence of adoption under IC 31-19-13-2; and
- (4) any other information, except the medical history, that may identify a person as a party to an adoption or as a birth parent, an adoptee, or an adoptive parent.

Sec. 123. "Incapacitated person", for purposes of IC 31-11-10-1, IC 31-15-2-5, and IC 31-15-3-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 29-3-1-7.5.



Sec. 124. "Incarceration", for purposes of IC 31-16 and IC 31-25-4, means confinement of an individual on a full-time basis in a place of detention that prohibits the individual from gainful employment, including home detention or a municipal, county, state, or federal prison or jail. The term does not include an individual on parole, probation, work release, community corrections, or any other detention alternative program that allows the individual to be gainfully employed.

Sec. 125. "Includes" means includes but is not limited to.

Sec. 126. (a) "Income", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-16-16, means anything of value owed to an obligor.

(b) "Income", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, means earnings or other periodic entitlements to money from any source, and any other property subject to withholding for support under Indiana law (as defined in IC 31-18.5-1-2).

Sec. 127. (a) "Income payor", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-16-16, means an employer or other person who owes income to an obligor (as defined in section 170(a) of this chapter).

(b) "Income payor", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, means an employer or other person who owes income to an obligor (as defined in IC 31-18.5-1-2).

Sec. 128. (a) "Income withholding order", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-16-16, means an order or other legal process directed to an obligor's income payor to withhold:

- (1) support; and
- (2) support fees and maintenance fees as described in IC 33-37-5-6;

from the income of the obligor.

(b) "Income withholding order", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 128.7. "Independent activity", for purposes of IC 31-34-1-1, includes any of the following when done by a child without the supervision of a parent, guardian, or custodian:

- (1) Traveling on foot, by bicycle, or by public transportation.
- (2) Playing outdoors.
- (3) Remaining at home.
- (4) Remaining in a stationary vehicle.

Sec. 129. "Index", for purposes of IC 31-33-26, means the child protection index established under IC 31-33-26-2.



Sec. 130. "Indian child" has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

Sec. 131. "Initial determination", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-9.

Sec. 132. "Initiating tribunal", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 133. "Intake officer", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a probation officer or a caseworker who performs the intake, preliminary inquiry, or other functions specified by the juvenile court or by the juvenile law.

Sec. 134. "Intended biological parent", for purposes of sections 240 and 241 of this chapter, means a party to a surrogate agreement who:

- (1) agrees to be or is genetically related to a child borne by a surrogate; and
- (2) is not the surrogate's spouse.

Sec. 135. "Interested person", for purposes of IC 31-19-20 and IC 31-19-24, means any of the following:

- (1) An adoptee.
- (2) A birth parent.
- (3) An adoptive parent.
- (4) A relative of a birth parent.
- (5) A relative of an adoptive parent.
- (6) A relative of an adoptee.
- (7) A pre-adoptive sibling (as defined in section 182 of this chapter).
- (8) The department.
- (9) An adoption agency.
- (10) A court.

Sec. 136. "Issuing court", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-10.

Sec. 137. "Issuing foreign country", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 138. (a) "Issuing state", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

(b) "Issuing state", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in



IC 31-21-2-11.

Sec. 139. "Issuing tribunal", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 140. "Joint legal custody", for purposes of IC 31-14-13, IC 31-17-2-13, IC 31-17-2-14, and IC 31-17-2-15, means that the persons awarded joint custody will share authority and responsibility for the major decisions concerning the child's upbringing, including the child's education, health care, and religious training.

Sec. 141. "Judge", for purposes of the juvenile law, refers to the judge of the juvenile court.

Sec. 142. "Juvenile", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

Sec. 143. "Juvenile court", for purposes of the juvenile law, refers to a court having juvenile jurisdiction.

Sec. 144. "Juvenile detention facility", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a facility described in IC 31-31-8-2.

Sec. 145. "Juvenile diversion" has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-8.5-1.

Sec. 146. "Juvenile law" refers to IC 31-30 through IC 31-40.

Sec. 147. "Kinship care navigator program", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-25, means the program established by the department of child services to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the caregivers and of the children the caregivers are raising, and to promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served.

Sec. 148. "Law", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 149. "Law enforcement agency", for purposes of IC 31-36, means a governmental agency or department whose principal function is the apprehension of criminal offenders.

Sec. 150. "Legal settlement", for purposes of IC 31-34-20-5, IC 31-34-21-10, IC 31-37-19-26, and IC 31-37-20-6, has the meaning set forth in IC 20-18-2-11.

Sec. 151. "Legend drug", for purposes of the juvenile law, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-18-2-199.

Sec. 152. "Licensed kinship caregiver" means a relative who is:
(1) providing care and supervision to a child under a court



order for purposes of placement in a child in need of services case or juvenile delinquency case; and

(2) licensed as a foster parent under IC 31-27-4.

Sec. 153. "Licensee", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a person who holds a valid license issued under IC 31-27.

Sec. 154. "Lifetime sex or violent offender" has the meaning set forth in IC 34-28-2-1.5.

Sec. 155. "Local law enforcement authority" has the meaning set forth in IC 11-8-8-2.

Sec. 156. "Local office", for purposes of this title, refers to a local office established by the department to serve a county or a region.

Sec. 157. "Long term foster parent", for purposes of IC 31-32-2.5 and IC 31-34-21, means a foster parent who has provided care and supervision for a child:

- (1) for at least the twelve (12) most recent months;
- (2) for at least fifteen (15) months of the most recent twenty-two (22) months; or
- (3) if the child is less than twelve (12) months of age, for at least six (6) months.

Sec. 158. "Maternal or paternal grandparent", for purposes of IC 31-17-5, includes:

- (1) the adoptive parent of the child's parent;
- (2) the parent of the child's adoptive parent; and
- (3) the parent of the child's parent.

Sec. 159. "Medical history", for purposes of IC 31-19-18 through IC 31-19-20, means:

- (1) a comprehensive report required by IC 31-19-2-7; and
- (2) any voluntary medical information transmitted to the state registrar under IC 31-19-18-3.

Sec. 160. "Medical information", for purposes of IC 31-19-18, IC 31-19-20, and IC 31-19-24, means any information that may affect the medical history of an adoptee.

Sec. 161. "Modification", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-12.

Sec. 162. "Monitor", for purposes of IC 31-27, means observation to determine the licensee's continuing compliance with IC 31-27.

Sec. 162.5. "Near fatality", for purposes of IC 31-33-18.5, means a severe childhood injury or condition that is certified by a physician as being life threatening.



Sec. 163. "Neglected child" or "dependent child", for purposes of IC 31-37-23, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-5.

Sec. 164. "Noncustodial parent", for purposes of IC 31-14-15, IC 31-16-6-1.5, and IC 31-17-4, means the parent who is not the custodial parent.

Sec. 165. "Nonidentifying information", for purposes of IC 31-19-18, IC 31-19-21, IC 31-19-23, and IC 31-19-24, means any information, other than a medical history, that:

- (1) concerns an interested person to an adoption; and**
- (2) does not identify a birth parent, an adoptive parent, or an adoptee.**

Sec. 166. "Nonrelocating individual", for purposes of IC 31-14-13 and IC 31-17-2.2, means an individual who has, or has filed an action seeking:

- (1) custody of the child, whether by court order or by paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2;**
- (2) parenting time with the child, whether by court order or by paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2; or**
- (3) visitation with the child under IC 31-17-5.**

Sec. 167. "Nonrelocating parent", for purposes of IC 31-14-13 and IC 31-17-2.2, means a parent of a child who has or is seeking:

- (1) custody of the child, whether by court order or by paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2; or**
- (2) parenting time with the child, whether by court order or by paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2;**

and does not intend to move the individual's principal residence.

Sec. 168. "Nonwaivable offense", for purposes of this title, means a conviction of any of the following felonies:

- (1) Murder (IC 35-42-1-1).**
- (2) Causing suicide (IC 35-42-1-2).**
- (3) Assisting suicide (IC 35-42-1-2.5).**
- (4) Voluntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-3).**
- (5) Involuntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-4).**
- (6) Reckless homicide (IC 35-42-1-5).**
- (7) Feticide (IC 35-42-1-6).**
- (8) Battery (IC 35-42-2-1) within the past five (5) years.**
- (9) Domestic battery (IC 35-42-2-1.3).**
- (10) Aggravated battery (IC 35-42-2-1.5).**
- (11) Criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) within the past five (5) years.**
- (12) Strangulation (IC 35-42-2-9).**
- (13) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).**



- (14) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3) within the past five (5) years.
- (15) Human and sexual trafficking (IC 35-42-3.5).
- (16) A felony sex offense under IC 35-42-4.
- (17) Arson (IC 35-43-1-1) within the past five (5) years.
- (18) Incest (IC 35-46-1-3).
- (19) Neglect of a dependent (IC 35-46-1-4(a) and IC 35-46-1-4(b)).
- (20) Child selling (IC 35-46-1-4(d)).
- (21) Reckless supervision (IC 35-46-1-4.1).
- (22) Nonsupport of a dependent child (IC 35-46-1-5) within the past five (5) years.
- (23) Operating a motorboat while intoxicated (IC 35-46-9-6) within the past five (5) years.
- (24) A felony involving a weapon under IC 35-47 within the past five (5) years.
- (25) A felony relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4 within the past five (5) years.
- (26) An offense relating to material or a performance that is harmful to minors or obscene under IC 35-49-3.
- (27) A felony under IC 9-30-5 within the past five (5) years.
- (28) A felony related to the health or safety of a child (as defined in section 32(h) of this chapter) or an endangered adult (as defined in IC 12-10-3-2).

Sec. 169. (a) "Obligee", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-16-16, means a person who is entitled to receive a payment under a support order.

(b) "Obligee", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 170. (a) "Obligor", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-16-16, means an individual who has been ordered by a court to pay child support.

(b) "Obligor", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

(c) "Obligor", for purposes of IC 31-25-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-4-4.

Sec. 171. "Office of administrative law proceedings" means the office of administrative law proceedings established by IC 4-15-10.5-7.

Sec. 172. "Omission", for purposes of IC 31-34-1-2, means an



occurrence in which the parent, guardian, or custodian allowed the child of the parent, guardian, or custodian to receive an injury that the parent, guardian, or custodian had a reasonable opportunity to prevent or mitigate.

Sec. 173. "Outside this state", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 174. (a) "Parent", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a biological or an adoptive parent. Unless otherwise specified, the term includes both parents, regardless of their marital status.

(b) "Parent", for purposes of IC 31-34-1, IC 31-34-8, IC 31-34-19, IC 31-34-20, and IC 31-35-2, includes an alleged father.

(c) "Parent", for purposes of IC 31-42, means a child's:

- (1) biological father or mother;
- (2) adopting father or mother; or
- (3) court appointed guardian or custodian.

Sec. 175. "Parenting time" means the time set aside by a court order for a parent and child to spend together.

Sec. 176. "Permanency roundtable", for purposes of IC 31-34-21-5.7 and IC 31-37-20-3, means an intervention designed to facilitate the permanency planning process for youth placed out-of-home by identifying solutions for permanency obstacles.

Sec. 177. (a) "Person", for purposes of IC 31-19-19, IC 31-19-25, and the juvenile law, means:

- (1) a human being;
- (2) a corporation;
- (3) a limited liability company;
- (4) a partnership;
- (5) an unincorporated association; or
- (6) a governmental entity.

(b) "Person", for purposes of section 93 of this chapter, means an adult or a minor.

(c) "Person", for purposes of IC 31-27, means an individual who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a corporation, a partnership, a voluntary association, or other entity.

(d) "Person", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-13.

(e) "Person", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.



(f) "Person", for purposes of IC 31-10-3.5, means:

- (1) an individual; or
- (2) a legal entity, including a religious organization.

Sec. 178. "Person acting as a parent", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-14.

Sec. 179. "Petitioner", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-15.

Sec. 180. "Physical custody", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-16.

Sec. 181. (a) "Plan", for purposes of IC 31-26-6, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-6-1.

(b) "Plan", for purposes of IC 31-25-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-4-5.

Sec. 182. "Pre-adoptive sibling", for purposes of:

- (1) IC 31-19-18;
- (2) IC 31-19-16.5;
- (3) IC 31-19-24; and
- (4) IC 31-19-25.5;

means a person who would have been a sibling of an adoptee had the adoptee not been adopted, regardless of whether the person is born before or after the adoptee's adoption is finalized.

Sec. 183. "Preliminary inquiry", for purposes of IC 31-34 and IC 31-37, means an informal investigation into the facts and circumstances reported to the court.

Sec. 184. "Premarital agreement", for purposes of the Uniform Premarital Agreement Act under IC 31-11-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-11-3-2.

Sec. 185. "Prior family law and juvenile law", for purposes of IC 31-10, refers to the statutes that are repealed or amended in the recodification act of the 1997 regular session of the general assembly as the statutes existed before the effective date of the applicable or corresponding provision of the recodification act of the 1997 regular session of the general assembly.

Sec. 186. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "private secure facility", for purposes of the juvenile law, means the following:

- (1) A facility that is licensed under IC 31-27 to operate as a private secure facility.
- (2) A private facility that is licensed in another state to



provide residential care and treatment to one (1) or more children in a secure facility other than a detention center, prison, jail, or similar correctional facility.

(b) "Private secure facility", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a private secure facility other than the following:

- (1) A juvenile detention facility established under IC 31-31-8 or IC 31-31-9 (or IC 31-6-9-5 or IC 31-6-9.5 before their repeal).
- (2) A facility operated by the department of correction.
- (3) A county jail.
- (4) A detention center operated by a county sheriff.

Sec. 187. "Probation or parole", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

Sec. 188. "Professional health care provider", for purposes of IC 31-19-25, has the meaning set forth in IC 34-6-2.1-165.

Sec. 189. "Project", for purposes of IC 31-26-4, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-4-4.

Sec. 190. (a) "Property", for purposes of the Uniform Premarital Agreement Act under IC 31-11-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-11-3-3.

(b) "Property", for purposes of IC 31-15, IC 31-16, and IC 31-17, means all the assets of either party or both parties, including:

- (1) a present right to withdraw pension or retirement benefits;
- (2) the right to receive pension or retirement benefits that are not forfeited upon termination of employment or that are vested (as defined in Section 411 of the Internal Revenue Code) but that are payable after the dissolution of marriage; and
- (3) the right to receive disposable retired or retainer pay (as defined in 10 U.S.C. 1408(a)) acquired during the marriage that is or may be payable after the dissolution of marriage.

Sec. 191. "Prosecuting attorney", for purposes of the juvenile law, means the prosecuting attorney or the prosecuting attorney's deputy.

Sec. 192. "Prospective adoptive parent", for purposes of IC 31-19-2-15, means a person who has filed a petition for adoption of a child under IC 31-19-2-2.

Sec. 193. (a) "Provider", for purposes of IC 31-28-2 and IC 31-28-3, means an individual, a partnership, a corporation, or



a governmental entity that is enrolled in the Medicaid program under rules adopted under IC 4-22-2 by the office of Medicaid policy and planning.

(b) "Provider", for purposes of IC 31-28-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-28-1-2.

(c) "Provider", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a person who operates a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency under IC 31-27.

Sec. 194. "Public welfare", for purposes of IC 31-25-3 and IC 31-25-4, means any form of public welfare or Social Security provided in IC 31-25-3 or IC 31-25-4. The term does not include direct township assistance as administered by township trustees under IC 12-20.

Sec. 195. "Putative father", for purposes of IC 31-19 and IC 31-35-1, means a male of any age who is alleged to be or claims that he may be a child's father but who:

- (1) is not presumed to be the child's father under IC 31-14-7-1(1) or IC 31-14-7-1(2); and
- (2) has not established paternity of the child:
 - (A) in a court proceeding; or
 - (B) by executing a paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2-2.1; before the filing of an adoption petition.

Sec. 196. "Qualified medical practitioner", for purposes of this chapter, means the following:

- (1) A physician licensed under IC 25-22.5.
- (2) A physician assistant licensed under IC 25-27.5.
- (3) A physical therapist licensed under IC 25-27.
- (4) An advanced practice registered nurse licensed under IC 25-23.
- (5) A chiropractor licensed under IC 25-10.
- (6) A psychologist licensed under IC 25-33.

Sec. 197. "Reason to believe", for purposes of IC 31-33, means evidence that, if presented to individuals of similar background and training, would cause the individuals to believe that a child was abused or neglected.

Sec. 198. "Reasonable and prudent parent standard", for purposes of IC 31-27, IC 31-34, and IC 31-37, means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child.

Sec. 199. "Receiving state", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.



Sec. 200. "Recipient", for purposes of IC 31-25-3 and IC 31-25-4, means a person who has received or is receiving assistance for the person or another person.

Sec. 201. (a) "Record", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

(b) "Record", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-17.

Sec. 202. "Region", for purposes of this title, refers to an area in Indiana designated as a region by the department. However, for purposes of IC 31-26-6, the term refers to a service region established under IC 31-26-6.

Sec. 203. "Regional services council", for purposes of this title, refers to a regional services council established for a region under IC 31-26-6-4.

Sec. 204. "Register", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 205. "Registering tribunal", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 206. "Registry", for purposes of IC 31-19-5, refers to the putative father registry established by IC 31-19-5-2.

Sec. 207. (a) "Relative", for purposes of IC 31-19-18 and IC 31-19-25, means:

- (1) an adoptive or whole blood related parent;**
- (2) a sibling; or**
- (3) a child.**

(b) "Relative", for purposes of IC 31-34-3, means:

- (1) a maternal or paternal grandparent;**
- (2) an adult aunt or uncle;**
- (3) a parent of a child's sibling if the parent has legal custody of the sibling; or**
- (4) any other adult relative suggested by either parent of a child.**

(c) "Relative", for purposes of sections 40, 152, and 251 of this chapter, IC 31-27, IC 31-28-5.8, IC 31-34-4, IC 31-34-19, IC 31-34-23-6, and IC 31-37, means any of the following in relation to a child:

- (1) A parent.**
- (2) A grandparent.**



- (3) A brother.
- (4) A sister.
- (5) A stepparent.
- (6) A stepgrandparent.
- (7) A stepbrother.
- (8) A stepsister.
- (9) A first cousin.
- (10) An uncle.
- (11) An aunt.
- (12) Any other individual with whom a child has an established and significant relationship.

Sec. 207.5. "Religious organization", for purposes of section 177 of this chapter, refers to any of the following:

- (1) A house of worship, including a church, synagogue, shrine, mosque, or temple.
- (2) A religious:
 - (A) group;
 - (B) corporation;
 - (C) association;
 - (D) school or educational institution;
 - (E) ministry;
 - (F) order;
 - (G) society; or
 - (H) entity, regardless of whether the entity is integrated or affiliated with a house of worship.
- (3) Any officer, owner, employee, manager, religious leader, clergy, or minister of an entity described in this section.

Sec. 208. "Relocating individual", for purposes of IC 31-14-13 and IC 31-17-2.2, means an individual who has or is seeking:

- (1) custody of a child, whether by court order or by paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2; or
- (2) parenting time with a child, whether by court order or by paternity affidavit under IC 16-37-2;

and intends to move the individual's principal residence. The term does not include an individual granted visitation rights under IC 31-17-5.

Sec. 209. "Relocation", for purposes of IC 31-14-13 and IC 31-17-2.2, means a change in the primary residence of an individual for a period of at least sixty (60) days.

Sec. 210. "Residence", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.



Sec. 211. "Residence state", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Adoption Assistance under IC 31-19-29, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-19-29-2.

Sec. 212. "Residential placement committee", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-23, means a committee that reviews the placement of youth in a child caring institution, a private secure facility, or a group home licensed by the department to ensure that the placement is in the least restrictive, most family like, and most appropriate setting available and close to the parent's home, consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child.

Sec. 213. "Respondent", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-18.

Sec. 214. "Responding state", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 215. "Responding tribunal", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 216. "Restorative justice services" has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-8.5-1.

Sec. 216.5. (a) "Reunification services" means all services that are provided:

- (1) to a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who is the subject of a petition alleging that the child is a child in need of services; and**
- (2) with the intent of rehabilitating the relationship between the child and the parent, guardian, or custodian.**

(b) The term includes services such as:

- (1) individual, group, and family counseling;**
- (2) inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services;**
- (3) mental health services;**
- (4) assistance to address domestic violence;**
- (5) services designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families;**
- (6) peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers;**
- (7) services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings;**
- (8) substance abuse treatment and screening; and**
- (9) transportation to or from any of the services and activities**



described in this subsection.

(c) The term does not include services provided to a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child while the child is residing in a:

- (1) child caring institution;
- (2) group home; or
- (3) private secure facility;

licensed by the department.

Sec. 217. "Risk and needs assessment tool" means a validated instrument approved by the judicial conference of Indiana for use at appropriate stages in the juvenile justice system to identify specific risk factors and needs shown to be statistically related to a child's risk of reoffending, and that when properly addressed may reduce a child's risk of reoffending.

Sec. 218. "Risk screening tool" means a validated screening instrument approved by the judicial conference of Indiana that:

- (1) measures a child's risk to reoffend; and
- (2) is used to inform a child's eligibility to participate in juvenile diversion and informal adjustment.

Sec. 219. "Safe haven infant", for purposes of IC 31-34 and IC 31-35, means a child:

- (1) who is, or appears to be, not more than sixty (60) days of age; and
- (2) who has been voluntarily left:
 - (A) by a parent with an emergency medical services provider (as defined in IC 16-41-10-1); or
 - (B) in a newborn safety device;

under IC 31-34-2.5-1.

Sec. 220. "School", for purposes of section 71 of this chapter and IC 31-39-2-13.8, means a:

- (1) public school (including a charter school as defined in IC 20-24-1-4); or
- (2) nonpublic school (as defined in IC 20-18-2-12);

that must comply with the education records privacy provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) to be eligible to receive designated federal education funding.

Sec. 220.5. "Screened out", with regard to a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect under IC 31-33, means that the department:

- (1) received the report under IC 31-33-7; and
- (2) did not refer the report for investigation under IC 31-33-9 based on the department's determination that the report:



- (A) lacked sufficient information;
- (B) did not contain allegations of child abuse or neglect;
- (C) contained duplicative allegations that were previously assessed by the department; or
- (D) did not contain information indicating a current risk to a child.

Sec. 221. "Secure detention facility", for purposes of this title, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-40-1-1.5.

Sec. 222. "Secure facility", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a place of residence, other than a shelter care facility, that prohibits the departure of a child.

Sec. 223. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "secure private facility", for purposes of the juvenile law, means the following:

- (1) A facility that is licensed under IC 31-27 to operate as a secure private facility.
- (2) A private facility that is licensed in another state to provide residential care and treatment to one (1) or more children in a secure facility other than a detention center, prison, jail, or similar correctional facility.

(b) "Secure private facility", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a secure private facility other than the following:

- (1) A juvenile detention facility established under IC 31-31-8 or IC 31-31-9 (or IC 31-6-9-5 or IC 31-6-9.5 before their repeal).
- (2) A facility operated by the department of correction.
- (3) A county jail.
- (4) A detention center operated by a county sheriff.

Sec. 224. "Sending state", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

Sec. 225. "Services", for purposes of IC 31-40-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-40-1-1.5.

Sec. 226. "Services or items", for purposes of IC 31-36-3, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-36-3-1.

Sec. 227. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "shelter care facility", for purposes of the juvenile law, means a place of residence that:

- (1) is licensed under the laws of any state; and
- (2) is not locked to prevent a child's departure unless the administrator determines that locking is necessary to protect the child's health.



(b) "Shelter care facility", for purposes of IC 31-27-3 and IC 31-27-5, means a child caring institution or group home that provides temporary service twenty-four (24) hours a day for not more than twenty (20) consecutive days to a child:

- (1) who is admitted to a residential facility on an emergency basis; and
- (2) who is:
 - (A) receiving care and supervision under an order of a juvenile court;
 - (B) voluntarily placed by the parent or guardian of the child; or
 - (C) self-referred.

Sec. 228. (a) "Sibling", for purposes of IC 31-19, IC 31-28-5, and IC 31-34 (except for IC 31-34-3-4.5), means a brother or sister by blood, half-blood, or adoption.

(b) "Sibling", for purposes of IC 31-34-3-4.5, means:

- (1) a brother or sister by blood, half-blood, or adoption; and
- (2) any other individual who would be considered a sibling if parental rights had not been terminated.

Sec. 229. "Spousal support order", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 230. (a) "State", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-19.

(b) "State", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

(c) "State", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Adoption Assistance under IC 31-19-29, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-19-29-2.

(d) "State", for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles under IC 31-37-23-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-37-23-1.

Sec. 230.5. "State benefit", for purposes of section 82.5 of this chapter, means any program administered, controlled, or funded by the state that provides any one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Cash.
- (2) Payments.
- (3) Grants.
- (4) Contracts.
- (5) Loans.
- (6) In-kind assistance.



Sec. 231. "State department", for purposes of IC 31-19-5, refers to the Indiana department of health.

Sec. 232. "State registrar", for purposes of IC 31-19-18 through IC 31-19-25.5, means the person who:

- (1) is in charge of the division of the Indiana department of health that administers the system of vital records; and**
- (2) has charge of the files and records pertaining to vital records.**

Sec. 233. "STEVE system", for purposes of IC 31-19-20, IC 31-19-25, and IC 31-19-25.5, refers to the State and Territorial Exchange of Vital Events Exchange System, administered by the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems.

Sec. 234. (a) "Substantially burden", for purposes of IC 31-42, means:

- (1) constraining, inhibiting, curtailing, or denying the right of a parent, either directly or indirectly; or**
- (2) compelling any action contrary to the right of a parent; to direct the upbringing, religious instruction, education, or health care of the parent's child.**

(b) The term includes the following:

- (1) Withholding benefits.**
- (2) Assessing criminal, civil, or administrative penalties or damages.**
- (3) Exclusion from governmental programs.**

Sec. 235. "Substantiated", when used in reference to a child abuse or neglect report made under IC 31-33, means a determination regarding the status of the report whenever facts obtained during an assessment of the report provide a preponderance of evidence that child abuse or neglect has occurred.

Sec. 236. "Successful adulthood services", for purposes of IC 31-25 and IC 31-28, means services for youth that are designed to assist youth who will age out of foster care with the skills and abilities necessary or desirable to be self-reliant, including housing and educational support, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and support, daily living skills, budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, preventative health activities, and counseling.

Sec. 237. "Supervised independent living arrangement", for purposes of IC 31-28-5.8 and IC 31-34-21-7.5, means a living arrangement that provides housing for a youth that is not



supervised on site, such as a dormitory, an apartment, or shared housing, and is not a foster home, host home, group home, child caring institution, or private secure facility.

Sec. 238. "Support enforcement agency", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 239. (a) "Support order", for purposes of IC 31-16-15 and IC 31-16-16, means any judgment, decree, or order of child support, including medical support, issued by a court, in Indiana or another state, that has jurisdiction over the support order. The term includes orders issued under IC 31-14 through IC 31-17.

(b) "Support order", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 240. "Surrogate", for purposes of IC 31-20, means a party to a surrogate agreement who agrees to bear or bears a child that is genetically related to:

- (1) the party who agrees to bear or bears the child and an intended biological parent;
- (2) an intended biological parent and a gamete donor who is not:
 - (A) an intended biological parent; and
 - (B) the spouse of the party who agrees to bear or bears the child; or
- (3) two (2) intended biological parents of the child.

Sec. 241. "Surrogate agreement", for purposes of IC 31-20, means an agreement that is entered into before the birth of a child between a surrogate and one (1) or more parties and that is intended by the parties at the time that the agreement is made to induce the surrogate to relinquish care, custody, and control over the child at birth to any of the following:

- (1) An intended biological parent of the child.
- (2) An intended biological parent of the child and another person who is not:
 - (A) genetically related to the child; and
 - (B) the surrogate's spouse.
- (3) Two (2) intended biological parents of the child.

Sec. 242. "Team", for purposes of IC 31-33-3, refers to a community child protection team appointed under IC 31-33-3.

Sec. 243. "Therapeutic foster family home", for purposes of IC 31-27, means a foster family home:

- (1) that provides care to:



(A) a child; or

(B) an individual at least eighteen (18) but less than twenty-one (21) years of age receiving collaborative care under IC 31-28-5.8;

who has serious emotional disturbances, significant behavioral health needs and functional impairments, or developmental or physical disabilities;

(2) in which the child or individual receives treatment in a family home through an integrated array of services supervised and supported by qualified program staff from:

(A) the department of child services;

(B) a managed care provider that contracts with the division of mental health and addiction; or

(C) a licensed child placing agency; and

(3) that meets the additional requirements of IC 31-27-4-2.

Sec. 244. "Title IV-D agency" means:

(1) the bureau of child support established in the department of child services established by IC 31-25-3-1; or

(2) a designated agent of the department described in IC 31-25-4-13.1.

Sec. 245. "Title IV-D case", for purposes of IC 31-16-15, means a case arising under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 through 669).

Sec. 246. "Transitional services plan", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-21, IC 31-34-15, and IC 31-37-19, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-25-2-21(a).

Sec. 247. "Tribe", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-20.

Sec. 248. "Tribunal", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

Sec. 249. "Ultimate authority of the department" refers to the director or the director's designee under IC 31-25-2-11.5.

Sec. 250. "United States central authority", for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-7-1.

Sec. 251. "Unlicensed kinship caregiver", for purposes of section 109 of this chapter, IC 31-32-2.5, IC 31-34-21-4.5, and IC 31-28-7, means a relative (as defined in section 207(c) of this chapter) who is:

(1) providing care and supervision to a child under a court



order for purposes of placement in a child in need of services case or juvenile delinquency case; and

(2) not licensed as a foster parent under IC 31-27-4.

Sec. 252. "Unsubstantiated", for purposes of IC 31-33 and IC 31-39-8-4, means a determination regarding the status of a report made under IC 31-33 whenever facts obtained during an assessment of the report provide credible evidence that child abuse or neglect has not occurred.

Sec. 253. (a) "Victim of child abuse or neglect", for purposes of IC 31-32-11-1 and IC 31-33, refers to:

(1) a child as described in:

(A) IC 31-34-1-1 through IC 31-34-1-5;

(B) IC 31-34-1-10; or

(C) IC 31-34-1-11;

regardless of whether the child needs care, treatment, rehabilitation, or the coercive intervention of a court; or

(2) an individual who:

(A) is at least eighteen (18) years of age but less than twenty-one (21) years of age;

(B) resides, or has previously resided, at a residential facility licensed by the department; and

(C) is harmed or threatened with harm as a result of:

(i) a battery offense included in IC 35-42-2; or

(ii) sexual activity (as defined in IC 35-42-4-13(b));

committed by a member of the staff at the residential facility.

(b) The term does not include a child who is alleged to be a victim of a sexual offense under IC 35-42-4-3 unless the alleged offense under IC 35-42-4-3 involves the fondling or touching of the buttocks, genitals, or female breasts.

Sec. 254. "Victim of human or sexual trafficking", for purposes of IC 31-34-1-3.5, refers to a child who is recruited, harbored, transported, or engaged in:

(1) forced labor;

(2) involuntary servitude;

(3) prostitution;

(4) juvenile prostitution, as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-178.5;

(5) child exploitation under IC 35-42-4-4;

(6) marriage, unless authorized by a court under IC 31-11-1-7;

(7) trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, juvenile prostitution, or participation in sexual conduct as defined in



IC 35-42-4-4(a); or

(8) human trafficking as defined in IC 35-42-3.5-0.5.

Sec. 255. "Voluntary information", for purposes of IC 31-19-18, means the information transmitted to the state registrar as provided in IC 31-19-18-3.

Sec. 256. (a) "Wardship", for purposes of the juvenile law, means the responsibility for temporary care and custody of a child by transferring the rights and obligations from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to the person granted wardship. Except to the extent a right or an obligation is specifically addressed in the court order establishing wardship, the rights and obligations of the person granted wardship include making decisions concerning the:

- (1) physical custody of the child;**
- (2) care and supervision of the child;**
- (3) child's visitation with parents, relatives, or other individuals; and**
- (4) medical care and treatment of the child.**

(b) "Wardship" does not apply to requirements for consenting to an adoption under IC 31-19-9.

Sec. 257. (a) "Warrant", for purposes of IC 31-25-3 and IC 31-25-4, means an instrument that is:

- (1) the equivalent of a money payment; and**
- (2) immediately convertible into cash by the payee for the full face amount of the instrument.**

(b) "Warrant", for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-21.

Sec. 258. "Youth service bureau", for purposes of IC 31-26-1, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-26-1-2.

SECTION 162. IC 31-12-3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. The family relations division may be administered by:

- (1) the community mental health center;**
- (2) a managed care provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127(b)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-219**); or**
- (3) any other person approved by the court.**

SECTION 163. IC 31-15-7-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) In an action for dissolution of marriage under IC 31-15-2-2, the court shall divide the property of the parties, whether:

- (1) owned by either spouse before the marriage;**
- (2) acquired by either spouse in his or her own right:**



- (A) after the marriage; and
 - (B) before final separation of the parties; or
 - (3) acquired by their joint efforts.
- (b) The court shall divide the property in a just and reasonable manner by:
- (1) division of the property in kind;
 - (2) setting the property or parts of the property over to one (1) of the spouses and requiring either spouse to pay an amount, either in gross or in installments, that is just and proper;
 - (3) ordering the sale of the property under such conditions as the court prescribes and dividing the proceeds of the sale; or
 - (4) ordering the distribution of benefits described in ~~IC 31-9-2-98(b)(2)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-190(b)(2)** or ~~IC 31-9-2-98(b)(3)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-190(b)(3)** that are payable after the dissolution of marriage, by setting aside to either of the parties a percentage of those payments either by assignment or in kind at the time of receipt.

SECTION 164. IC 31-18.5-1-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.206-2015, SECTION 53, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. In this article:

- (1) "Child" means an individual, whether over or under the age of majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the individual's parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a support order directed to the parent.
- (2) "Child support order" means a support order for a child, including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of the issuing state or foreign country.
- (3) "Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, concluded at The Hague on November 23, 2007.
- (4) "Duty of support" means an obligation imposed or imposable by law to provide support for a:
 - (A) child;
 - (B) spouse; or
 - (C) former spouse;
 including an unsatisfied obligation to provide support.
- (5) "Foreign country" means a country, including a political subdivision thereof, other than the United States, that authorizes the issuance of support orders and:
 - (A) which has been declared under the law of the United States to be a foreign reciprocating country;
 - (B) which has established a reciprocal arrangement for child



support with Indiana as provided in IC 31-18.5-3-8;
 (C) which has enacted a law or established procedures for the issuance and enforcement of support orders which are substantially similar to the procedures under this article; or
 (D) in which the Convention is in force with respect to the United States.

(6) "Foreign support order" means a support order of a foreign tribunal.

(7) "Foreign tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity of a foreign country which is authorized to:

- (A) establish, enforce, or modify support orders; or
- (B) determine parentage of a child.

The term includes a competent authority under the Convention.

(8) "Home state" means:

- (A) the state or foreign country in which a child lived with a parent or a person acting as parent for at least six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding the time of filing of a petition or comparable pleading for support; and
- (B) if a child is less than six (6) months old, the state or foreign country in which the child lived from birth with any parent or person acting as parent.

A period of temporary absence of any parent or person acting as parent is counted as part of the six (6) month or other period.

(9) "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to money from any source and any other property subject to withholding for support under Indiana law.

(10) "Income withholding order" means an order or other legal process directed to an obligor's income payor (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-57~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-127**) or other debtor to withhold support from the income of the obligor.

(11) "Initiating tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign country from which a petition or comparable pleading is forwarded or in which a petition or comparable pleading is filed for forwarding to another state or foreign country.

(12) "Issuing foreign country" means the foreign country in which a tribunal issues a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(13) "Issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(14) "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign country that issues a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.



(15) "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules and regulations having the force of law.

(16) "Obligee" means:

(A) an individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to be owed or in whose favor:

(i) a support order; or

(ii) a judgment determining parentage of a child; has been issued;

(B) a foreign country, state, or political subdivision of a state to which the rights under a duty of support or support order have been assigned or which has independent claims based on financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child support;

(C) an individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of the individual's child; or

(D) a person that is a creditor in a proceeding under IC 31-18.5-7.

(17) "Obligor" means an individual or the estate of a decedent that:

(A) owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;

(B) is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child;

(C) is liable under a support order; or

(D) is a debtor in a proceeding under IC 31-18.5-7.

(18) "Outside this state" means a location in another state or a country other than the United States, whether or not the country is a foreign country.

(19) "Person" means:

(A) an individual;

(B) a corporation;

(C) a business trust;

(D) an estate;

(E) a trust;

(F) a partnership;

(G) a limited liability company;

(H) an association;

(I) a joint venture;

(J) a public corporation;

(K) a government;

(L) a governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; or

(M) any other legal or commercial entity.

(20) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible



medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(21) "Register" means to file in an Indiana tribunal a support order or judgment determining parentage of a child issued in another state or a foreign country.

(22) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support order or judgment determining parentage of a child is registered.

(23) "Responding state" means a state in which a petition or comparable pleading for support or to determine parentage of a child is filed or to which a petition or comparable pleading is forwarded for filing from another state or a foreign country.

(24) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a responding state or foreign country.

(25) "Spousal support order" means a support order for a spouse or former spouse of the obligor.

(26) "State" means:

(A) a state of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) Puerto Rico;

(D) the United States Virgin Islands; or

(E) any territory or insular possession under the jurisdiction of the United States.

The term includes an Indian nation or tribe.

(27) "Support enforcement agency" means a public official, governmental entity, or private agency authorized to:

(A) seek enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of support;

(B) seek establishment or modification of child support;

(C) request determination of parentage of a child;

(D) attempt to locate obligors or their assets; or

(E) request determination of the controlling child support order.

(28) "Support order" means a judgment, decree, order, or directive, whether:

(A) temporary;

(B) final; or

(C) subject to modification;

issued in a state or foreign country for the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse, which provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages, retroactive support, or reimbursement for financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child support. The term may include related costs and fees,



interest, income withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney's fees, and other relief.

(29) "Tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of a child.

SECTION 165. IC 31-18.5-1-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.206-2015, SECTION 53, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The court is the tribunal of Indiana.

(b) The Title IV-D agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-130~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-244**) is the support enforcement agency of Indiana.

SECTION 166. IC 31-18.5-5-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.206-2015, SECTION 53, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. An income withholding order issued in another state may be sent by or on behalf of the obligee, or by the support enforcement agency, to the person defined as the obligor's income payor under ~~IC 31-9-2-57~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-127** without first filing a petition or comparable pleading or registering the order with an Indiana tribunal.

SECTION 167. IC 31-19-2-7.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.5. (a) This section does not apply to a petitioner for adoption who provides the licensed child placing agency or the local office with the results of a criminal history check conducted:

- (1) in accordance with ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-58**; and
- (2) not more than one (1) year before the date on which the petition is filed.

(b) Every petitioner for adoption shall submit the necessary information, forms, or consents for:

- (1) a licensed child placing agency; or
- (2) the local office;

that conducts the inspection and investigation required for adoption of a child under IC 31-19-8-5 to conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) of the petitioner as part of its investigation.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the petitioner for adoption shall pay the fees and other costs of the criminal history check required under this section.

(d) If the petitioner for adoption seeks to adopt a child who is under the care and supervision of the department at the time of or any time after the filing of the petition for adoption, the department may pay the fees and other costs of the criminal history check required under this section.



SECTION 168. IC 31-19-2-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.128-2012, SECTION 46, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. As soon as a petition for adoption is found to be in proper form, the clerk of the court shall forward one (1) copy of the petition for adoption to a licensed child placing agency as described in ~~IC 31-9-2-17.5~~, **IC 31-9-2.1-46**, with preference to be given to the agency, if any, sponsoring the adoption, as shown by the petition for adoption.

SECTION 169. IC 31-19-7-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.128-2012, SECTION 48, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) A child may not be placed in a proposed adoptive home without the prior written approval of a licensed child placing agency or the local office approved for that purpose by the department.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d), before giving prior written approval for placement in a proposed adoptive home of a child, a licensed child placing agency or the department of child services shall conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) concerning the proposed adoptive parent and any other person who is currently residing in the proposed adoptive home.

(c) The prospective adoptive parent shall pay the fees and other costs of the criminal history check required under this section.

(d) A licensed child placing agency or the department of child services is not required to conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) if a prospective adoptive parent provides the licensed child placing agency or the local office with the results of a criminal history check conducted:

- (1) in accordance with ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-58**; and
- (2) not more than one (1) year before the date on which the licensed child placing agency or the local office provides written approval for the placement.

SECTION 170. IC 31-19-11-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 282, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) Whenever the court has heard the evidence and finds that:

- (1) the adoption requested is in the best interest of the child;
- (2) the petitioner or petitioners for adoption are of sufficient ability to rear the child and furnish suitable support and education;
- (3) the report of the investigation and recommendation under IC 31-19-8-5 has been filed;
- (4) the attorney or agency arranging an adoption has filed with the



court an affidavit prepared by the Indiana department of health under IC 31-19-5-16 indicating whether a man is entitled to notice of the adoption because the man has registered with the putative father registry in accordance with IC 31-19-5;

(5) proper notice arising under subdivision (4), if notice is necessary, of the adoption has been given;

(6) the attorney or agency has filed with the court an affidavit prepared by the Indiana department of health under:

(A) IC 31-19-6 indicating whether a record of a paternity determination; or

(B) IC 16-37-2-2(g) indicating whether a paternity affidavit executed under IC 16-37-2-2.1;

has been filed in relation to the child;

(7) proper consent, if consent is necessary, to the adoption has been given;

(8) the petitioner for adoption is not prohibited from adopting the child as the result of an inappropriate criminal history described in subsection (c) or (d); and

(9) the person, licensed child placing agency, or local office that has placed the child for adoption has provided the documents and other information required under IC 31-19-17 to the prospective adoptive parents;

the court shall grant the petition for adoption and enter an adoption decree.

(b) A court may not grant an adoption unless the Indiana department of health's affidavit under IC 31-19-5-16 is filed with the court as provided under subsection (a)(4).

(c) A juvenile adjudication for an act listed in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that would be a felony if committed by an adult, a conviction of a misdemeanor related to the health and safety of a child, or a conviction of a felony not listed in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** by a petitioner for adoption or household member is a permissible basis for the court to deny the petition for adoption. In addition, the court may not grant an adoption if a petitioner for adoption has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense under ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**. However, the court is not prohibited from granting an adoption based upon a felony conviction for:

(1) a felony under IC 9-30-5;

(2) battery (IC 35-42-2-1);

(3) criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) as a felony;

(4) criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3);

(5) arson (IC 35-43-1-1);



(6) nonsupport of a dependent child (IC 35-46-1-5);
 (7) operating a motorboat while intoxicated (IC 35-46-9-6) as a felony;
 (8) a felony involving a weapon under IC 35-47; or
 (9) a felony relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4;
 if the date of the conviction did not occur within the immediately preceding five (5) year period.

(d) A court may not grant an adoption if the petitioner is a sex or violent offender (as defined in IC 11-8-8-5) or a sexually violent predator (as defined in IC 35-38-1-7.5).

(e) In addition to this section, section 1.1 of this chapter applies when one (1) or more petitioners is a person with a disability.

SECTION 171. IC 31-25-2-23, AS AMENDED BY P.L.123-2014, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 23. (a) The department shall establish a permanency roundtable (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-88.7~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-176**). The permanency roundtable shall review:

- (1) a child's permanency plan under IC 31-34-21-5.7 if the child is placed in a child caring institution, group home, or private secure facility; and
- (2) a child's permanency plan under IC 31-37-20-3 if the child is placed in a child caring institution, group home, or private secure facility;

and make recommendations to the court.

(b) The department shall establish a residential placement committee (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-109.5~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-212**). The residential placement committee shall, before a case plan is approved by the local office or court, review:

- (1) a child's placement in a child caring institution, group home, or private secure facility under IC 31-34-15-2; and
- (2) a child's placement in a child caring institution, group home, or private secure facility under IC 31-37-19-1.5 if the placement is contrary to the department's recommendation under IC 31-37-17-1.4;

and make recommendations to the court.

SECTION 172. IC 31-26-5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 158, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Family preservation services may provide:

- (1) comprehensive, coordinated, flexible, and accessible services;
- (2) intervention as early as possible with emphasis on establishing a safe and nurturing environment;



(3) services to families who have members placed in care settings outside the nuclear family; and

(4) planning options for temporary placement outside the family if it would endanger the child to remain in the home.

(b) Unless authorized by a juvenile court, family preservation services may not include a temporary out-of-home placement if a person who is currently residing in the location designated as the out-of-home placement has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect or has a juvenile adjudication or a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-168.**

(c) Before placing a child at imminent risk of placement in a temporary out-of-home placement, the department shall conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58** for each person described in subsection (b). However, the department is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if the temporary out-of-home placement is made to an entity or facility that is not a residence (as defined in IC 3-5-2.1-90) or that is licensed by the state.

SECTION 173. IC 31-27-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.128-2012, SECTION 93, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. The department shall perform the following duties:

(1) Administer the licensing and monitoring of child caring institutions, foster family homes, group homes, and child placing agencies in accordance with this article.

(2) Ensure that a criminal history check of an applicant is conducted under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58** before issuing a license.

(3) Provide for the issuance, denial, and revocation of licenses.

(4) Cooperate with governing bodies of child caring institutions, foster family homes, group homes, and child placing agencies and their staffs to improve standards of child care.

(5) Prepare at least biannually a directory of licensees, except for foster family homes, with a description of the program capacity and type of children served that will be distributed to the legislature, licensees, and other interested parties as a public document.

(6) Deposit all license application fees collected under section 2 of this chapter in the department of child services child care fund established by IC 31-25-2-16.

SECTION 174. IC 31-27-2-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017,



SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Except as provided in subsection (f), the department may grant a variance or waiver of a rule governing child caring institutions, foster family homes, group homes, or child placing agencies. A variance or waiver granted under this section must promote statewide practices and must protect the rights of persons affected by this article.

(b) The department may grant a variance to a rule if an applicant for a license or a licensee under this article does the following:

- (1) Submits to the department a written request for the variance in the form and manner specified by the department.
- (2) Documents that compliance with an alternative method of compliance approved by the department will not be adverse to the health, safety, or welfare of a child receiving services from the applicant for the variance, as determined by the department.

(c) A variance granted under subsection (b) must be conditioned upon compliance with the alternative method approved by the department. Noncompliance constitutes the violation of a rule of the department and may be the basis for revoking the variance.

(d) The department may grant a waiver of a rule if an applicant for a license or a licensee under this article does the following:

- (1) Submits to the department a written request for the waiver in the form and manner specified by the department.
- (2) Documents that compliance with the rule specified in the application for the waiver will create an undue hardship on the applicant for the waiver, as determined by the department.
- (3) Documents that the applicant for the waiver will be in substantial compliance with the rules adopted by the department after the waiver is granted, as determined by the department.
- (4) Documents that noncompliance with the rule specified in the application for a waiver will not be adverse to the health, safety, or welfare of a child receiving services from the applicant for the waiver, as determined by the department.

(e) Except for a variance or waiver of a rule governing foster family homes, a variance or waiver of a rule under this section that conflicts with a building rule or fire safety rule adopted by the fire prevention and building safety commission is not effective until the variance or waiver is approved by the fire prevention and building safety commission.

(f) A waiver may not be granted for an applicant who has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.



SECTION 175. IC 31-27-3-3, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1092-2026, SECTION 5, AND BY HEA 1357-2026, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) An applicant must apply for a child caring institution license on forms provided by the department.

(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the application.

(c) The applicant must submit with the application a statement attesting the following:

(1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.

(2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children;

during the pendency of the application.

(d) The department, on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of the following:

(1) Each individual who is an applicant.

(2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be placed.

(3) Each employee of the applicant.

(4) Each contractor or individual working in the child caring institution who is likely to have unsupervised contact with children in the child caring institution.

(5) Each volunteer of the applicant who is likely to have:

(A) unsupervised contact with children in the child caring institution; or

(B) access to a child's electronic or physical medical records.

(e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under subsection (d), the applicant shall:

(1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check; and

(2) submit to the department a copy of the information it receives concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through (d)(5).

(f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:

(1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based



criminal history check has a record of:

- (A) a conviction for a felony;
 - (B) a conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child; or
 - (C) a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony;
- (2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication contained in the national criminal history record information;
- (3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal history report that the department receives on behalf of any person described in subsection (d); and
- (4) maintain a record of every report and all information the department receives concerning a person described in subsection (d).

(g) Except as provided in subsection (h) and section 3.5 of this chapter, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal of an existing license is submitted.

(h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check of each person described in subsection (d)(2) through (d)(5) must be completed on or before the date the person:

- (1) is employed;
- (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a contract with the applicant.

(i) An individual may be employed by a child caring institution as an employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check of the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The following checks have been completed regarding the individual:
- (A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information data bases under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(1)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58(1)**.
 - (B) A national sex offender registry check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(3)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58(3)**.
 - (C) An in-state local criminal records check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(4)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58(4)**.
 - (D) An in-state child protection index check under IC 31-33-26.



(2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time during the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring by the child caring institution, the following checks have been requested regarding the individual:

(A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(2)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(2)**.

(B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(4)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(4)**.

(3) The individual's employment before the completion of the criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited to training during which the individual:

(A) does not have contact with children who are under the care and control of the child caring institution; and

(B) does not have access to records containing information regarding children who are under the care and control of the child caring institution.

(4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of perjury, disclosing:

(A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the individual with the child welfare agency of a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation; and

(B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement agency in connection with the individual's suspected or alleged commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation.

(j) The applicant or facility is responsible for any fees associated with a criminal history check.

(k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the applicant whether the department has or does not have a record of the person who is the subject of a criminal history check and if the department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details or personally identifying information contained in any child protective services investigation report.

(l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national criminal history report concerning the person.

SECTION 176. IC 31-27-3-5, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1042-2026, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for a denial of a license application:

(1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:

(A) the applicant; or

(B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant.

(2) A criminal conviction of the applicant, or the director or manager of a facility where children will be placed by the applicant, of:

(A) a felony;

(B) a misdemeanor related to the health and safety of a child;

(C) a misdemeanor for operating a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency without a license under this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal); or

(D) a misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2.

(3) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for licensure.

(4) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the records required by the department.

(5) A determination by the department that:

(A) the applicant; or

(B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant; previously operated a home or facility without a license required under any applicable provision of this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal) or IC 12-17.2.

(6) A juvenile adjudication of the applicant for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(7) A determination by the department that the applicant was previously licensed under this article and the license was revoked within one (1) year of the current application.

(b) An application for a license may also be denied if an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant has had any of the following:

(1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.

(3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined



in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.

(c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:

- (1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.
- (2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.
- (3) Evidence of rehabilitation.
- (4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions, volunteer assignment, or contract.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:

- (1) a license application could be denied due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant; and
- (2) the department determines that the employee, volunteer, or contractor has been dismissed by the applicant within a reasonable time after the applicant became aware of the conviction or determination;

the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former contractor does not constitute a sufficient basis for the denial of a license application.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 177. IC 31-27-3-31, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1202-2026, SECTION 42, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 31. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a license:

- (1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:
 - (A) the licensee; or
 - (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the licensee, or the director or manager of a facility where children will be placed by the licensee, of any of the following:
 - (A) A felony.
 - (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
 - (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency without a license under this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal).
 - (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2.



- (3) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the licensee's application for licensure.
 - (4) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the records required by the department.
 - (5) A determination by the department that:
 - (A) the licensee; or
 - (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee; previously operated a home or facility without a license required under any applicable provision of this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal) or IC 12-17.2.
 - (6) A juvenile adjudication of a licensee for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.
 - (7) A determination by the department that the operator of the child caring institution has failed to comply with an order of the department of homeland security.
- (b) A license may also be revoked if an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee has had any of the following:
- (1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.
 - (2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.
 - (3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.
- (c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:
- (1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.
 - (2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.
 - (3) Evidence of rehabilitation.
 - (4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions, volunteer assignment, or contract.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:
- (1) a license could be revoked due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee; and
 - (2) the department determines that the employee, volunteer, or contractor has been dismissed by the licensee within a reasonable



time after the licensee became aware of the conviction or determination;
 the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former contractor does not constitute a sufficient basis for the revocation of a license.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 178. IC 31-27-4-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) An applicant must apply for a foster family home license on forms provided by the department.

(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the application.

(c) An applicant must submit with the application a statement attesting the following:

(1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.

(2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children;

during the pendency of the application.

(d) An applicant shall submit the necessary information, forms, or consents for the department to conduct a criminal history check for each individual who is an applicant.

(e) The department or, at the discretion of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of:

(1) the applicant's employees and volunteers who have or will have direct contact, on a regular and continuing basis, with children who are or will be under the direct supervision of the applicant; and

(2) all household members.

(f) If the applicant conducts criminal history checks under subsection (e), the applicant shall maintain records of the information received concerning each individual subject of a criminal history check.

(g) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of an applicant under subsection (e), the department shall:

(1) make a determination whether the subject of a national fingerprint based criminal history check has a record of:

(A) a conviction for a felony;



(B) a conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child; or

(C) a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony;

(2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication contained in the national criminal history record information;

(3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal history report that the department receives on behalf of any person described in subsection (e); and

(4) maintain a record of every report and all information the department receives concerning a person described in subsection (e).

(h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check described in subsection (e) is required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal of an existing license is submitted.

(i) A criminal history check concerning a person described in subsection (e) must be completed on or before the date the employee or volunteer has direct contact on a regular and continuing basis with a child placed in the home or the person first becomes a resident of the applicant's household as described in subsection (e)(2).

(j) The applicant is responsible for any fees associated with a criminal history check.

(k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the applicant whether the department has or does not have a record of the person who is the subject of a criminal history check and if the department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details or personally identifying information contained in any child protective investigation report.

(l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national criminal history report concerning the person.

SECTION 179. IC 31-27-4-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.45-2023, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for a denial of a license application:

(1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:



- (A) the applicant;
 - (B) an employee or a volunteer of the applicant who has direct contact, on a regular and continuous basis, with children who are under the direct supervision of the applicant; or
 - (C) a person residing in the applicant's residence.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the applicant of any of the following:
- (A) a felony;
 - (B) a misdemeanor related to the health and safety of a child;
 - (C) a misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5; or
 - (D) a misdemeanor for operating a foster family home without a license under this chapter (or IC 12-17.4-4 before its repeal).
- (3) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for licensure.
- (4) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the records required by the department.
- (5) A determination by the department that:
- (A) the applicant;
 - (B) an employee or a volunteer of the applicant who has direct contact, on a regular and continuous basis, with children who are under the direct supervision of the applicant; or
 - (C) a person residing in the applicant's residence;
- previously operated a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5 or a foster family home without a license under this chapter (or IC 12-17.4-4 before its repeal).
- (6) A juvenile adjudication of the applicant for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.
- (b) An application for a license may also be denied if an individual who resides in the residence of the applicant or an employee or volunteer of the applicant who has direct contact on a regular and continuous basis with children who are under the direct supervision of the applicant has had any of the following:
- (1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.
 - (2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department to employ or assign the person as a volunteer in a position described in this subsection or to permit the individual to reside in the applicant's residence.
 - (3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult,



would be a felony, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department to:

(A) employ or assign the person as a volunteer in a position described in this subsection; or

(B) permit the individual to reside in the applicant's residence.

(c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:

(1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.

(2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.

(3) Evidence of rehabilitation.

(4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions or volunteer assignment.

(5) The nature and extent of unsupervised contact with children residing in the home.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:

(1) a license application could be denied due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, a volunteer, or a person residing in the residence of the applicant; and

(2) the department determines that the employee or volunteer has been dismissed before the employee or volunteer has direct contact on a regular and continuing basis with a child who is or will be placed in a facility operated by the applicant or that the person residing in the residence no longer resides there;

the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former household resident does not constitute a sufficient basis for the denial of a license application.

(e) The following do not constitute a sufficient basis for the denial of a license application:

(1) The applicant's immunization status or refusal to receive an immunization.

(2) The immunization status of or refusal to receive an immunization by:

(A) an individual who resides in the applicant's residence; or

(B) an employee or volunteer of the applicant who has direct contact on a regular and continuous basis with children who are under the direct supervision of the applicant.

(f) Nothing in this section prohibits a licensed child placing agency from making placement decisions based on the individual needs of a medically fragile child or on biological parental preferences.



(g) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 180. IC 31-27-4-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017, SECTION 19, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) The department shall deny a license when an applicant fails to meet the requirements for a license. The department shall deny a license to an applicant who has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~): **IC 31-9-2.1-168**).

(b) The department may deny a license to an applicant who:

- (1) has been convicted of a felony that is not described in subsection (a); or
- (2) has had a juvenile adjudication for an act described in subsection (a) that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(c) The department shall send written notice by certified mail that the application has been denied and give the reasons for the denial.

(d) An administrative hearing concerning the denial of a license shall be provided upon written request by the applicant. The request must be made not more than thirty (30) days after receiving the written notice under subsection (c).

(e) An administrative hearing shall be held in accordance with IC 4-21.5-3.

SECTION 181. IC 31-27-4-32, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017, SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 32. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a license:

- (1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:
 - (A) the licensee;
 - (B) an employee or a volunteer of the licensee who has direct contact, on a regular and continuous basis, with children who are under the direct supervision of the licensee; or
 - (C) a person who is residing in the home of the licensee.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the licensee for any of the following:
 - (A) A felony.
 - (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
 - (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5.
 - (D) A misdemeanor for operating a foster family home without a license under this chapter (or IC 12-17.4-4 before its repeal).
- (3) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the licensee's application for licensure.
- (4) A determination by the department that the licensee made



false statements in the records required by the department.

(5) A determination by the department that:

(A) the licensee;

(B) an employee or a volunteer of the licensee who has direct contact, on a regular and continuous basis, with children who are under the direct supervision of the licensee; or

(C) a person residing in the licensee's residence;

previously operated a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2-5 or a foster family home without a license under this chapter (or IC 12-17.4-4 before its repeal).

(6) A juvenile adjudication of the licensee for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(b) A license may also be revoked if an individual who resides in the residence of the licensee or an employee or volunteer of the licensee who has direct contact on a regular and continuous basis with children who are under the direct supervision of the licensee has had any of the following:

(1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department to employ or assign the person as a volunteer in a position described in this subsection or to permit the individual to reside in the licensee's residence.

(3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department to:

(A) employ or assign the individual as a volunteer in a position described in this subsection; or

(B) permit the individual to reside in the licensee's residence.

(c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:

(1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.

(2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.

(3) Evidence of rehabilitation.

(4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions or volunteer assignment.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (b), if:

(1) a license could be revoked due to a criminal conviction of, or



a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee or a volunteer of the licensee or an individual residing in the residence of the licensee; and

(2) the department determines that the employee or volunteer has been dismissed by the licensee within a reasonable time after the licensee became aware of the conviction or that the individual no longer resides in the licensee's residence;

the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former household resident does not constitute a sufficient basis for the revocation of a license.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 182. IC 31-27-4-33, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017, SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 33. (a) A licensee shall operate a foster family home in compliance with the rules established under this article and is subject to the disciplinary sanctions under subsection (b) if the department finds that the licensee has violated this article or a rule adopted under this article.

(b) After complying with the procedural provisions in sections 22 through 24 of this chapter, the department may revoke the license when the department finds that a licensee has committed a violation under subsection (a). However, the department shall permanently revoke the license of a licensee who has been convicted of any of the nonwaivable offenses, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-168**. The department may permanently revoke the license of a person who has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense that is not described in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** and for other reasons set forth in rules adopted by the department.

SECTION 183. IC 31-27-5-4, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1357-2026, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) An applicant must apply for a group home license on forms provided by the department.

(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the application.

(c) An applicant must submit with the application a statement attesting the following:

- (1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:
 - (A) a felony; or
 - (B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.
- (2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:



(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children;

during the pendency of the application.

(d) The department on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of the following:

(1) Each individual who is an applicant.

(2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be placed.

(3) Each employee or volunteer of the applicant.

(4) Each contractor or individual working in the group home who is likely to have unsupervised contact with children in the group home.

(e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under subsection (d), the applicant shall:

(1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check; and

(2) submit to the department a copy of the information the applicant receives concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through (d)(4).

(f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:

(1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based criminal history check has a record of a:

(A) conviction for a felony;

(B) conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child; or

(C) juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony;

(2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication contained in the national criminal history record information;

(3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal history report that the department receives on behalf of any person described in subsection (d); and

(4) maintain a record of every report and all information it receives concerning a person described in subsection (d).

(g) Except as provided in subsection (h) and section 4.5 of this chapter, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is required



only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal of an existing license is submitted.

(h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check of each person described in subsection (d)(2), (d)(3), or (d)(4) must be completed on or before the date the person:

- (1) is employed;
- (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a contract with the applicant.

(i) An individual may be employed by a group home as an employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check of the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The following checks have been completed regarding the individual:

(A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information data bases under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(1)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-58(1)**.

(B) A national sex offender registry check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(3)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-58(3)**.

(C) An in-state local criminal records check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(4)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-58(4)**.

(D) An in-state child protection index check under IC 31-33-26.

(2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time during the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring by the group home, the following checks have been requested regarding the individual:

(A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(2)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-58(2)**.

(B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(4)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-58(4)**.

(3) The individual's employment before the completion of the criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited to training during which the individual:

(A) does not have contact with children who are under the care and control of the group home; and

(B) does not have access to records containing information regarding children who are under the care and control of the group home.

(4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of perjury, disclosing:

(A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the



individual with the child welfare agency of a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation; and
 (B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement agency in connection with the individual's suspected or alleged commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation.

(j) The applicant is responsible for any fees associated with a criminal history check.

(k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the applicant as to whether the department has or does not have a record of the person who is the subject of a criminal history check and whether the department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details or personally identifying information contained in any child protective services investigation report.

(l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national criminal history report concerning the person.

SECTION 184. IC 31-27-5-6, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1092-2026, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for a denial of a license application:

- (1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:
 - (A) the applicant; or
 - (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the applicant, or the director or manager of a facility where children will be placed by the applicant, for any of the following:
 - (A) A felony.
 - (B) A misdemeanor related to the health and safety of a child.
 - (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency without a license under this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal).
 - (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2.
- (3) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for licensure.



(4) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the records required by the department.

(5) A determination by the department that:

(A) the applicant; or

(B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant; previously operated a home or facility without a license required under any applicable provision of this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal) or IC 12-17.2.

(6) A juvenile adjudication of the applicant for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(7) A determination by the department that the applicant was previously licensed under this article and the license was revoked within one (1) year of the current application.

(b) An application for a license may also be denied if an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant has had any of the following:

(1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department to employ or assign the person as a volunteer in a position described in this subsection.

(3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department to employ or assign the person as a volunteer in a position described in this subsection.

(c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:

(1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.

(2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.

(3) Evidence of rehabilitation.

(4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions, volunteer assignment, or contract.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:

(1) a license application could be denied due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant; and

(2) the department determines that the employee, volunteer, or contractor has been dismissed by the applicant within a reasonable time after the applicant became aware of the



conviction or determination;
 the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former contractor does not constitute a sufficient basis for the denial of a license application.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 185. IC 31-27-5-31, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1202-2026, SECTION 47, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 31. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a license:

(1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:

(A) the licensee; or

(B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee.

(2) A criminal conviction of the licensee, or the director or manager of a facility where children will be placed by the licensee, for any of the following:

(A) A felony.

(B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.

(C) A misdemeanor for operating a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency without a license under this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal).

(D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2.

(3) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the licensee's application for licensure.

(4) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the records required by the department.

(5) A determination by the department that:

(A) the licensee; or

(B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee; previously operated a home or facility without a license required under any applicable provision of this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal) or IC 12-17.2.

(6) A juvenile adjudication of the licensee for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(7) A determination by the department that the operator of a group home has failed to comply with an order of the department of homeland security.

(b) A license may also be revoked if an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee has had any of the following:



(1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.

(3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.

(c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:

(1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.

(2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.

(3) Evidence of rehabilitation.

(4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions, volunteer assignment, or contract.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:

(1) a license could be revoked due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee; and

(2) the department determines that the employee, volunteer, or contractor has been dismissed by the licensee within a reasonable time after the licensee became aware of the conviction;

the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former contractor does not constitute a sufficient basis for the revocation of a license.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 186. IC 31-27-6-2, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1357-2026, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) An applicant must apply for a child placing agency license on forms provided by the department.

(b) An applicant must submit the required information as part of the application.

(c) The applicant must submit with the application a statement attesting the following:

(1) Whether the applicant has been convicted of:

(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children.

(2) Whether the applicant has been charged with:



(A) a felony; or

(B) a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of children;

during the pendency of the application.

(d) The department on behalf of an applicant, or, at the discretion of the department, an applicant, shall conduct a criminal history check of the following:

(1) Each individual who is an applicant.

(2) The director or manager of a facility where children will be placed.

(3) Each employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant.

(e) If the applicant conducts a criminal history check under subsection (d), the applicant shall:

(1) maintain records of the information it receives concerning each individual who is the subject of a criminal history check; and

(2) submit to the department a copy of the information it receives concerning each person described in subsection (d)(1) through (d)(3).

(f) If the department conducts a criminal history check on behalf of an applicant under subsection (d), the department shall:

(1) determine whether the subject of a national fingerprint based criminal history check has a record of a:

(A) conviction for a felony;

(B) conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child; or

(C) juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony;

(2) notify the applicant of the determination under subdivision (1) without identifying a specific offense or other identifying information concerning a conviction or juvenile adjudication contained in the national criminal history record information;

(3) submit to the applicant a copy of any state limited criminal history report that the department receives on behalf of any person described in subsection (d); and

(4) maintain a record of every report and all information the department receives concerning a person described in subsection (d).

(g) Except as provided in subsection (h) and section 2.5 of this chapter, a criminal history check described in subsection (d) is required only at the time an application for a new license or the renewal of an existing license is submitted.



(h) Except as provided in subsection (i), a criminal history check of each person described in subsection (d)(2) or (d)(3) must be completed on or before the date the person:

- (1) is employed;
- (2) is assigned as a volunteer; or
- (3) enters into, or the person's employing entity enters into, a contract with the applicant.

(i) An individual may be employed by a child placing agency as an employee, volunteer, or contractor before a criminal history check of the individual is completed as required under subsection (h) if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The following checks have been completed regarding the individual:

(A) A fingerprint based check of national crime information data bases under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(1)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(1).**

(B) A national sex offender registry check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(3)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(3).**

(C) An in-state local criminal records check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(4)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(4).**

(D) An in-state child protection index check under IC 31-33-26.

(2) If the individual has resided outside Indiana at any time during the five (5) years preceding the individual's date of hiring by the child placing agency, the following checks have been requested regarding the individual:

(A) An out-of-state child abuse registry check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(2)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(2).**

(B) An out-of-state local criminal records check under ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5(4)~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-58(4).**

(3) The individual's employment before the completion of the criminal history check required under subsection (h) is limited to training during which the individual:

(A) does not have contact with children who are under the care and control of the child placing agency; and

(B) does not have access to records containing information regarding children who are under the care and control of the child placing agency.

(4) The individual completes an attestation, under penalty of perjury, disclosing:

(A) any abuse or neglect complaints made against the individual with the child welfare agency of a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5)



years preceding the date of the attestation; and
 (B) any contact the individual had with a law enforcement agency in connection with the individual's suspected or alleged commission of a crime in a state other than Indiana in which the individual resided within the five (5) years preceding the date of the attestation.

(j) The applicant or facility is responsible for any fees associated with a criminal history check.

(k) The department shall, at the applicant's request, inform the applicant whether the department has or does not have a record of the person who is the subject of a criminal history check and if the department has identified the person as an alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect. The department may not provide to the applicant any details or personally identifying information contained in any child protective investigation report.

(l) A person who is the subject of a criminal history check conducted in accordance with this section may request the state police department to provide the person with a copy of any state or national criminal history report concerning the person.

SECTION 187. IC 31-27-6-3, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1092-2026, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for denial of a license application:

(1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect by:

- (A) the applicant; or
- (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant.

(2) A criminal conviction of the applicant, or the director or manager of a facility where children will be placed by the licensee, for any of the following:

- (A) A felony.
- (B) A misdemeanor related to the health and safety of a child.
- (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency without a license under this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal).
- (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2.

(3) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the applicant's application for licensure.

(4) A determination by the department that the applicant made false statements in the records required by the department.



- (5) A determination by the department that:
- (A) the applicant; or
 - (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant; previously operated a home or facility without a license required under any applicable provision of this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal) or IC 12-17.2.
- (6) A juvenile adjudication of the applicant for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.
- (7) A determination by the department that the applicant was previously licensed under this article and the license was revoked within one (1) year of the current application
- (b) An application for a license may also be denied if an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant has had any of the following:
- (1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.
 - (2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.
 - (3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the applicant is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.
- (c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:
- (1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.
 - (2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.
 - (3) Evidence of rehabilitation.
 - (4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions, volunteer assignment, or contract.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:
- (1) a license application could be denied due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the applicant; and
 - (2) the department determines that the employee, volunteer, or contractor has been dismissed by the applicant within a reasonable time after the applicant became aware of the conviction or determination;
- the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former contractor does



not constitute a sufficient basis for the denial of a license application.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 188. IC 31-27-6-15.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2025, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15.5. (a) A child placing agency shall establish minimum qualifications for each classification of employee. The standards in subsections (b) through (e) must be used as a guide by each child placing agency in establishing minimum qualifications for the classifications of an executive, a casework supervisor, a caseworker, and a worker in training, and by the department in the licensing of each child placing agency.

(b) An executive must have the following:

(1) A bachelor's degree.

(2) At least one (1) of the following:

(A) Five (5) years of paid experience in a field related to social work, at least two (2) years of which were:

(i) in social work; or

(ii) in a supervisory or administrative capacity in a field related to social work, including working for the department.

(B) A master's degree in social work, counseling, or a related human services area and at least two (2) years of paid experience:

(i) in social work; or

(ii) in a supervisory or administrative capacity in a field related to social work, including working for the department.

(c) A casework supervisor must have the following:

(1) A bachelor's degree.

(2) At least one (1) of the following:

(A) Three (3) years of supervised paid casework experience, at least one (1) year of which was with a child welfare agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-19.3~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-50**).

(B) At least eight (8) credit hours of master's degree level courses in:

(i) social work;

(ii) counseling; or

(iii) a human services area of study or related field;

and at least one (1) year of supervised paid casework with a child welfare agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-19.3~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-50**).

IC 31-9-2.1-50.

(d) A caseworker must have the following:

(1) A bachelor's degree.

(2) At least one (1) of the following:



- (A) Three (3) years of supervised paid casework experience.
- (B) One (1) year of supervised paid casework experience in a licensed child placing agency or with the department.
- (C) One (1) year of graduate training in a recognized school of social work.
- (e) A worker in training must have a bachelor's degree.
- (f) A child placing agency must only employ a staff member who is:
 - (1) duly qualified;
 - (2) of good moral character; and
 - (3) in satisfactory health.
- (g) An employee who is in a position on January 1, 2012, and who qualified for that position on December 31, 2011, is exempt from the requirements of this section.

SECTION 189. IC 31-27-6-28, AS AMENDED BY P.L.243-2019, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 28. (a) The following constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of a license:

- (1) A determination by the department of child abuse or neglect (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-33**) by:
 - (A) the licensee; or
 - (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee.
- (2) A criminal conviction of the licensee, or the director or manager of a facility where children will be placed by the licensee, for any of the following:
 - (A) A felony.
 - (B) A misdemeanor related to the health or safety of a child.
 - (C) A misdemeanor for operating a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency without a license under this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal).
 - (D) A misdemeanor for operating a child care center or child care home without a license under IC 12-17.2.
- (3) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the licensee's application for licensure.
- (4) A determination by the department that the licensee made false statements in the records required by the department.
- (5) A determination by the department that:
 - (A) the licensee; or
 - (B) an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee; previously operated a home or facility without a license required under any applicable provision of this article (or IC 12-17.4 before its repeal) or IC 12-17.2.



(6) A juvenile adjudication of a licensee for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(b) A license may also be revoked if an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee has had any of the following:

(1) A conviction of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(2) A conviction of any other felony or a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.

(3) A juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, unless the licensee is granted a waiver by the department with regard to the employee, volunteer, or contractor.

(c) In determining whether to grant a waiver under subsection (b), the department shall consider the following factors:

(1) The length of time that has passed since the disqualifying conviction.

(2) The severity, nature, and circumstances of the offense.

(3) Evidence of rehabilitation.

(4) The duties and qualifications required for the proposed employment positions, volunteer assignment, or contract.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b), if:

(1) a license could be revoked due to a criminal conviction of, or a determination of child abuse or neglect by, an employee, volunteer, or contractor of the licensee; and

(2) the department determines that the employee, volunteer, or contractor has been dismissed by the licensee within a reasonable time after the licensee became aware of the conviction or determination;

the criminal conviction of, or determination of child abuse or neglect by, the former employee, former volunteer, or former contractor does not constitute a sufficient basis for the revocation of a license.

(e) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 190. IC 31-27-7-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.173-2022, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "child services provider" means the following:

(1) A child caring institution, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-16.7~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-42**.

(2) A group home, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-48.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-115**.



(3) A licensed child placing agency, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-17.5~~.
IC 31-9-2.1-46.

(4) A secure private facility, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~.
IC 31-9-2.1-223.

SECTION 191. IC 31-32-2-2.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.120-2007, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) This section applies only to a court ordered or voluntary mental health:

- (1) screening;
- (2) assessment;
- (3) evaluation; or
- (4) treatment;

provided by or under the direction of an evaluator, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-43.8~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-90**, in conjunction with proceedings under this article.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) and except for purposes of:

- (1) a probation revocation proceeding; or
- (2) a modification of a dispositional decree under IC 31-37-22;

a statement communicated to an evaluator in the evaluator's official capacity may not be admitted as evidence against the child on the issue of whether the child committed a delinquent act or a crime.

(c) This section does not affect the admissibility of evidence when a juvenile interposes the defense of insanity.

(d) This section does not affect a disclosure or reporting requirement in effect on July 1, 2007, under statute or in case law regarding a statement that:

- (1) relates directly to the facts or immediate circumstances of a homicide; or
- (2) reveals that the child may intend to commit a crime.

SECTION 192. IC 31-32-2-3.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.179-2025, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. An individual with whom a child is placed, or a representative of a licensed child placing agency (as defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-17.5~~) **in IC 31-9-2.1-46**) that is providing services to a child, during child in need of services proceedings regarding the child is entitled to attend, in its entirety, any hearing conducted as part of:

- (1) the child in need of services proceedings; or
- (2) proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship resulting from a petition filed with regard to the child under IC 31-35-2-4 during the child in need of services proceedings.

SECTION 193. IC 31-32-2.5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.179-2025, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and subject to this chapter, an individual who is providing care and supervision of a child as:

- (1) a foster parent;
- (2) a long term foster parent; or
- (3) an unlicensed kinship caregiver;

at the time the child is the subject of a child in need of services proceeding under IC 31-34 or a termination of parent-child relationship proceeding under IC 31-35 may intervene as a party during any stage of the proceeding if the individual files a petition to intervene with the court and the court makes the findings described in section 3 of this chapter.

(b) Any person described in subsection (a) who has been:

- (1) the subject of a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect; or
- (2) convicted of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-168**;

may not intervene under this chapter.

SECTION 194. IC 31-32-3-10.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.120-2018, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.5. (a) As used in this section, "court appointed special advocate" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-28~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-67.**

(b) As used in this section, "guardian ad litem" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-50~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-117.**

(c) When a juvenile court appoints a guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate in a proceeding from a volunteer based program funded through IC 33-24-6-4, and, due to the caseload of the guardian ad litem program or court appointed special advocate program, the child is placed on a waiting list for guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate services:

- (1) the guardian ad litem program or court appointed special advocate program;
- (2) any employee of or volunteer for the guardian ad litem program or court appointed special advocate program; and
- (3) any individual acting as a contracted guardian ad litem;

are immune from civil liability based on the child being placed on the waiting list unless the placement of the child on the waiting list is the result of gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to negate the appointment of a:

- (1) guardian ad litem; or



(2) court appointed special advocate;
when required by IC 31-34-10-3.

SECTION 195. IC 31-32-3-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.183-2017, SECTION 30, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) A juvenile court may establish a voluntary preventative program for at-risk children.

(b) A juvenile court that establishes a program under subsection (a) may, after conducting a criminal history check of every individual who is likely to have contact with a child, appoint staff and an early intervention advocate to implement, coordinate, and carry out the purposes of the program. The court may not appoint an individual under this subsection if the results of the criminal history check disclose that the individual has a record of:

- (1) a conviction for a felony;
- (2) a conviction for a misdemeanor relating to the health and safety of a child; or
- (3) a juvenile adjudication for an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-168.**

(c) The program staff or an early intervention advocate appointed under subsection (b) may:

- (1) receive information concerning an at-risk child from any person; and
- (2) use the information received under subdivision (1) to create, implement, and maintain an individualized plan for the at-risk child and the child's family if the child's parent, guardian, or custodian has consented to the participation of the child in the program. The individualized plan created under this subdivision may include a program of counseling, tutoring, or mentoring.

(d) All information received under the program by the program staff or an early intervention advocate:

- (1) is confidential; and
- (2) may be disclosed only to the following:
 - (A) Program staff or an early intervention advocate appointed to the program under subsection (b).
 - (B) Any person or entity engaged by a person described in clause (A) in creating, implementing, and maintaining a plan for an at-risk child and the child's family.
 - (C) The juvenile court.

(e) The privileged communication between:

- (1) a husband and wife;
- (2) a health care provider and the health care provider's patient;



- (3) a juvenile client and a:
 - (A) licensed social worker;
 - (B) licensed clinical social worker;
 - (C) licensed marriage and family therapist;
 - (D) licensed mental health counselor;
 - (E) licensed addiction counselor; or
 - (F) licensed clinical addiction counselor;
- (4) a school counselor and a student; or
- (5) a school psychologist and a student;

may not prevent an individual described in this subsection from reporting to, requesting assistance from, or cooperating with program staff or an early intervention advocate under this section.

(f) Any individual may request that a child receive assistance under a program established under subsection (a) if the individual believes a child may be an at-risk child.

(g) After receiving a request that a child receive assistance under a program described in subsection (a), or after receiving information that a child may be an at-risk child, program staff or an early intervention advocate shall determine whether the child would benefit from the program. If the program staff or early intervention advocate determines that the child would benefit from the program, the staff or early intervention advocate shall inform the parent, guardian, or custodian of the determination and request that the parent, guardian, or custodian permit the child to participate in the program. The child (and the parent, guardian, or custodian) may participate in the program only with the consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian.

(h) A person who:

- (1) makes a good faith request under subsection (f);
- (2) in good faith provides information concerning a child to program staff or an early intervention advocate appointed under subsection (b); or
- (3) in good faith participates in a plan under this section;

is immune from civil or criminal liability.

(i) Except as provided under IC 31-33-5, no information received under the program by the program staff or an early intervention advocate may be used against the child in a criminal or civil proceeding.

SECTION 196. IC 31-33-7-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.198-2019, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) This section applies if the department receives a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from:

- (1) a hospital;



- (2) a community mental health center;
- (3) a managed care provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-219**);
- (4) a referring physician;
- (5) a dentist;
- (6) a licensed psychologist;
- (7) a school;
- (8) a child caring institution licensed under IC 31-27;
- (9) a group home licensed under IC 31-27 or IC 12-28-4;
- (10) a secure private facility; or
- (11) a child placing agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-17.5~~); **IC 31-9-2.1-46**).

(b) Not later than forty-five (45) days after the date the department initiates an assessment or investigation of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from a person described in subsection (a), the department shall send a report to:

- (1) the administrator of the hospital;
- (2) the community mental health center;
- (3) the managed care provider;
- (4) the referring physician;
- (5) the dentist;
- (6) the principal of the school;
- (7) a licensed psychologist;
- (8) a child caring institution licensed under IC 31-27;
- (9) a group home licensed under IC 31-27 or IC 12-28-4;
- (10) a secure private facility; or
- (11) a child placing agency (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-17.5~~); **IC 31-9-2.1-46**).

The report must contain the items listed in subsection (d) that are known at the time the report is sent.

(c) The administrator, director, referring physician, dentist, licensed psychologist, or principal may appoint a designee to receive the report.

(d) A report made by the department under this section must contain the following information:

- (1) The name of the alleged victim of child abuse or neglect.
- (2) The name of the alleged perpetrator and the alleged perpetrator's relationship to the alleged victim.
- (3) Whether the assessment is closed.
- (4) Whether the department has made an assessment of the case and has not taken any further action.
- (5) The caseworker's name and telephone number.
- (6) The date the report is prepared.



- (7) Other information that the department may prescribe.
- (e) A report made under this section:
 - (1) is confidential; and
 - (2) may be made available only to:
 - (A) the agencies named in this section; and
 - (B) the persons and agencies listed in IC 31-33-18-2.

SECTION 197. IC 31-33-8-7, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1092-2026, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) The department's assessment, to the extent that is reasonably possible, must include the following:

- (1) The nature, extent, and cause of the known or suspected child abuse or neglect.
 - (2) The identity of the person allegedly responsible for the child abuse or neglect.
 - (3) The names and conditions of other children in the home.
 - (4) An evaluation of the parent, guardian, custodian, or person responsible for the care of the child.
 - (5) The home environment and the relationship of the child to the parent, guardian, or custodian or other persons responsible for the child's care.
 - (6) All other data considered pertinent.
- (b) The assessment may include the following:
- (1) A visit to the child's home.
 - (2) An interview with the subject child:
 - (A) upon receiving parental consent;
 - (B) upon receiving a court order; or
 - (C) if there are exigent circumstances as defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-44.1~~ in **IC 31-9-2.1-92**.
 - (3) A physical, psychological, or psychiatric examination of any child in the home.

- (c) If:
- (1) admission to the home, the school, or any other place that the child may be; or
 - (2) permission of the parent, guardian, custodian, or other persons responsible for the child for the physical, psychological, or psychiatric examination;

under subsection (b) cannot be obtained, the juvenile court, upon good cause shown, shall follow the procedures under IC 31-32-12.

(d) If a custodial parent, a guardian, or a custodian of a child refuses to allow the department to interview the child after the caseworker has attempted to obtain the consent of the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian to interview the child, the department may petition a court to



order the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian to make the child available to be interviewed by the caseworker.

(e) If the court finds that:

- (1) a custodial parent, a guardian, or a custodian has been informed of the hearing on a petition described under subsection (d); and
- (2) the department has made reasonable and unsuccessful efforts to obtain the consent of the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian to interview the child;

the court shall specify in the order the efforts the department made to obtain the consent of the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian and may grant the motion to interview the child, either with or without the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian being present.

(f) If the department requests to interview a child at the child's school, the school, except a nonaccredited nonpublic school that has less than one (1) employee, shall grant access to the department to interview the child alone, if the department employee presents:

- (1) their department issued credential, or other proof of employment with the department, for inspection upon arrival at the school; and
- (2) a written statement that the department "has parental consent or a court order, or exigent circumstances exist as defined by ~~IC 31-9-2-44.1~~ in **IC 31-9-2.1-92** to interview [insert child's name]". The written statement under this subdivision shall not disclose any of the facts of the allegations or evidence and may be transmitted to the school electronically.

(g) If the department provides a written statement under subsection (f)(2), the school shall:

- (1) not maintain the written statement in the child's file; and
- (2) protect the child and the child's family's confidentiality regarding the written statement and the interview.

(h) If a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who is the subject of a substantiated investigation of abuse or neglect is an active duty member of the military, the department shall notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program of the assessment concerning the child of the active duty member of the military upon request.

SECTION 198. IC 31-33-18-6, AS AMENDED BY SEA 15-2026, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. For the purposes of IC 31-26-4.5, the department may certify or acknowledge that an individual qualifies as a foster youth under ~~IC 31-9-2-47.3(a)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-110(b)**.



SECTION 199. IC 31-33-18-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.170-2023, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Subject to subsection (b), the department may notify a child care worker's employer that a substantiated report for child abuse or neglect has been entered against the child care worker if the department:

- (1) enters a new substantiated report against an individual that the department knows to be a child care worker (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-16.6~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-40**); and
- (2) knows the identity of the child care worker's employer.

(b) If the department concludes that the health or safety of a child will be potentially endangered if the child care worker has continuing unsupervised contact with a child, the department shall notify the child care worker's employer that a substantiated report has been entered against the child care worker not more than two (2) business days after entering the child care worker's name into the child protection index.

SECTION 200. IC 31-33-26-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.138-2007, SECTION 67, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this chapter, "child care provider" means a person who:

- (1) provides child care (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.2~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-54** regardless of whether the person is required to be licensed or registered under IC 12-17.2; or
- (2) is a child caring institution, a foster family home, a group home, or a child placing agency that is licensed or required to be licensed under IC 31-27.

(b) As used in this chapter, "index" refers to the child protection index established under section 2 of this chapter.

SECTION 201. IC 31-33-26-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.13-2021, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) A person or an organization may have access to information contained in the index as follows:

- (1) A law enforcement agency may have access to a substantiated report for purposes of investigating or criminally prosecuting a person identified as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect.
- (2) A child care provider, upon submitting a written consent for release of information signed by an individual who:
 - (A) is employed by or who has applied for employment with the child care provider;
 - (B) has volunteered to provide services to the child care provider in a capacity that would place the individual in direct contact, on a regular and continuous basis, with children who



are or will be under the direct supervision of the child care provider; or

(C) is at least eighteen (18) years of age and resides in the home of the child care provider;

may have access to any information relating to a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect that names the employee, applicant, volunteer, or household resident as the perpetrator of child abuse or neglect.

(3) A person may have access to any information that is contained in the index pertaining to the person, with protection for the identity of:

(A) a person who reports the child abuse or neglect; and

(B) any other appropriate person.

(4) A person or an agency to whom child abuse and neglect reports are available under IC 31-33-18 may have access to information contained in the index.

(5) Representatives of the division of family resources designated by the director of the division may have access to and use any information relating to a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect that would constitute a basis for denial or revocation of a license for a child care center under IC 12-17.2-4 or a child care home under IC 12-17.2-5.

(6) Representatives of the department designated by the director may have access to and use any information relating to a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect that would constitute a basis for denial or revocation of a license for a child caring institution, foster family home, group home, or child placing agency under IC 31-27.

(7) Any representative of the department, a court having juvenile jurisdiction, and any party in a case under IC 31-34 or IC 31-37 may have access to and use any information relating to a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect in connection with a determination of an appropriate out of home placement for a child under any applicable provision of IC 31-34 or IC 31-37 that requires a criminal history check (as described in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) concerning any person.

(8) The department shall provide any information contained in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect that is included in the index to an authorized agency of another state that requests information concerning a prospective foster or adoptive parent, or any other adult living in the home of a prospective foster or adoptive parent, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)(C).



(9) The department shall transmit or provide to a national index of substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect established in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 16990:

(A) a copy of any substantiated report and related information entered into the index; and

(B) information concerning expungement or amendment of any substantiated report as provided in section 14 or 15 of this chapter.

(10) To determine the eligibility of a child care provider to receive a voucher payment (as defined in IC 12-17.2-3.5-3), the division of family resources may use information contained in the index concerning whether a child has been found by a court to be a child in need of services based on a report of child abuse or neglect naming an individual described in IC 12-17.2-3.5-4.1(a) as a perpetrator.

(11) The office of administrative law proceedings may have access to any information relating to a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect that is the subject of an administrative proceeding before the office of administrative law proceedings.

(b) Except as provided in this section or in rules adopted under subsection (c), the department may not disclose information used in connection with the department's activities under this section.

(c) The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 relating to the procedure for disclosure of information described in this section.

SECTION 202. IC 31-34-1-3.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.142-2020, SECTION 42, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. (a) A child is a child in need of services if, before the child becomes eighteen (18) years of age:

(1) the child is the victim of human or sexual trafficking (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-133.1~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-254**); and

(2) the child needs care, treatment, or rehabilitation that:

(A) the child is not receiving; and

(B) is unlikely to be provided or accepted without the coercive intervention of the court.

(b) A child is considered a victim of human or sexual trafficking regardless of whether the child consented to the conduct described in subsection (a)(1).

SECTION 203. IC 31-34-3-4.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.104-2015, SECTION 32, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.5. (a) If a child is removed from the child's parents under this chapter, within thirty (30) days after the removal of the child from the parents the department shall exercise due diligence



to identify and provide notice of the removal to:

- (1) all adult relatives (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-107~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-207**) of the child, including relatives suggested by either parent as required under 42 U.S.C. 671(a)(29); and
- (2) all the child's siblings who are at least eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) The department may not provide notice to a person under subsection (a) if the department knows or suspects that the person has caused family or domestic violence.

(c) A notice under subsection (a) must:

- (1) state that the child has been removed from the parents by the department;
- (2) set forth the options the relative may have under federal, state, or local laws, including the care and placement of the child and other options that may be lost if the relative fails to respond to the notice;
- (3) describe the requirements for the relative to become a foster parent;
- (4) describe additional services available to the child placed in foster care; and
- (5) describe how a relative guardian of a child may subsequently enter into an agreement with the department to receive financial assistance through the adoption assistance program or guardianship assistance program.

SECTION 204. IC 31-34-4-2, AS AMENDED BY SEA 171-2026, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) If a child alleged to be a child in need of services is taken into custody under an order of the court under this chapter and the court orders out-of-home placement, the department is responsible for that placement and care and must consider placing the child with a:

- (1) suitable and willing relative; or
- (2) de facto custodian;

before considering any other out-of-home placement.

(b) The department shall consider placing a child described in subsection (a) with a relative related by blood, marriage, or adoption before considering any other placement of the child.

(c) Before the department places a child in need of services with a relative or a de facto custodian, the department shall complete an evaluation based on a home visit of the relative's home.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (f), before placing a child in need of services in an out-of-home placement, the department shall



conduct a criminal history check of each person who is currently residing in the location designated as the out-of-home placement.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (g), the department may not make an out-of-home placement if a person described in subsection (d) has:

- (1) committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect; or
- (2) been convicted of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** or had a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult.

(f) The department is not required to conduct a criminal history check under subsection (d) if the department makes an out-of-home placement to an entity or a facility that is not a residence (as defined in IC 3-5-2.1-90) or that is licensed by the state.

(g) A court may order or the department may approve an out-of-home placement if:

- (1) a person described in subsection (d) has:
 - (A) committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect;
 - (B) been convicted of:
 - (i) battery (IC 35-42-2-1);
 - (ii) criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) as a felony;
 - (iii) criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3) as a felony;
 - (iv) arson (IC 35-43-1-1) as a felony;
 - (v) nonsupport of a dependent child (IC 35-46-1-5);
 - (vi) operating a motorboat while intoxicated (IC 35-46-9-6) as a felony;
 - (vii) a felony involving a weapon under IC 35-47;
 - (viii) a felony relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4; or
 - (ix) a felony under IC 9-30-5;
 if the conviction did not occur within the past five (5) years; or
 - (C) had a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony; and
 - (2) the person's commission of the offense, delinquent act, or act of abuse or neglect described in subdivision (1) is not relevant to the person's present ability to care for a child, and the placement is in the best interest of the child.

However, a court or the department shall not make an out-of-home placement if the person has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense,



as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that is not specifically excluded under subdivision (1)(B).

(h) In considering the placement under subsection (g), the court or the department shall consider the following:

- (1) The length of time since the person committed the offense, delinquent act, or abuse or neglect.
- (2) The severity of the offense, delinquent act, or abuse or neglect.
- (3) Evidence of the person's rehabilitation, including the person's cooperation with a treatment plan, if applicable.

(i) In considering any out-of-home placement, the department shall consider the following to determine whether a particular out-of-home placement is in the child's best interest:

- (1) The caregiver is interested in providing permanence for the child if reunification efforts ultimately fail.
- (2) The expressed wishes of the child's birth parent and the child, if applicable, unless the wishes are contrary to law, child safety, or stability.
- (3) The relationship of the caregiver with the child and the child's family.
- (4) The proximity of the placement home to the birth parents' home and the child's current school or school district.
- (5) The strengths and parenting style of the caregiver in relation to the child's behavior and needs.
- (6) The caregiver's willingness to interact with the birth family, unless the caregiver has safety concerns.
- (7) The caregiver's ability and willingness to accept placement of the child and any of the child's siblings.
- (8) If any sibling will be placed separately, the caregiver's ability and willingness to provide or assist in maintaining frequent visitation or other ongoing contact between the child and the child's siblings.
- (9) The child's fit with the family with regard to age, gender, and sibling relationships.
- (10) If the child has chronic behavioral health needs:
 - (A) whether the child's behavior will place other children in the home at risk; and
 - (B) the caregiver's ability to provide the necessary level of supervision to prevent harm to the child or others by the child.
- (11) Whether placement in the home would comply with the placement preferences prescribed by federal law.

SECTION 205. IC 31-34-18-6.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 160, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.1. (a) The predispositional report prepared by the department or caseworker must include the following information:

- (1) A description of all dispositional options considered in preparing the report.
- (2) An evaluation of each of the options considered in relation to the plan of care, treatment, rehabilitation, or placement recommended under the guidelines described in section 4 of this chapter.
- (3) A description of the due diligence efforts that the department has made to identify all adult relatives of the child.
- (4) The name, occupation and position, and any relationship to the child of each person with whom the preparer of the report conferred as provided in section 1.1 of this chapter.
- (5) The report and recommendations of the dual status assessment team if the child is a dual status child under IC 31-41.

(b) If the department or caseworker is considering an out-of-home placement, including placement with a blood or an adoptive relative caretaker, the department or caseworker shall conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) for each person who is currently residing in the location designated as the out-of-home placement. The results of the criminal history check must be included in the predispositional report.

(c) The department or caseworker is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if:

- (1) the department or caseworker is considering only an out-of-home placement to an entity or a facility that:
 - (A) is not a residence (as defined in IC 3-5-2.1-90); or
 - (B) is licensed by the state; or
- (2) placement under this section is undetermined at the time the predispositional report is prepared.

SECTION 206. IC 31-34-19-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.128-2012, SECTION 164, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. If the court authorizes a child who is under the custody or supervision of a local office or the department to be placed in a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) for voluntary treatment in accordance with IC 12-26-3, the court may not release the department from obligations of the local office or the department to the child until a parent, guardian, or other responsible person approved by the court assumes the obligations.

SECTION 207. IC 31-34-20-1.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,



SECTION 161, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (d), the juvenile court may not enter a dispositional decree approving or ordering placement of a child in another home under section 1(a)(3) of this chapter or awarding wardship to the department that will place the child in another home under section 1(a)(4) of this chapter if a person who is currently residing in the home in which the child would be placed under section 1(a)(3) or 1(a)(4) of this chapter has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(b) The department or caseworker who prepared the predispositional report shall conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) to determine if a person described in subsection (a) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**. However, the department or caseworker is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if criminal history information under IC 31-34-4-2 or IC 31-34-18-6.1 establishes whether a person described in subsection (a) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(c) The department or caseworker is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if:

- (1) the department or caseworker is considering only an out-of-home placement to an entity or a facility that:
 - (A) is not a residence (as defined in IC 3-5-2.1-90); or
 - (B) is licensed by the state; or
- (2) placement under this section is undetermined at the time the predispositional report is prepared.

(d) A juvenile court may enter a dispositional decree that approves placement of a child in another home or award wardship to the department that will place the child in a home with a person described in subsection (a) if:



- (1) the person described in subsection (a) has:
- (A) committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect;
 - (B) been convicted of:
 - (i) battery (IC 35-42-2-1);
 - (ii) criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) as a felony;
 - (iii) criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3) as a felony;
 - (iv) arson (IC 35-43-1-1) as a felony;
 - (v) nonsupport of a dependent child (IC 35-46-1-5);
 - (vi) operating a motorboat while intoxicated (IC 35-46-9-6) as a felony;
 - (vii) a felony involving a weapon under IC 35-47;
 - (viii) a felony relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4; or
 - (ix) a felony under IC 9-30-5;
- if the conviction did not occur within the past five (5) years; or
- (C) had a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony; and
- (2) the person's commission of the offense, delinquent act, or act of abuse or neglect described in subdivision (1) is not relevant to the person's present ability to care for a child, and placing a child in another home or awarding wardship to the department is in the best interest of the child.

However, a court may not enter a dispositional decree that approves placement of a child in another home or awards wardship to the department if the person has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that is not specifically excluded under subdivision (1)(B).

(e) In considering the placement under subsection (d), the court shall consider the following:

- (1) The length of time since the person committed the offense, delinquent act, or act that resulted in the substantiated report of abuse or neglect.
- (2) The severity of the offense, delinquent act, or abuse or neglect.
- (3) Evidence of the person's rehabilitation, including the person's cooperation with a treatment plan, if applicable.

SECTION 208. IC 31-34-21-5.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.179-2025, SECTION 19, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5.5. (a) In determining the extent to which reasonable efforts to reunify or preserve a family are appropriate under this chapter, the child's health, welfare, and safety are of paramount



concern.

(b) Except as provided in section 5.6 of this chapter, the department shall make reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families as follows:

(1) If a child has not been removed from the child's home, to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the child's home.

(2) If a child has been removed from the child's home, to make it possible for the child to return safely to the child's home as soon as possible.

(c) The department may, before reunification of the child with a parent, guardian, or custodian, conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) of:

(1) the child's:

- (A) parent;
- (B) guardian; or
- (C) custodian; and

(2) any household member of the:

- (A) parent;
- (B) guardian; or
- (C) custodian.

(d) The department shall:

(1) use the results of a criminal history check conducted under subsection (c) to decide whether it is safe for the child to return home; and

(2) provide the results of the criminal history check to the court.

SECTION 209. IC 31-34-21-7.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.156-2020, SECTION 119, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (d), the juvenile court may not approve a permanency plan under subsection (c)(1)(C), (c)(1)(D), or (c)(1)(E) if a person who is currently residing with a person described in subsection (c)(1)(C) or (c)(1)(D) or in a residence in which the child would be placed under subsection (c)(1)(E) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(b) Before requesting juvenile court approval of a permanency plan, the department shall conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) to determine if a person described in subsection (a) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report



of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**. However, the department is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if criminal history information under IC 31-34-4-2, IC 31-34-18-6.1, or IC 31-34-20-1.5 establishes whether a person described in subsection (a) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(c) A permanency plan, or plans, if concurrent planning, under this chapter includes the following:

(1) The intended permanent or long term arrangements for care and custody of the child that may include any one (1), or two (2), if concurrent planning, of the following arrangements that the department or the court considers most appropriate and consistent with the best interests of the child:

(A) Return to or continuation of existing custodial care within the home of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or placement of the child with the child's noncustodial parent.

(B) Placement of the child for adoption.

(C) Placement of the child with a responsible person, including:

(i) an adult sibling;

(ii) a grandparent;

(iii) an aunt;

(iv) an uncle;

(v) a custodial parent of a sibling of the child; or

(vi) another relative;

who is able and willing to act as the child's permanent custodian and carry out the responsibilities required by the permanency plan.

(D) Appointment of a legal guardian. The legal guardian appointed under this section is a caretaker in a judicially created relationship between the child and caretaker that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer to the caretaker of the following parental rights with respect to the child:

(i) Care, custody, and control of the child.



- (ii) Decision making concerning the child's upbringing.
- (E) A supervised independent living arrangement or foster care for the child with a permanency plan of another planned, permanent living arrangement. However, a child less than sixteen (16) years of age may not have another planned, permanent living arrangement as the child's permanency plan.
- (2) A time schedule for implementing the applicable provisions of the permanency plan.
- (3) Provisions for temporary or interim arrangements for care and custody of the child, pending completion of implementation of the permanency plan.
- (4) Other items required to be included in a case plan under IC 31-34-15 or federal law, consistent with the permanent or long term arrangements described by the permanency plan.
- (d) A juvenile court may approve a permanency plan if:
 - (1) a person described in subsection (a) has:
 - (A) committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect;
 - (B) been convicted of:
 - (i) battery (IC 35-42-2-1);
 - (ii) criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) as a felony;
 - (iii) criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3) as a felony;
 - (iv) arson (IC 35-43-1-1) as a felony;
 - (v) nonsupport of a dependent child (IC 35-46-1-5);
 - (vi) operating a motorboat while intoxicated (IC 35-46-9-6) as a felony;
 - (vii) a felony involving a weapon under IC 35-47;
 - (viii) a felony relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4; or
 - (ix) a felony under IC 9-30-5;
 - if the conviction did not occur within the past five (5) years; or
 - (C) had a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony; and
- (2) the person's commission of the offense, delinquent act, or act of abuse or neglect described in subdivision (1) is not relevant to the person's present ability to care for a child, and that approval of the permanency plan is in the best interest of the child.

However, a court may not approve a permanency plan if the person has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that is not specifically excluded under subdivision (1)(B), or has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a



nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult that is not specifically excluded under subdivision (1)(B).

(e) In making its written finding under subsection (d), the court shall consider the following:

- (1) The length of time since the person committed the offense, delinquent act, or act that resulted in the substantiated report of abuse or neglect.
- (2) The severity of the offense, delinquent act, or abuse or neglect.
- (3) Evidence of the person's rehabilitation, including the person's cooperation with a treatment plan, if applicable.

SECTION 210. IC 31-34-25-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.65-2016, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. Any of the following may sign and file a petition for the juvenile court to require a person to refrain from direct or indirect contact with a child or a member of a foster family home (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.9~~): **IC 31-9-2.1-108**):

- (1) The attorney for the department.
- (2) The guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate.

SECTION 211. IC 31-35-2-4.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.69-2024, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.5. (a) This section applies if:

- (1) a court has made a finding under IC 31-34-21-5.6 that reasonable efforts for family preservation or reunification with respect to a child in need of services are not required; or
- (2) a child in need of services or a delinquent child:

(A) has been placed in:

- (i) a foster family home, child caring institution, or group home licensed under IC 31-27; or
- (ii) the home of a relative (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-107(c)~~): **IC 31-9-2.1-207(c)**);

as directed by a court in a child in need of services proceeding under IC 31-34 or a delinquency action under IC 31-37; and

(B) has been removed from a parent and has been under the supervision of the department or county probation department for not less than fifteen (15) months of the most recent twenty-two (22) months, beginning with the date the child is removed from the home as a result of the child being alleged to be a child in need of services or a delinquent child.

(b) A person described in section 4(a) of this chapter shall:

- (1) file a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship under section 4 of this chapter; and



(2) request that the petition be set for hearing.

(c) If a petition under subsection (b) is filed by the child's court appointed special advocate or guardian ad litem, the department shall be joined as a party to the petition.

(d) A person described in section 4(a) of this chapter may file a motion to dismiss the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship if any of the following circumstances apply:

(1) That the current case plan prepared by or under the supervision of the department or the probation department under IC 31-34-15, IC 31-37-19-1.5, or IC 31-37-22-4.5 has documented a compelling reason, based on facts and circumstances stated in the petition or motion, for concluding that filing, or proceeding to a final determination of, a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship is not in the best interests of the child. A compelling reason may include the fact that the child is being cared for by a custodian who is a relative (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-107(c)~~: **IC 31-9-2.1-207(c)**).

(2) That:

(A) IC 31-34-21-5.6 is not applicable to the child;

(B) the department or the probation department has not provided family services to the child, parent, or family of the child in accordance with a currently effective case plan prepared under IC 31-34-15 or IC 31-37-19-1.5 or a permanency plan or dispositional decree approved under IC 31-34 or IC 31-37, for the purpose of permitting and facilitating safe return of the child to the child's home; and

(C) the period for completion of the program of family services, as specified in the current case plan, permanency plan, or decree, has not expired.

(3) That:

(A) IC 31-34-21-5.6 is not applicable to the child;

(B) the department has not provided family services to the child, parent, or family of the child, in accordance with applicable provisions of a currently effective case plan prepared under IC 31-34-15 or IC 31-37-19-1.5, or a permanency plan or dispositional decree approved under IC 31-34 or IC 31-37; and

(C) the services that the department has not provided are substantial and material in relation to implementation of a plan to permit safe return of the child to the child's home.

(4) Subject to subsection (f), that:

(A) the parent is incarcerated or the parent's prior incarceration



is a significant factor in the child having been under the supervision of the department or a county probation department for at least fifteen (15) of the most recent twenty-two (22) months;

(B) the parent maintains a meaningful role in the child's life; and

(C) the department has not documented a reason to conclude that it would otherwise be in the child's best interests to terminate the parent-child relationship.

The motion to dismiss shall specify which of the allegations described in subdivisions (1) through (4) apply to the motion. If the court finds that any of the allegations described in subdivisions (1) through (4) are true, as established by a preponderance of the evidence, the court shall dismiss the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship. In determining whether to dismiss a petition to terminate a parent-child relationship pursuant to a motion to dismiss that specifies allegations described in subdivision (4), the court may consider the length of time remaining in the incarcerated parent's sentence and any other factor the court considers relevant.

(e) If:

(1) a child in need of services or a delinquent child has been removed from a parent and has been under the supervision of the department or county probation department for not less than fifteen (15) months of the most recent twenty-two (22) months, beginning with the date the child is removed from the home as a result of the child being alleged to be a child in need of services or a delinquent child; and

(2) a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship has not been filed by the department or another person described in section 4(a) of this chapter;

a foster parent, relative of the child, or de facto custodian with whom the child has been placed for at least six (6) months may file a notice with the court that the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship has not been filed as required under subsection (b). Upon the filing of the notice, if the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship has not been filed, the court shall schedule a hearing within thirty (30) days.

(f) Subsection (d)(4) does not apply if the person was incarcerated for any of the following:

(1) A crime described in IC 31-35-3-4.

(2) A crime of child abuse (as defined in IC 5-2-22-1).

(3) Neglect of a dependent (IC 35-46-1-4) if:



(A) the incarceration was for neglect of a dependent as a Level 5 or above felony; and

(B) the dependent would be the subject of the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship.

(g) The department may not:

(1) take adverse action against a foster parent's license under IC 31-27-4; or

(2) remove a child from the home of a foster parent, relative of the child, or de facto custodian;

on the basis of the foster parent, relative, or de facto custodian filing a notice with the court under subsection (e).

SECTION 212. IC 31-37-8-4.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.120-2007, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.5. (a) This section applies only to a court ordered or voluntary mental health:

(1) screening;

(2) assessment;

(3) evaluation; or

(4) treatment;

provided by or under the direction of an evaluator, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-43.8~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-90**, in conjunction with proceedings under this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding section 4(5) of this chapter and except as provided in subsection (d) and except for purposes of:

(1) a probation revocation proceeding; or

(2) a modification of a dispositional decree under IC 31-37-22; a statement communicated to an evaluator in the evaluator's official capacity may not be admitted as evidence against the child on the issue of whether the child committed a delinquent act or a crime.

(c) This section does not affect the admissibility of evidence when a juvenile interposes the defense of insanity.

(d) This section does not affect a disclosure or reporting requirement in effect on July 1, 2007, under statute or in case law regarding a statement that:

(1) relates directly to the facts or immediate circumstances of a homicide; or

(2) reveals that the child may intend to commit a crime.

SECTION 213. IC 31-37-17-6.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 162, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.1. (a) The predispositional report prepared by a probation officer must include the following information:

(1) A validated risk and needs assessment as described in section



1 of this chapter.

(2) A description of all dispositional options considered in preparing the report.

(3) An evaluation of each of the options considered in relation to the plan of care, treatment, rehabilitation, or placement recommended under the guidelines described in section 4 of this chapter.

(4) The name, occupation and position, and any relationship to the child of each person with whom the preparer of the report conferred as provided in section 1.1 of this chapter.

(5) The items required under section 1 of this chapter.

(6) The results of a dual status screening tool to determine whether the child is a dual status child as described in IC 31-41-1-2.

(b) If a probation officer is considering an out-of-home placement, including placement with a relative, the probation officer must conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) for each person who is currently residing in the location designated as the out-of-home placement. The results of the criminal history check must be included in the predispositional report.

(c) A probation officer is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if:

(1) the probation officer is considering only an out-of-home placement to an entity or a facility that:

(A) is not a residence (as defined in IC 3-5-2.1-90); or

(B) is licensed by the state; or

(2) placement under this section is undetermined at the time the predispositional report is prepared.

SECTION 214. IC 31-37-18-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.146-2008, SECTION 645, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. If the court authorizes a child who is under the custody or supervision of the department to be placed in a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) for voluntary treatment in accordance with IC 12-26-3, the court may not release the department from obligations of the department to the child until the earlier of:

(1) the date the child is discharged; or

(2) the date that a parent, guardian, or other responsible person approved by the court assumes the obligations.

SECTION 215. IC 31-37-19-6.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 163, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6.5. (a) Except as provided in



subsection (d), the juvenile court may not enter a dispositional decree approving placement of a child in another home under section 1(a)(3) or 6(b)(2)(D) of this chapter or awarding wardship to a person or facility that results in a placement with a person under section 1(a)(4) or 6(b)(2)(E) of this chapter if a person who is currently residing in the home in which the child would be placed under section 1(a)(3), 1(a)(4), 6(b)(2)(D), or 6(b)(2)(E) of this chapter has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(b) The juvenile probation officer who prepared the predispositional report shall conduct a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) to determine if a person described in subsection (a) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**. However, the probation officer is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if criminal history information obtained under IC 31-37-17-6.1 establishes whether a person described in subsection (a) has committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, has a juvenile adjudication for an act that would be a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** if committed by an adult, or has a conviction for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168**.

(c) The juvenile probation officer is not required to conduct a criminal history check under this section if:

- (1) the probation officer is considering only an out-of-home placement to an entity or a facility that:
 - (A) is not a residence (as defined in IC 3-5-2.1-90); or
 - (B) is licensed by the state; or
- (2) placement under this section is undetermined at the time the predispositional report is prepared.

(d) The juvenile court may enter a dispositional decree approving placement of a child in another home under section 1(a)(3) or 6(b)(2)(D) of this chapter or awarding wardship to a person or facility that results in a placement with a person under section 1(a)(4) or 6(b)(2)(E) of this chapter if:

- (1) a person described in subsection (a) has:



(A) committed an act resulting in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect;

(B) been convicted of:

(i) a felony under IC 9-30-5;

(ii) battery (IC 35-42-2-1);

(iii) criminal recklessness (IC 35-42-2-2) as a felony;

(iv) criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3) as a felony;

(v) arson (IC 35-43-1-1) as a felony;

(vi) nonsupport of a dependent child (IC 35-46-1-5);

(vii) operating a motorboat while intoxicated (IC 35-46-9-6) as a felony;

(viii) a felony involving a weapon under IC 35-47; or

(ix) a felony relating to controlled substances under IC 35-48-4;

if the conviction did not occur within the past five (5) years; or
(C) had a juvenile adjudication for a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony; and

(2) the person's commission of the offense, delinquent act, or act of abuse or neglect described in subdivision (1) is not relevant to the person's present ability to care for a child, and placing the child in another home is in the best interest of the child.

However, a court may not enter a dispositional decree placing a child in another home under section 1(a)(3) or 6(b)(2)(D) of this chapter or awarding wardship to a person or facility under this subsection if a person with whom the child is or will be placed has been convicted of a nonwaivable offense, as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-84.8~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-168** that is not specifically excluded under subdivision (1)(B).

(e) In considering the placement under subsection (d), the court shall consider the following:

(1) The length of time since the person committed the offense, delinquent act, or act that resulted in the substantiated report of abuse or neglect.

(2) The severity of the offense, delinquent act, or abuse or neglect.

(3) Evidence of the person's rehabilitation, including the person's cooperation with a treatment plan, if applicable.

SECTION 216. IC 31-37-26-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.157-2021, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. The following definitions apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Competent" and "competency" mean the present ability of a child to:



- (A) understand the nature and objectives of a proceeding against the child; and
 - (B) assist in the child's defense.
- (2) "State institution" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~.
IC 12-7-2.1-318.

SECTION 217. IC 31-39-2-13.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.145-2006, SECTION 360, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13.5. The records of the juvenile court are available without a court order to an employee of the department of child services, a caseworker, or a juvenile probation officer conducting a criminal history check (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-22.5~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-58**) under IC 31-26-5-3, IC 31-34, or IC 31-37 to determine the appropriateness of an out-of-home placement for a:

- (1) child at imminent risk of placement;
- (2) child in need of services; or
- (3) delinquent child.

SECTION 218. IC 31-42-1-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.101-2025, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. This chapter does not do any of the following:

- (1) Authorize a parent to:
 - (A) commit child abuse or neglect as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-14(c)~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-33(c)**; or
 - (B) sue a judicial officer unless the judicial officer acts in clear absence of jurisdiction.
- (2) Prohibit a court from issuing an order that is otherwise permitted by law.
- (3) Prevent a person from asserting a defense or claim of immunity available by statute or at common law, including judicial immunity.
- (4) Apply to an act or omission by a parent to end the life of a child.
- (5) Waive attorney-client privilege as governed by the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Indiana supreme court.
- (6) Waive immunities described in IC 31-32-3-10 and IC 31-32-3-10.5.

SECTION 219. IC 32-17.5-8-2.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.80-2010, SECTION 52, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.5. (a) This section applies to a disclaimer of an interest in property by a disclaimant who is delinquent (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-36(b)~~) **IC 31-9-2.1-73(b)**) before the disclaimer becomes effective.



(b) A disclaimer of an interest in property is barred up to the amount of the disclaimant's child support arrearage.

SECTION 220. IC 33-23-1-8.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.203-2017, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8.5. "Medication assisted treatment" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-128.7~~. **IC 12-7-2.1-223.**

SECTION 221. IC 33-39-6-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.201-2023, SECTION 263, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) A prosecuting attorney may appoint one (1) chief deputy prosecuting attorney. The maximum annual salary paid by the state of a chief deputy prosecuting attorney appointed under this subsection is as follows:

(1) If the prosecuting attorney is a full-time prosecuting attorney appointing a full-time chief deputy prosecuting attorney, the annual salary of the chief deputy prosecuting attorney is equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary paid by the state to a full-time prosecuting attorney.

(2) If the prosecuting attorney is a full-time prosecuting attorney appointing a part-time chief deputy prosecuting attorney, the annual salary of the chief deputy prosecuting attorney is equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary paid by the state to a part-time prosecuting attorney serving the judicial district served by the chief deputy prosecuting attorney.

(3) If the prosecuting attorney is a part-time prosecuting attorney appointing a full-time chief deputy prosecuting attorney, the annual salary of the chief deputy prosecuting attorney is equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary paid by the state to a full-time prosecuting attorney.

(4) If the prosecuting attorney is a part-time prosecuting attorney appointing a part-time chief deputy prosecuting attorney, the annual salary of the chief deputy prosecuting attorney is equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary paid by the state to a part-time prosecuting attorney.

(b) The prosecuting attorney in a county in which is located at least one (1) institution operated by the department of correction that houses at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) offenders may appoint two (2) additional deputy prosecuting attorneys. In a county having two (2) institutions, each of which houses at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) offenders, the prosecuting attorney may appoint a third deputy prosecuting attorney.

(c) The prosecuting attorney in a county in which is located an institution operated by the department of correction that houses at least



one hundred (100) but less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) adult offenders may appoint one (1) additional deputy prosecuting attorney.

(d) The prosecuting attorney in a county in which is located a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) that has a daily population of at least three hundred fifty (350) patients may appoint one (1) additional deputy prosecuting attorney.

(e) The prosecuting attorney of Cass County may appoint one (1) additional deputy prosecuting attorney.

(f) The annual salary of a deputy prosecuting attorney appointed under subsections (b) through (e) may not be less than seventy percent (70%) of the annual salary of a full-time prosecuting attorney.

(g) The salaries provided in this section shall be paid by the state once every two (2) weeks from the state general fund. There is appropriated annually out of the general fund of the state sufficient funds to pay any amount necessary. However, the salaries fixed in this chapter are determined to be maximum salaries to be paid by the state. This chapter does not limit the power of counties comprising the respective judicial circuits to pay additional salaries upon proper action by the appropriate county officials.

(h) The various county councils shall appropriate annually for other deputy prosecuting attorneys, investigators, clerical assistance, witness fees, out-of-state travel, postage, telephone tolls and telegraph, repairs to equipment, office supplies, other operating expenses, and equipment an amount necessary for the proper discharge of the duties imposed by law upon the office of the prosecuting attorney of each judicial circuit.

SECTION 222. IC 33-39-6-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The annual minimum salary paid by the state to a full-time prosecuting attorney described in section 6 of this chapter is equal to the minimum salary of the circuit court judge of the same judicial circuit as the prosecuting attorney.

(b) A prosecuting attorney of a judicial circuit, other than a full-time prosecuting attorney described in section 6 of this chapter is entitled to a minimum annual salary in an amount equal to sixty percent (60%) of the salary provided in subsection (a), except as provided by subsection (c).

(c) A prosecuting attorney, other than a full-time prosecuting attorney described in section 6 of this chapter, of a judicial circuit:

- (1) that has a population of less than eighty-five thousand (85,000) and that adjoins any county having a population of more than one hundred sixty thousand (160,000); or



(2) in which is located:

(A) the Indiana state prison, the Pendleton Correctional Facility, the Plainfield Correctional Facility, the Branchville Correctional Facility, the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, or the Putnamville Correctional Facility; or

(B) a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) that has a daily population of at least three hundred fifty (350) patients;

is entitled to a minimum annual salary in an amount equal to sixty-six percent (66%) of the salary provided in subsection (a).

(d) The state shall pay, from the state general fund, the minimum annual salary of a prosecuting attorney. The state shall pay the minimum annual salary in equal installments with payments being made once every two (2) weeks.

SECTION 223. IC 34-6-2.1-123, AS ADDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 176, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 123. "Mental health service provider", for purposes of IC 34-30-16, means any of the following:

- (1) A physician licensed under IC 25-22.5.
- (2) A hospital licensed under IC 16-21.
- (3) A private institution licensed under IC 12-25.
- (4) A psychologist licensed under IC 25-33.
- (5) A school psychologist licensed by the Indiana state board of education.
- (6) A postsecondary educational institution counseling center under the direction of a licensed psychologist, physician, or mental health professional.
- (7) A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed under IC 25-23.
- (8) A clinical social worker licensed under IC 25-23.6-5-2.
- (9) A partnership, a limited liability company, a corporation, or a professional corporation (as defined in IC 23-1.5-1-10) whose partners, members, or shareholders are mental health service providers described in subdivisions (1) through (6).
- (10) A community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-78**).
- (11) A program for the treatment, care, or rehabilitation of alcohol abusers or drug abusers that is:
 - (A) certified under IC 12-23-1-6; or
 - (B) created and funded under IC 12-23-14 or IC 33-23-16.
- (12) A state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).



(13) A provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-149.1(5)~~):
IC 12-7-2.1-267(5)).

SECTION 224. IC 34-6-2.1-165, AS ADDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 176, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 165. "Professional health care provider", for purposes of IC 34-30-15, means:

- (1) a physician licensed under IC 25-22.5;
- (2) a dentist licensed under IC 25-14;
- (3) a hospital licensed under IC 16-21;
- (4) a podiatrist licensed under IC 25-29;
- (5) a chiropractor licensed under IC 25-10;
- (6) an optometrist licensed under IC 25-24;
- (7) a psychologist licensed under IC 25-33;
- (8) a pharmacist licensed under IC 25-26;
- (9) a health facility licensed under IC 16-28-2;
- (10) a registered or licensed practical nurse licensed under IC 25-23;
- (11) a physical therapist licensed under IC 25-27;
- (12) a home health agency licensed under IC 16-27-1;
- (13) a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**);
- (14) a health care organization whose members, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, or partners are:
 - (A) professional health care providers described in subdivisions (1) through (13);
 - (B) professional corporations comprised of health care professionals (as defined in IC 23-1.5-1-8); or
 - (C) professional health care providers described in subdivisions (1) through (13) and professional corporations comprised of persons described in subdivisions (1) through (13);
- (15) a private psychiatric hospital licensed under IC 12-25;
- (16) a preferred provider organization (including a preferred provider arrangement or reimbursement agreement under IC 27-8-11);
- (17) a health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-1-19) or a limited service health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-34-4);
- (18) a respiratory care practitioner licensed under IC 25-34.5;
- (19) an occupational therapist licensed under IC 25-23.5;
- (20) a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-318**);



- (21) a clinical social worker who is licensed under IC 25-23.6-5-2;
- (22) a provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-149.1(5)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-267(5)**);
- (23) a nonprofit health care organization affiliated with a hospital that is owned or operated by a religious order, whose members are members of that religious order;
- (24) a nonprofit health care organization with one (1) or more hospital affiliates;
- (25) a health care organization that owns or controls, in whole or in part, one (1) or more entities described in subdivisions (1) through (24);
- (26) a provider organization (as defined in IC 16-18-2-296);
- (27) a paramedic licensed under IC 16-31;
- (28) an emergency medical technician certified under IC 16-31;
- (29) an emergency medical responder certified under IC 16-31; or
- (30) an advanced emergency medical technician certified under IC 16-31.

SECTION 225. IC 34-6-2.1-166, AS ADDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 176, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 166. "Professional staff", for purposes of IC 34-30-15, means:

- (1) all individual professional health care providers authorized to provide health care in a hospital or other health care facility; or
- (2) the multidisciplinary staff of a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**).

SECTION 226. IC 34-57-5-8, AS ADDED BY P.L.112-2005, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) In a dissolution of marriage case, the family law arbitrator shall:

- (1) divide the property of the parties, regardless of whether the property was:
 - (A) owned by either party before the marriage;
 - (B) acquired by either party in his or her own right:
 - (i) after the marriage; and
 - (ii) before final separation of the parties; or
 - (C) acquired by their joint efforts; and
- (2) divide the property in a just and reasonable manner by:
 - (A) division of the property in kind;
 - (B) setting the property or parts of the property over to one (1) of the parties and requiring either party to pay an amount, either in gross or in installments, that is just and proper;



(C) ordering the sale of the property under the conditions the family law arbitrator prescribes and dividing the proceeds of the sale; or

(D) ordering the distribution of benefits described in ~~IC 31-9-2-98(b)(2)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-190(b)(2)** or ~~IC 31-9-2-98(b)(3)~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-190(b)(3)** that are payable after the dissolution of marriage, by setting aside to either of the parties a percentage of those payments either by assignment or in kind at the time of receipt.

(b) The division of marital property under this section must comply with IC 31-15-7-5.

SECTION 227. IC 35-31.5-2-139.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.65-2016, SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 139.3. "Foster family home", for purposes of IC 35-42-2-1, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-46.9~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-108**.

SECTION 228. IC 35-31.5-2-196.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.203-2017, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 196.5. "Medication assisted treatment" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-128.7~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-223**.

SECTION 229. IC 35-36-2-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.161-2018, SECTION 118, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Whenever a defendant is found not responsible by reason of insanity at the time of the crime, the prosecuting attorney shall file a written petition with the court under IC 12-26-6-2(a)(3) or under IC 12-26-7. If a petition is filed under IC 12-26-6-2(a)(3), the court shall hold a commitment hearing under IC 12-26-6. If a petition is filed under IC 12-26-7, the court shall hold a commitment hearing under IC 12-26-7.

(b) The hearing shall be conducted at the earliest opportunity after the finding of not responsible by reason of insanity at the time of the crime, and the defendant shall be detained in custody until the completion of the hearing. The court may take judicial notice of evidence introduced during the trial of the defendant and may call the physicians appointed by the court to testify concerning whether the defendant is currently mentally ill and dangerous or currently mentally ill and gravely disabled, as those terms are defined by ~~IC 12-7-2-96~~ in **IC 12-7-2.1-170** and ~~IC 12-7-2-130(1)~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-226(1)**. The court may subpoena any other persons with knowledge concerning the issues presented at the hearing.

(c) The defendant has all the rights provided by the provisions of IC 12-26 under which the petition against the defendant was filed. The



prosecuting attorney may cross-examine the witnesses and present relevant evidence concerning the issues presented at the hearing.

(d) If a court orders an individual to be committed under IC 12-26-6 or IC 12-26-7 following a verdict of not responsible by reason of insanity at the time of the crime, the warden of the facility to which the individual is committed and the attending physician are subject to the requirements of IC 12-26-15-1.

(e) If a defendant is found not responsible by reason of insanity, the court shall transmit any information required by the office of judicial administration to the office of judicial administration for transmission to the NICS (as defined in IC 35-47-2.5-2.5) in accordance with IC 33-24-6-3.

SECTION 230. IC 35-36-2-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.161-2018, SECTION 119, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) Except as provided by subsection (e), whenever a defendant is found guilty but mentally ill at the time of the crime or enters a plea to that effect that is accepted by the court, the court shall sentence the defendant in the same manner as a defendant found guilty of the offense.

(b) Before sentencing the defendant under subsection (a), the court shall require the defendant to be evaluated by a physician licensed under IC 25-22.5 who practices psychiatric medicine, a licensed psychologist, or a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**). However, the court may waive this requirement if the defendant was evaluated by a physician licensed under IC 25-22.5 who practices psychiatric medicine, a licensed psychologist, or a community mental health center and the evaluation is contained in the record of the defendant's trial or plea agreement hearing.

(c) If a defendant who is found guilty but mentally ill at the time of the crime is committed to the department of correction, the defendant shall be further evaluated and then treated in such a manner as is psychiatrically indicated for the defendant's mental illness. Treatment may be provided by:

- (1) the department of correction; or
- (2) the division of mental health and addiction after transfer under IC 11-10-4.

(d) If a defendant who is found guilty but mentally ill at the time of the crime is placed on probation, the court may, in accordance with IC 35-38-2-2.3, require that the defendant undergo treatment.

(e) As used in this subsection, "individual with an intellectual disability" means an individual who, before becoming twenty-two (22)



years of age, manifests:

- (1) significantly subaverage intellectual functioning; and
- (2) substantial impairment of adaptive behavior;

that is documented in a court ordered evaluative report. If a court determines under IC 35-36-9 that a defendant who is charged with a murder for which the state seeks a death sentence is an individual with an intellectual disability, the court shall sentence the defendant under IC 35-50-2-3(a).

(f) If a defendant is found guilty but mentally ill, the court shall transmit any information required by the office of judicial administration to the office of judicial administration for transmission to the NICS (as defined in IC 35-47-2.5-2.5) in accordance with IC 33-24-6-3.

SECTION 231. IC 35-36-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.85-2024, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) If at any time before the final submission of any criminal case to the court or the jury trying the case, the court has reasonable grounds for believing that the defendant lacks the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of a defense, the court shall immediately fix a time for a hearing to determine whether the defendant has that ability.

(b) This subsection applies to a defendant charged with murder or a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony. When a court sets a hearing under subsection (a), the court shall appoint two (2) or three (3) individuals to determine the defendant's competency. Each of the appointed individuals must be a psychiatrist, or a psychologist endorsed by the Indiana state board of examiners in psychology as a health service provider in psychology. An individual appointed under this subsection must be competent and disinterested.

(c) This subsection applies to a defendant charged with a misdemeanor or a Level 6 felony. When a court sets a hearing under subsection (a), the court shall appoint one (1) individual who:

- (1) is a:
 - (A) psychiatrist; or
 - (B) psychologist endorsed by the Indiana state board of examiners in psychology as a health service provider in psychology;
- (2) is competent and disinterested; and
- (3) has expertise in determining competency.

(d) In addition to the psychiatrist or psychologist appointed under subsection (c), the court may appoint not more than two (2) additional individuals to assist the court in determining competency. Upon request



of either party, the court shall appoint at least one (1), but not more than two (2), additional individuals to assist the court in determining competency. An individual appointed under this subsection may be an individual:

- (1) described in subsection (c); or
- (2) who is competent and disinterested, has expertise in determining competency, and is:
 - (A) licensed:
 - (i) under IC 25-23 as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) with a certification as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner;
 - (ii) under IC 25-27.5 as a physician assistant who specializes in psychiatry or mental health; or
 - (iii) under IC 25-22.5 as a physician who specializes in psychiatry or mental health; and
 - (B) certified by the division of mental health and addiction as a competency evaluator.

(e) An individual appointed under this section may not be an employee or a contractor of a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-318**). The individuals who are appointed shall examine the defendant and testify at the hearing as to whether the defendant can understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense.

(f) At the hearing, other evidence relevant to whether the defendant has the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense may be introduced. If the court finds that the defendant has the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense, the trial shall proceed. If the court finds that the defendant lacks this ability, it shall delay or continue the trial and order the defendant committed to the division of mental health and addiction. The division of mental health and addiction shall provide competency restoration services or enter into a contract for the provision of competency restoration services by a third party in the:

- (1) location where the defendant currently resides; or
- (2) least restrictive setting appropriate to the needs of the defendant and the safety of the defendant and others.

However, if the defendant is serving an unrelated executed sentence in the department of correction at the time the defendant is committed to the division of mental health and addiction under this section, the division of mental health and addiction shall provide competency restoration services or enter into a contract for the provision of



competency restoration services by a third party at a department of correction facility agreed upon by the division of mental health and addiction or the third party contractor and the department of correction. A contract entered into with a third party under this subsection may confer to the third party all authority the division would have in providing competency restoration services to the defendant at a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-318**).

(g) If the court makes a finding under subsection (f), the court shall transmit any information required by the office of judicial administration to the office of judicial administration for transmission to the NICS (as defined in IC 35-47-2.5-2.5) in accordance with IC 33-24-6-3.

SECTION 232. IC 35-36-3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. Whenever the defendant attains the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense:

(1) the superintendent of the state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-318**); or

(2) if the division of mental health and addiction entered into a contract for the provision of competency restoration services, the director or medical director of the third party contractor;

shall certify that fact to the proper court, which shall enter an order directing the sheriff to return the defendant. The court shall enter such an order immediately after being sufficiently advised of the defendant's attainment of the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense. Upon the return to court of any defendant committed under section 1 of this chapter, the court shall hold the trial as if no delay or postponement had occurred.

SECTION 233. IC 35-36-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.85-2024, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) Within ninety (90) days after:

(1) a defendant's admission to a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-318**); or

(2) the initiation of competency restoration services to a defendant by a third party contractor;

the superintendent of the state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) or the director or medical director of the third party contractor, if the division of mental health and addiction has entered into a contract for the provision of competency restoration services by a third party, shall certify to the proper court whether the defendant has a substantial probability of attaining the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense



within the foreseeable future.

(b) If a party files a motion to dismiss, the court may dismiss the charges against the defendant without prejudice if the:

- (1) defendant has been diagnosed with:
 - (A) dementia;
 - (B) Alzheimer's disease; or
 - (C) a traumatic brain injury;
- (2) defendant's diagnosis substantially impacts the defendant's ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense within the foreseeable future; and
- (3) defendant is charged with a misdemeanor or a Level 6 felony.

(c) If a defendant's charges are not dismissed under subsection (b) and a substantial probability does not exist, the state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) or the third party contractor shall initiate regular commitment proceedings under IC 12-26. If a substantial probability does exist, the state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) or third party contractor shall retain the defendant:

- (1) until the defendant attains the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense and is returned to the proper court for trial; or
- (2) for six (6) months from the date of the:
 - (A) defendant's admission to a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-318**); or
 - (B) initiation of competency restoration services by a third party contractor;

whichever first occurs.

SECTION 234. IC 35-36-3-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.85-2024, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. If a defendant who was found under section 3 of this chapter to have had a substantial probability of attaining the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of the defendant's defense:

- (1) has not attained that ability within six (6) months after the date of the:
 - (A) defendant's admission to a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~); **IC 12-7-2.1-318**); or
 - (B) initiation of competency restoration services by a third party contractor; or
- (2) has not had the criminal charges dismissed under section 3(b) of this chapter;

the state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-318**) or



the third party contractor, if the division of mental health and addiction has entered into a contract for the provision of competency restoration services by a third party, shall institute regular commitment proceedings under IC 12-26.

SECTION 235. IC 35-42-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2024, SECTION 24, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "public safety official" means:

- (1) a law enforcement officer, including an alcoholic beverage enforcement officer;
- (2) an employee of a penal facility or a juvenile detention facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-71~~; **IC 31-9-2.1-144**);
- (3) an employee of the department of correction;
- (4) a probation officer;
- (5) a parole officer;
- (6) a community corrections worker;
- (7) a home detention officer;
- (8) a department of child services employee;
- (9) a firefighter;
- (10) an emergency medical services provider;
- (11) a judicial officer;
- (12) a bailiff of any court; or
- (13) a special deputy (as described in IC 36-8-10-10.6).

(b) As used in this section, "relative" means an individual related by blood, half-blood, adoption, marriage, or remarriage, including:

- (1) a spouse;
- (2) a parent or stepparent;
- (3) a child or stepchild;
- (4) a grandchild or stepgrandchild;
- (5) a grandparent or stepgrandparent;
- (6) a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister;
- (7) a niece or nephew;
- (8) an aunt or uncle;
- (9) a daughter-in-law or son-in-law;
- (10) a mother-in-law or father-in-law; or
- (11) a first cousin.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (d) through (k), a person who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) touches another person in a rude, insolent, or angry manner; or
- (2) in a rude, insolent, or angry manner places any bodily fluid or waste on another person;



commits battery, a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) The offense described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) is a Class A misdemeanor if it:

- (1) results in bodily injury to any other person; or
- (2) is committed against a member of a foster family home (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-139.3) by a person who is not a resident of the foster family home if the person who committed the offense is a relative of a person who lived in the foster family home at the time of the offense.

(e) The offense described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) is a Level 6 felony if one (1) or more of the following apply:

- (1) The offense results in moderate bodily injury to any other person.
- (2) The offense is committed against a public safety official while the official is engaged in the official's official duty, unless the offense is committed by a person detained or committed under IC 12-26.
- (3) The offense is committed against a person less than fourteen (14) years of age and is committed by a person at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (4) The offense is committed against a person of any age who has a mental or physical disability and is committed by a person having the care of the person with the mental or physical disability, whether the care is assumed voluntarily or because of a legal obligation.
- (5) The offense is committed against an endangered adult (as defined in IC 12-10-3-2).
- (6) The offense:
 - (A) is committed against a member of a foster family home (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-139.3) by a person who is not a resident of the foster family home if the person who committed the offense is a relative of a person who lived in the foster family home at the time of the offense; and
 - (B) results in bodily injury to the member of the foster family.

(f) The offense described in subsection (c)(2) is a Level 6 felony if the person knew or recklessly failed to know that the bodily fluid or waste placed on another person was infected with hepatitis, tuberculosis, or human immunodeficiency virus.

(g) The offense described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) is a Level 5 felony if one (1) or more of the following apply:

- (1) The offense results in serious bodily injury to another person.
- (2) The offense is committed with a deadly weapon.



(3) The offense results in bodily injury to a pregnant woman if the person knew of the pregnancy.

(4) The person has a previous conviction for a battery or strangulation offense included in this chapter against the same victim.

(5) The offense results in bodily injury to one (1) or more of the following:

(A) A public safety official while the official is engaged in the official's official duties, unless the offense is committed by a person detained or committed under IC 12-26.

(B) A person less than fourteen (14) years of age if the offense is committed by a person at least eighteen (18) years of age.

(C) A person who has a mental or physical disability if the offense is committed by an individual having care of the person with the disability, regardless of whether the care is assumed voluntarily or because of a legal obligation.

(D) An endangered adult (as defined in IC 12-10-3-2).

(h) The offense described in subsection (c)(2) is a Level 5 felony if:

(1) the person knew or recklessly failed to know that the bodily fluid or waste placed on another person was infected with hepatitis, tuberculosis, or human immunodeficiency virus; and

(2) the person placed the bodily fluid or waste on a public safety official, unless the offense is committed by a person detained or committed under IC 12-26.

(i) The offense described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) is a Level 4 felony if it results in serious bodily injury to an endangered adult (as defined in IC 12-10-3-2).

(j) The offense described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) is a Level 3 felony if it results in serious bodily injury to a person less than fourteen (14) years of age if the offense is committed by a person at least eighteen (18) years of age.

(k) The offense described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) is a Level 2 felony if it results in the death of one (1) or more of the following:

(1) A person less than fourteen (14) years of age if the offense is committed by a person at least eighteen (18) years of age.

(2) An endangered adult (as defined in IC 12-10-3-2).

SECTION 236. IC 35-42-4-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 87, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) As used in this section, "adoptive parent" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 31-9-2-6~~. **IC 31-9-2.1-13.**

(b) As used in this section, "adoptive grandparent" means the parent of an adoptive parent.



(c) As used in this section, "charter school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-18-2-2.5.

(d) As used in this section, "child care worker" means a person who:

(1) provides care, supervision, or instruction to a child within the scope of the person's employment in a shelter care facility;

(2) is employed by a:

(A) school corporation;

(B) charter school;

(C) nonpublic school; or

(D) special education cooperative;

attended by a child who is the victim of a crime under this chapter; or

(3) is:

(A) affiliated with a:

(i) school corporation;

(ii) charter school;

(iii) nonpublic school; or

(iv) special education cooperative;

attended by a child who is the victim of a crime under this chapter, regardless of how or whether the person is compensated;

(B) in a position of trust in relation to a child who attends the school or cooperative;

(C) engaged in the provision of care or supervision to a child who attends the school or cooperative; and

(D) at least four (4) years older than the child who is the victim of a crime under this chapter.

The term does not include a student who attends the school or cooperative.

(e) As used in this section, "coach" means a person who:

(1) provides care, supervision, or instruction to a child within the scope of the person's employment in a youth sports organization;

(2) is employed by a youth sports organization attended by a child who is the victim of a crime under this chapter; or

(3) is:

(A) affiliated with a youth sports organization attended by a child who is the victim of a crime under this chapter, regardless of how or whether the person is compensated;

(B) in a position of trust in relation to a child who participates in the youth sports organization;

(C) engaged in the provision of care or supervision to a child who participates in the youth sports organization; and



(D) at least four (4) years older than the child who is the victim of a crime under this chapter.

This term includes a coach who is nonteaching or a volunteer.

(f) As used in this section, "custodian" means any person who resides with a child and is responsible for the child's welfare.

(g) As used in this section, "mental health professional" means:

- (1) a mental health counselor licensed under IC 25-23.6-8.5;
- (2) a psychologist; or
- (3) a psychiatrist.

(h) As used in this section, "military recruiter" means a member of:

- (1) the United States Air Force;
- (2) the United States Army;
- (3) the United States Coast Guard;
- (4) the United States Marine Corps;
- (5) the United States Navy;
- (6) the United States Space Force;
- (7) any reserve components of the military forces listed in subdivisions (1) through (5); or
- (8) the Indiana National Guard;

whose primary job function, classification, or specialty is recruiting individuals to enlist with an entity listed in subdivisions (1) through (8).

(i) As used in this section, "nonpublic school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-18-2-12.

(j) For purposes of this section, a person has a "professional relationship" with a child if:

- (1) the person:
 - (A) has a license issued by the state or a political subdivision on the basis of the person's training and experience that authorizes the person to carry out a particular occupation; or
 - (B) is employed in a position in which counseling, supervising, instructing, or recruiting children forms a significant part of the employment; and
- (2) the person has a relationship with a child that is based on the person's employment or licensed status as described in subdivision (1).

The term includes a relationship between a child and a mental health professional or military recruiter. The term does not include a coworker relationship between a child and a person described in subdivision (1)(B).

(k) As used in this section, "school corporation" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-18-2-16.



(l) As used in this section, "special education cooperative" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-35-5-1.

(m) As used in this section, "stepparent" means an individual who is married to a child's custodial or noncustodial parent and is not the child's adoptive parent.

(n) As used in this section, "workplace supervisor" means an individual who has authority over a child while the child is employed at the child's place of employment. The term includes a person who is responsible for determining the child's wages (including whether the child will receive a raise) or who otherwise has the authority to take an adverse employment action against the child.

(o) As used in this section, "youth sports organization" means an athletic or recreational program that is organized for:

- (1) competition against another team, club, or entity; or
- (2) athletic instruction;

predominantly for children less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(p) If a person who:

- (1) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- (2) is the:

- (A) guardian, adoptive parent, adoptive grandparent, custodian, or stepparent of;
- (B) child care worker for; or
- (C) coach of;

a child less than eighteen (18) years of age;

engages with the child in sexual intercourse, other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5), or any fondling or touching with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the child or the adult, the person commits child seduction.

(q) A person who:

- (1) has or had a professional relationship with a child less than eighteen (18) years of age whom the person knows to be less than eighteen (18) years of age;
- (2) may exert undue influence on the child because of the person's current or previous professional relationship with the child; and
- (3) uses or exerts the person's professional relationship to engage in sexual intercourse, other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5), or any fondling or touching with the child with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or the person;

commits child seduction.

(r) A law enforcement officer who:

- (1) is at least four (4) years older than a child who is less than



eighteen (18) years of age;

(2) has contact with the child while acting within the scope of the law enforcement officer's official duties with respect to the child; and

(3) uses or exerts the law enforcement officer's professional relationship with the child to engage with the child in:

(A) sexual intercourse;

(B) other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5); or

(C) any fondling or touching with the child with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or the law enforcement officer;

commits child seduction.

(s) In determining whether a person used or exerted the person's professional relationship with the child to engage in sexual intercourse, other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5), or any fondling or touching with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or the person under this section, the trier of fact may consider one (1) or more of the following:

(1) The age difference between the person and the child.

(2) Whether the person was in a position of trust with respect to the child.

(3) Whether the person's conduct with the child violated any ethical obligations of the person's profession or occupation.

(4) The authority that the person had over the child.

(5) Whether the person exploited any particular vulnerability of the child.

(6) Any other evidence relevant to the person's ability to exert undue influence over the child.

(t) This subsection does not apply to a workplace supervisor who had a dating relationship with the child before the child was employed at the place of employment. A workplace supervisor who:

(1) is at least four (4) years older than a child who is less than eighteen (18) years of age;

(2) supervises the child at the child's place of employment; and

(3) uses or exerts the workplace supervisor's supervisory relationship with the child to engage with the child in:

(A) sexual intercourse;

(B) other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5); or

(C) any fondling or touching with the child with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or the



workplace supervisor;
commits child seduction.

(u) In determining whether a workplace supervisor used or exerted the workplace supervisor's relationship with the child to engage in sexual intercourse, other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5), or any fondling or touching with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or the workplace supervisor, the trier of fact may consider one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) The age difference between the workplace supervisor and the child.
- (2) Whether the workplace supervisor was in a position of trust with respect to the child.
- (3) Whether the workplace supervisor suggested to the child that engaging or not engaging in sexual activity with the workplace supervisor would or could affect the child at the child's place of employment.
- (4) The authority that the workplace supervisor had over the child.
- (5) Whether the workplace supervisor exploited any particular vulnerability of the child.
- (6) Any other evidence relevant to the workplace supervisor's ability to exert undue influence over the child.

(v) Child seduction under this section is:

- (1) a Level 6 felony if the child is at least sixteen (16) years of age but less than eighteen (18) years of age and the person or law enforcement officer engaged in any fondling or touching with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of:
 - (A) the child; or
 - (B) the person or law enforcement officer;
- (2) a Level 5 felony if the child is at least sixteen (16) years of age but less than eighteen (18) years of age and the person or law enforcement officer engaged in sexual intercourse or other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5) with the child;
- (3) a Level 5 felony if the child is at least fourteen (14) years of age but less than sixteen (16) years of age and the person or law enforcement officer engaged in any fondling or touching with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of:
 - (A) the child; or
 - (B) the person or law enforcement officer;
- (4) a Level 4 felony if the child is at least fourteen (14) years of age but less than sixteen (16) years of age and the person or law enforcement officer engaged in sexual intercourse or other sexual



conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5) with the child;
 (5) a Level 3 felony if the child is thirteen (13) years of age or under and the person or law enforcement officer engaged in any fondling or touching with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of:

(A) the child; or

(B) the person or law enforcement officer; and

(6) a Level 2 felony if the child is thirteen (13) years of age or under and the person or law enforcement officer engaged in sexual intercourse or other sexual conduct (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-221.5) with the child.

SECTION 237. IC 35-44.1-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.158-2013, SECTION 499, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The following definitions apply throughout this section:

(1) "Dependent" means any of the following:

(A) The spouse of a public servant.

(B) A child, stepchild, or adoptee (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-2~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-8**) of a public servant who is:

(i) unemancipated; and

(ii) less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(C) An individual more than one-half (1/2) of whose support is provided during a year by the public servant.

(2) "Governmental entity served by the public servant" means the immediate governmental entity being served by a public servant.

(3) "Pecuniary interest" means an interest in a contract or purchase if the contract or purchase will result or is intended to result in an ascertainable increase in the income or net worth of:

(A) the public servant; or

(B) a dependent of the public servant who:

(i) is under the direct or indirect administrative control of the public servant; or

(ii) receives a contract or purchase order that is reviewed, approved, or directly or indirectly administered by the public servant.

(b) A public servant who knowingly or intentionally:

(1) has a pecuniary interest in; or

(2) derives a profit from;

a contract or purchase connected with an action by the governmental entity served by the public servant commits conflict of interest, a Level 6 felony.

(c) It is not an offense under this section if any of the following



apply:

- (1) The public servant or the public servant's dependent receives compensation through salary or an employment contract for:
 - (A) services provided as a public servant; or
 - (B) expenses incurred by the public servant as provided by law.
- (2) The public servant's interest in the contract or purchase and all other contracts and purchases made by the governmental entity during the twelve (12) months before the date of the contract or purchase was two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or less.
- (3) The contract or purchase involves utility services from a utility whose rate structure is regulated by the state or federal government.
- (4) The public servant:
 - (A) acts in only an advisory capacity for a state supported college or university; and
 - (B) does not have authority to act on behalf of the college or university in a matter involving a contract or purchase.
- (5) A public servant under the jurisdiction of the state ethics commission (as provided in IC 4-2-6-2.5) obtains from the state ethics commission, following full and truthful disclosure, written approval that the public servant will not or does not have a conflict of interest in connection with the contract or purchase under IC 4-2-6 and this section. The approval required under this subdivision must be:
 - (A) granted to the public servant before action is taken in connection with the contract or purchase by the governmental entity served; or
 - (B) sought by the public servant as soon as possible after the contract is executed or the purchase is made and the public servant becomes aware of the facts that give rise to a question of conflict of interest.
- (6) A public servant makes a disclosure that meets the requirements of subsection (d) or (e) and is:
 - (A) not a member or on the staff of the governing body empowered to contract or purchase on behalf of the governmental entity, and functions and performs duties for the governmental entity unrelated to the contract or purchase;
 - (B) appointed by an elected public servant;
 - (C) employed by the governing body of a school corporation and the contract or purchase involves the employment of a dependent or the payment of fees to a dependent;



- (D) elected; or
- (E) a member of, or a person appointed by, the board of trustees of a state supported college or university.
- (7) The public servant is a member of the governing board of, or is a physician employed or contracted by, a hospital organized or operated under IC 16-22-1 through IC 16-22-5 or IC 16-23-1.
- (d) A disclosure must:
 - (1) be in writing;
 - (2) describe the contract or purchase to be made by the governmental entity;
 - (3) describe the pecuniary interest that the public servant has in the contract or purchase;
 - (4) be affirmed under penalty of perjury;
 - (5) be submitted to the governmental entity and be accepted by the governmental entity in a public meeting of the governmental entity before final action on the contract or purchase;
 - (6) be filed within fifteen (15) days after final action on the contract or purchase with:
 - (A) the state board of accounts; and
 - (B) if the governmental entity is a governmental entity other than the state or a state supported college or university, the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the governmental entity takes final action on the contract or purchase; and
 - (7) contain, if the public servant is appointed, the written approval of the elected public servant (if any) or the board of trustees of a state supported college or university (if any) that appointed the public servant.
- (e) This subsection applies only to a person who is a member of, or a person appointed by, the board of trustees of a state supported college or university. A person to whom this subsection applies complies with the disclosure requirements of this chapter with respect to the person's pecuniary interest in a particular type of contract or purchase which is made on a regular basis from a particular vendor if the individual files with the state board of accounts and the board of trustees a statement of pecuniary interest in that particular type of contract or purchase made with that particular vendor. The statement required by this subsection must be made on an annual basis.

SECTION 238. IC 35-44.1-2-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.129-2025, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) As used in this section, "consumer product" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-45-8-1.

(b) As used in this section, "misconduct" means a violation of a



departmental rule or procedure of a law enforcement agency.

(c) A person who reports that:

- (1) the person or another person has placed or intends to place an explosive, a destructive device, or other destructive substance in a building or transportation facility;
- (2) there has been or there will be tampering with a consumer product introduced into commerce; or
- (3) there has been or will be placed or introduced a weapon of mass destruction in a building or a place of assembly;

knowing the report to be false, commits false reporting, a Level 6 felony.

(d) A person who:

(1) gives:

- (A) a false report of the commission of a crime; or
- (B) false information to a law enforcement officer that relates to the commission of a crime;

knowing the report or information to be false;

(2) gives a false alarm of fire to the fire department of a governmental entity, knowing the alarm to be false;

(3) makes a false request for ambulance service to an ambulance service provider, knowing the request to be false;

(4) gives a false report concerning a missing child (as defined in IC 10-13-5-4), missing veteran at risk (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-197.3~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-346**), or missing endangered adult (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-131.3~~) **IC 12-7-2.1-227**) or gives false information to a law enforcement officer or a governmental entity that relates to a missing child, missing veteran at risk, or missing endangered adult knowing the report or information to be false;

(5) makes a complaint against a law enforcement officer to the state or municipality (as defined in IC 8-1-13-3(b)) that employs the officer:

- (A) alleging the officer engaged in misconduct while performing the officer's duties; and
- (B) knowing the complaint to be false;

(6) makes a false report of a missing person, knowing the report or information is false;

(7) gives a false report of actions, behavior, or conditions concerning:

- (A) a septic tank soil absorption system under IC 8-1-2-125 or IC 13-26-5-2.5; or
- (B) a septic tank soil absorption system or constructed wetland septic system under IC 36-9-23-30.1;



knowing the report or information to be false; or
 (8) makes a false report that a person is dangerous (as defined in IC 35-47-14-1) knowing the report or information to be false; commits false informing, a Class B misdemeanor except as provided in subsection (e).

(e) The offense described in subsection (d) is:

(1) a Class A misdemeanor if it:

(A) substantially hinders any law enforcement process, including by causing the dispatch of one (1) or more law enforcement officers;

(B) results in harm to another person; or

(C) is committed under subsection (d)(8);

(2) a Level 6 felony if it:

(A) is committed under subsection (d)(8); and

(B) either:

(i) substantially hinders any law enforcement process, including by causing the dispatch of one (1) or more law enforcement officers;

(ii) results in harm to another person; or

(iii) would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, or threatened; and

(3) a Level 5 felony if it is committed under subsection (d)(8) and results in serious bodily injury or death to another person.

SECTION 239. IC 35-44.1-3-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.104-2024, SECTION 41, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The following definitions apply throughout this section:

(1) "Chemical intoxicant" means a substance that, when introduced into a person's body, causes intoxication or a similar physical effect. The term does not include an alcoholic beverage or a cigarette or tobacco product (as defined in IC 6-7-2-5).

(2) "Juvenile facility" means the following:

(A) A secure facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-114~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-222**) in which a child is detained under IC 31 or used for a child awaiting adjudication or adjudicated under IC 31 as a child in need of services or a delinquent child.

(B) A shelter care facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-117~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-227**) in which a child is detained under IC 31 or used for a child awaiting adjudication or adjudicated under IC 31 as a child in need of services or a delinquent child.

(b) A person who, without the prior authorization of the person in charge of a penal facility or juvenile facility, knowingly or



intentionally:

- (1) delivers, or carries into the penal facility or juvenile facility with intent to deliver, an article to an inmate or child of the facility;
- (2) carries, or receives with intent to carry out of the penal facility or juvenile facility, an article from an inmate or child of the facility; or
- (3) delivers, or carries to a worksite with the intent to deliver, alcoholic beverages to an inmate or child of a jail work crew or community work crew;

(including delivering, carrying, or receiving through the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle) commits trafficking with an inmate, a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Level 5 felony under subdivision (1) or (2) if the article is a controlled substance, a chemical intoxicant, a deadly weapon, or a cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular communications device.

(c) If:

(1) the person who committed the offense under subsection (b) is an employee of:

- (A) the department of correction; or
- (B) a penal facility;

and the article is a cigarette or tobacco product (as defined in IC 6-7-2-5), the court shall order the person to pay a fine of at least five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) under IC 35-50-3-2, in addition to any term of imprisonment imposed under IC 35-50-3-2; or

(2) a person is convicted of committing a Level 5 felony under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) because the article was a cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular communication device, the court shall order the person to pay a fine of at least five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) under IC 35-50-2-6(a) in addition to any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under IC 35-50-2-6(a).

(d) A person who:

- (1) is not an inmate of a penal facility or a child of a juvenile facility; and
- (2) knowingly or intentionally possesses in, or carries or causes to be brought into, the penal facility or juvenile facility a deadly weapon without the prior authorization of the person in charge of the penal facility or juvenile facility;

commits carrying a deadly weapon into a correctional facility, a Level 5 felony.



SECTION 240. IC 35-46-1-4.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.158-2013, SECTION 551, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4.1. (a) As used in this section, "child care provider" means a person who provides child care in or on behalf of:

- (1) a child care center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.4~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-55**); or
- (2) a child care home (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.6~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-57**);

regardless of whether the child care center or child care home is licensed.

(b) A child care provider who recklessly supervises a child commits reckless supervision, a Class B misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the offense results in serious bodily injury to a child, and a Level 6 felony if the offense results in the death of a child.

SECTION 241. IC 35-46-7-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "health care provider" means:

- (1) a hospital licensed under IC 16-21;
- (2) a health facility licensed under IC 16-28;
- (3) a housing services establishment that is required to file a disclosure statement under IC 12-15;
- (4) a continuing care retirement community that is required to file a disclosure statement under IC 23-2-4;
- (5) a home health agency licensed under IC 16-27;
- (6) a hospice licensed under IC 16-25;
- (7) an entity that provides licensed or certified health care professionals to:
 - (A) a health care provider; or
 - (B) a person who is in need of, or receives, professional health care services;
- (8) a community mental health center (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-38~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-78**);
- (9) a private psychiatric hospital licensed under IC 12-25;
- (10) a state institution (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-318**); or
- (11) a community residential facility for the developmentally disabled that is licensed under IC 12-28-5.

SECTION 242. IC 35-47-14-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.289-2019, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, an



individual is "dangerous" if:

- (1) the individual presents an imminent risk of personal injury to the individual or to another individual; or
- (2) it is probable that the individual will present a risk of personal injury to the individual or to another individual in the future and the individual:
 - (A) has a mental illness (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-130~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-226**) that may be controlled by medication, and has not demonstrated a pattern of voluntarily and consistently taking the individual's medication while not under supervision; or
 - (B) is the subject of documented evidence that would give rise to a reasonable belief that the individual has a propensity for violent or suicidal conduct.

(b) The fact that an individual has been released from a mental health facility or has a mental illness that is currently controlled by medication does not establish that the individual is dangerous for the purposes of this chapter.

SECTION 243. IC 35-48-1.1-18, AS ADDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 249, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. "Enhancing circumstance" means one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) The person has a prior conviction for dealing in a controlled substance that is not marijuana, hashish, hash oil, or salvia divinorum.
- (2) The person committed the offense while in possession of a firearm.
- (3) The person committed the offense:
 - (A) on a school bus; or
 - (B) in, on, or within five hundred (500) feet of:
 - (i) school property while a person under eighteen (18) years of age was reasonably expected to be present; or
 - (ii) a public park while a person under eighteen (18) years of age was reasonably expected to be present.
- (4) The person delivered or financed the delivery of the drug to a person under eighteen (18) years of age at least three (3) years junior to the person.
- (5) The person manufactured or financed the manufacture of the drug.
- (6) The person committed the offense in the physical presence of a child less than eighteen (18) years of age, knowing that the child was present and might be able to see or hear the offense.



- (7) The person committed the offense on the property of a:
- (A) penal facility; or
 - (B) juvenile facility (as defined in IC 35-44.1-3-5).
- (8) The person knowingly committed the offense in, on, or within one hundred (100) feet of a facility. For purposes of this subdivision, "facility" means a place that is:
- (A) created and funded under IC 12-23-14 or IC 33-23-16;
 - (B) certified under IC 12-23-1-6; or
 - (C) used for the purpose of conducting a recovery or support group meeting;
- and at which a drug abuser (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-73~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-129**) may be provided with treatment, care, or rehabilitation.

SECTION 244. IC 35-50-1-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.74-2015, SECTION 28, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Before a person who has been convicted of an offense and committed to the department of correction is assigned to a department of correction program or facility under IC 11-10-1, the sentencing court may recommend that the department of correction place the person in a secure private facility (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~ **IC 31-9-2.1-223**) if:

- (1) the person was less than sixteen (16) years of age on the date of sentencing; and
 - (2) the court determines that the person would benefit from the treatment offered by the facility.
- (b) A secure private facility may terminate a placement and request the department of correction to reassign a convicted person to another department of correction facility or program.
- (c) When a convicted person becomes twenty-one (21) years of age or if a secure private facility terminates a placement under subsection (b) a convicted person shall:
- (1) be assigned to a department of correction facility or program under IC 11-10-1-3(b); and
 - (2) serve the remainder of the sentence in the department of correction facility or program.
- (d) A person who is placed in a secure private facility under this section:
- (1) is entitled to earn educational credit and good time credit under IC 35-50-6; and
 - (2) may be deprived of earned educational credit and good time credit as provided under rules adopted by the department of correction under IC 4-22-2.



SECTION 245. IC 36-1-24-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.73-2018, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. A unit may enact or enforce a law or plan that regulates, prohibits, or limits short term rentals only for the following primary purposes:

(1) Protection of the public's health and safety related to:

- (A) fire and building safety;
- (B) sanitation;
- (C) transportation;
- (D) traffic control; and
- (E) pollution control;

if enforcement is performed in the same manner as enforcement that applies to similar properties that are not short term rentals.

(2) Residential use and zoning related to:

- (A) noise;
- (B) protection of welfare;
- (C) property maintenance; and
- (D) nuisance issues;

if enforcement is performed in the same manner as enforcement that applies to similar properties that are not short term rentals.

(3) To limit or prohibit use of short term rentals for the following purposes:

- (A) To house sex offenders.
- (B) To operate a structured sober living home.
- (C) To manufacture, exhibit, distribute, or sell illegal drugs, liquor, pornography, or obscenity.
- (D) To operate an adult entertainment establishment (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-1.8~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-7**).

(4) To limit or prohibit short term rentals located within the boundaries of a conservancy district established under IC 14-33.

(5) To provide the unit with an emergency contact for a short term rental.

SECTION 246. IC 36-4-3-5.2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.211-2025, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5.2. (a) As used in this section, "homeowners association" means a corporation that satisfies all of the following:

- (1) The corporation is exempt from federal income taxation under 26 U.S.C. 528.
- (2) The control and management of the corporation is vested in a board of directors.
- (3) The corporation is organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of two (2) or more persons who each own:



- (A) a dwelling in fee simple; or
 - (B) a commercial building in fee simple;
- within the residential development.
- (4) The purpose of the corporation is to:
- (A) own, maintain, and operate common areas and facilities;
 - (B) administer and enforce covenants and restrictions on property; and
 - (C) collect and distribute assessments on property;
- located within the residential development.
- (5) The corporation acts in accordance with the articles, bylaws, or other documents governing the corporation to:
- (A) adopt and enforce rules and regulations necessary for the enjoyment of common areas, recreation facilities, and other amenities located within the residential development; and
 - (B) exercise the corporation's power to:
 - (i) levy assessments on property within the residential development; and
 - (ii) collect assessments on property located within the residential development by enforcing the corporation's lien and foreclosure rights.
- (b) As used in this section, "municipality" means:
- (1) a third class city; or
 - (2) a town having a population of more than thirty thousand (30,000) located in a county having a population of more than one hundred seventy-four thousand (174,000) and less than one hundred eighty thousand (180,000).
- (c) As used in this section, "residential development" means a parcel of land that is subdivided or will be subdivided upon collection of the annexation into:
- (1) lots, parcels, tracts, units, or interests that:
 - (A) include an existing Class 2 structure (as defined in IC 22-12-1-5); or
 - (B) are designated for the construction of a Class 2 structure; each of which is encumbered by substantively identical restrictive covenants concerning one (1) or more servient estates located within the boundaries of the original undivided parcel, or other governing document of record;
 - (2) lots, parcels, tracts, units, or interests that:
 - (A) include an existing Class 1 structure (as defined in IC 22-12-1-4); or
 - (B) are designated for the construction of a Class 1 structure;
- and



(3) a common area.

(d) In addition to annexing territory under section 3, 4, 5, or 5.1 of this chapter, a third class city may annex a residential development and a public highway right-of-way that connects the residential development to the corporate limits of the third class city. A town described in subsection (b)(2) may annex a residential development. An annexation by a third class city or a town under this section must satisfy the following:

(1) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a municipality. The residential development is governed by a homeowners association.

(2) The residential development has at least any combination of:

- (A) three hundred (300) proposed or existing, or both, single family lots within the proposed or existing residential developments, in the case of an annexation by a third class city; or
- (B) five hundred (500) proposed or existing, or both, single family lots within the proposed or existing residential developments, in the case of an annexation by a town described in subsection (b)(2).

(3) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a municipality. The residential development is located in its entirety not more than four and five-tenths (4.5) miles outside the municipality's corporate boundaries.

(4) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a third class city. The residential development dwellings are or will be upon construction connected to the third class city's sewer or water service.

(5) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a municipality. The residential development includes a commercial area containing or proposed to contain buildings intended to be used and operated for commercial purposes.

(6) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a third class city. The residential development is adjacent to the public highway right-of-way.

(7) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a third class city. The public highway that connects the residential development to the corporate limits of the city is part of the state highway system (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-40~~; **IC 8-23-1.1-39**).

(8) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a third class city. The city's annexation territory includes only the public highway right-of-way and the residential development.



(9) The aggregate external boundary of the annexation territory that coincides with the boundary of the third class city is greater than zero (0).

(10) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a town described in subsection (b)(2). An existing sewer line extends from the residential development to the corporate limits of the town. The residential development is or will be upon construction connected to the town's sewer and water service.

(11) This subdivision applies only to an annexation by a town described in subsection (b)(2). The cost of construction of the residential development is at least five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

(12) The aggregate external boundary of the annexation territory that coincides with the boundary of the town described in subsection (b)(2) is zero (0).

(e) Unless the articles, bylaws, or other governing documents of the homeowners association expressly provide otherwise, the board of directors of the homeowners association may file a petition with the legislative body of the municipality requesting the municipality to annex all property within the residential development. The annexation may proceed only if the municipality adopts a resolution approving the initiation of the annexation process not more than sixty (60) days after the petition is filed. If the municipality does not adopt a resolution within the sixty (60) day period, the petition is void.

(f) If the legislative body of the municipality adopts a resolution approving initiation of the annexation, the municipality shall prepare a written preliminary fiscal plan that must be made available to the public at each of the outreach program meetings under section 1.7 of this chapter.

(g) Upon completion of the outreach program meetings and before mailing the notification to landowners under section 2.2 of this chapter, the legislative body of the municipality shall adopt a written fiscal plan by resolution that incorporates any revisions to the preliminary fiscal plan.

(h) The municipality shall hold a public hearing not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date the annexation ordinance is introduced. All interested parties must have the opportunity to testify as to the proposed annexation. Notice of the hearing shall be:

- (1) published in accordance with IC 5-3-1 except that the notice shall be published at least thirty (30) days before the hearing; and
- (2) mailed as set forth in section 2.2 of this chapter.

A municipality may adopt an ordinance not earlier than thirty (30) days



or not later than sixty (60) days after the legislative body of the municipality has held the public hearing under this subsection.

(i) A landowner may file a remonstrance against the annexation as provided in section 11 of this chapter.

(j) Territory annexed under this section may not be considered a part of the third class city for purposes of annexing additional territory under section 3 or 4 of this chapter. However, territory annexed under this chapter shall be considered a part of the third class city for purposes of annexing additional territory under section 5 or 5.1 of this chapter.

(k) For purposes of an annexation by a third class city under this section:

- (1) section 1.5 of this chapter does not apply; and
- (2) the landowner of the public highway right-of-way that is part of the state highway system (as defined in ~~IC 8-23-1-40~~ **IC 8-23-1.1-39**) is considered to be the state of Indiana.

(l) The redevelopment commission of a town described in subsection (b)(2) may only enact a housing tax increment financing district in Liberty Township in Hendricks County if the housing tax increment financing district is approved by a resolution passed by the Mill Creek School Corporation.

(m) The following apply only to an annexation by a town described in subsection (b)(2):

- (1) Any territory that is annexed under this section may not be considered a part of the town for purposes of annexing additional territory under section 3 or 4 of this chapter. However, any part of the unincorporated area (including any property occupied by the sewer line under subsection (d)(10)) that:

- (A) adjoins the boundaries of the annexation territory; and
- (B) extends one-half (1/2) mile from the boundaries of the annexation territory;

may only be annexed by the town if the annexation is under section 5.1 of this chapter.

- (2) Any part of the unincorporated area (including any property occupied by the sewer line under subsection (d)(10)) that extends:

- (A) outside the one-half (1/2) mile area described in subdivision (1); and
- (B) to the corporate limits of the town;

is not a part of the annexation territory or the town for purposes of annexing additional territory under this chapter.

SECTION 247. IC 36-7-4-1107 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1107. (a) This section



applies to a children's home providing residential care for eleven (11) or more children that is operating in a residential area on January 1, 1992.

(b) As used in this section, "children's home" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-29(1)~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-60(1)**.

(c) A zoning ordinance may not prevent improvements to a children's home on the grounds that:

- (1) the children's home is a business; or
- (2) the persons residing in the children's home are not related.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (c), a children's home must meet the same:

- (1) zoning requirements;
- (2) developmental standards; and
- (3) building codes;

that apply to the improvement of residential structures in the same residential district or classification as the children's home.

(e) As used in this subsection, "tract" has the meaning set forth in IC 6-1.1-1-22.5. A children's home must comply with a restriction, reservation, condition, exception, or covenant in a subdivision plat, deed, or other instrument of, or pertaining to, the transfer, sale, lease, or use of property that:

- (1) applies to the tract on which the children's home is located; and
- (2) is in existence for that tract before the children's home acquires ownership or use of the tract.

SECTION 248. IC 36-7-4-1108, AS AMENDED BY P.L.134-2024, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1108. (a) This section applies only to a child care home that is used as the primary residence of the person who operates the child care home regardless of whether the child care home meets the definition set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-28.6~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-57**.

(b) A zoning ordinance may not do any of the following:

- (1) Exclude a child care home from a residential area solely because the child care home is a business.
- (2) Impose limits on the number of children that may be served by a child care home at any one (1) time that vary from the limits set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-33.7~~ **IC 12-7-2.1-68** and ~~IC 12-7-2-33.8~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-69**.

(3) Impose requirements or restrictions upon child care homes that vary from the requirements and restrictions imposed upon child care homes by rules adopted by the division of family resources or the fire prevention and building safety commission.



(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), a child care home may be required to meet the same:

- (1) zoning requirements;
- (2) developmental standards; and
- (3) building codes;

that apply to other residential structures in the same residential district or classification as the child care home.

SECTION 249. IC 36-7-24-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2009, SECTION 167, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "facility" refers to the following:

- (1) A secure facility for juveniles (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-115~~): **IC 31-9-2.1-223**).
- (2) A shelter care facility for juveniles (as defined in ~~IC 31-9-2-117~~): **IC 31-9-2.1-227**).

SECTION 250. IC 36-7-33-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "state institution" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 12-7-2-184~~: **IC 12-7-2.1-318**.

SECTION 251. IC 36-8-8-19, AS AMENDED BY P.L.6-2012, SECTION 253, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) The baseline statewide physical examination required by section 7(a) of this chapter shall be prescribed by the system board and shall be administered by the appointing authority, as determined by the local board, after the appointing authority extends a conditional offer for employment. The baseline statewide physical examination shall be administered by a licensed physician and must include all of the following:

- (1) A general medical history.
- (2) The tests identified in rules that shall be adopted by the system board.

(b) The system board shall adopt minimum standards by rule that a police officer or firefighter must meet for the baseline statewide physical examination described in subsection (a). The baseline statewide physical examination and related standards must:

- (1) reflect the essential functions of the job;
- (2) be consistent with business necessity; and
- (3) be evaluated by the system board one (1) time before January 1, 2015, and every five (5) years thereafter.

(c) The system board shall, in consultation with the commissioner of mental health, select the baseline statewide mental examination described in section 7(a) of this chapter. The standards for passing the



baseline statewide mental examination shall be determined by the local board. The baseline statewide mental examination and related standards must:

- (1) reflect the essential functions of the job;
- (2) be consistent with business necessity; and
- (3) be evaluated by the system board one (1) time before January 1, 2015, and every five (5) years thereafter.

The purpose of the baseline statewide mental examination is to determine if the police officer or firefighter is mentally suitable to be a member of the department. The local board may designate a community mental health center or a managed care provider (as defined in ~~IC 12-7-2-127(b)~~; **IC 12-7-2.1-219**), a hospital, a licensed physician, or a licensed psychologist to administer the examination. However, the results of a baseline statewide mental examination shall be interpreted by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist.

(d) The employer shall pay for no less than one-half (1/2) the cost of the examinations.

(e) Each local board shall name the physicians who will conduct the examinations under this section.

(f) If a local board determines that a candidate passes the local physical and mental standards, if any, established under IC 36-8-3.2-6, the baseline statewide physical examination described in subsection (a), and the baseline statewide mental examination described in subsection (c), the local board shall send the following to the Indiana public retirement system:

- (1) Copies and certification of the results of the baseline statewide physical examination described in subsection (a).
- (2) Certification of the results of the physical agility examination required under IC 36-8-3.2-3 or IC 36-8-3.2-3.5.
- (3) Certification of the results of the baseline statewide mental examination described in subsection (c).

(g) The system board or the system board's designee shall then determine whether the candidate passes the baseline statewide physical standards adopted under subsection (b). If the candidate passes the baseline statewide standards, the system board or the system board's designee shall also determine whether the candidate has a Class 3 excludable condition under section 13.6 of this chapter. The system board or the system board's designee shall retain the results of the examinations and all documents related to the examination until the police officer or firefighter retires or separates from the department.

(h) To the extent required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the system board shall do the following:



(1) Treat the medical transcripts, reports, records, and other material compiled under this section as confidential medical records.

(2) Keep the transcripts, reports, records, and material described in subdivision (1) in separate medical files for each member.

(i) A local board may, at the request of an appointing authority or on the local board's own motion, issue subpoenas, discovery orders, and protective orders in accordance with the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure to facilitate the receipt of accurate and original documents necessary for the proper administration of this chapter. A subpoena or order issued under this subsection:

(1) must be served in accordance with the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure; and

(2) may be enforced in the circuit or superior court with jurisdiction for the county in which the subpoena or order is served.

SECTION 252. IC 12-7-2-78.6, AS ADDED BY HEA 1296-2026, SECTION 1, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 78-6: "Ethical standards"; for purposes of IC 12-23-25; has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-25-1.~~

SECTION 253. IC 12-7-2-117.9, AS ADDED BY HEA 1296-2026, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 117-9: "Integrated reentry and correctional support" refers to mental health and substance use services and support, including certified peer support recovery resources and treatment, provided to individuals during incarceration and reentry.~~

SECTION 254. IC 12-7-2-135.2, AS ADDED BY HEA 1296-2026, SECTION 3, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 135-2: "Owner", for purposes of IC 12-23-25; has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-25-2.~~

SECTION 255. IC 12-7-2-158.3, AS ADDED BY HEA 1296-2026, SECTION 4, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 158-3: "Recovery residence services"; for purposes of IC 12-23-25; has the meaning set forth in IC 12-23-25-3.~~

SECTION 256. IC 31-9-2-5.2, AS ADDED BY HEA 1389-2026, SECTION 1, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 5-2: "Adoption or foster care service"; for purposes of IC 31-10-3.5; refers to any one (1) or more of the following:~~

~~(1) Promoting foster parenting;~~

~~(2) Coordinating placement of a child in a home or facility licensed under IC 31-27.~~

~~(3) Recruiting a foster parent or an adoptive parent.~~



- (4) Licensing or certifying a foster family home.
- (5) Promoting adoption.
- (6) Assisting with an adoption or supporting an adoptive parent.
- (7) Performing or assisting with a home study.
- (8) Assisting with a kinship guardianship or a kinship caregiver.
- (9) Providing any family preservation service.
- (10) Providing any family support service or temporary family reunification service.

SECTION 257. IC 31-9-2-40.9, AS ADDED BY HEA 1389-2026, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 40-9: "Discriminate", for purposes of IC 31-10-3.5, includes any one (1) or more of the following acts when done wholly or partially based on a person's sincerely held religious belief:

- (1) Denying or otherwise making unavailable any funding to the person, including:
 - (A) a state grant;
 - (B) a loan;
 - (C) a scholarship;
 - (D) a guarantee; or
 - (E) an entitlement or a state benefit.
- (2) Terminating, altering the terms of, or refusing to enter into a contract with the person, including a subcontract or cooperative agreement.
- (3) Refusing to recognize or taking any adverse action against a person's:
 - (A) license;
 - (B) certificate;
 - (C) custody award or agreement; or
 - (D) any other similar status.
- (4) Refusing to place a child with the person, except for the reasons set forth in IC 31-10-3.5-1.
- (5) Altering in any way the person's tax treatment, including:
 - (A) imposing a tax penalty;
 - (B) denying or otherwise making unavailable an exemption from taxation; or
 - (C) disallowing or otherwise making unavailable a deduction for state tax purposes of any charitable donation made by or to the person.
- (6) Imposing on the person any of the following:
 - (A) A monetary fine.
 - (B) A fee.
 - (C) A penalty.



- (D) A damages award.
- (E) An injunction.
- (7) Taking any of the following actions:
 - (A) Refusing to hire or promote the person.
 - (B) Forcing the person to resign.
 - (C) Firing, demoting, or disciplining the person.
 - (D) Altering the terms or conditions of the person's employment.
 - (E) Retaliating against the person.
 - (F) Taking any other adverse employment action against the person.

SECTION 258. IC 31-9-2-58.1, AS ADDED BY HEA 1035-2026, SECTION 1, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 58.1: "Independent activity"; for purposes of IC 31-34-1-1, includes any of the following when done by a child without the supervision of a parent, guardian, or custodian:

- (1) Traveling on foot, by bicycle, or by public transportation.
- (2) Playing outdoors.
- (3) Remaining at home.
- (4) Remaining in a stationary vehicle.

SECTION 259. IC 31-9-2-89, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1389-2026, SECTION 3, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 89: (a) "Person"; for purposes of IC 31-19-19, IC 31-19-25, and the juvenile law, means:

- (1) a human being;
- (2) a corporation;
- (3) a limited liability company;
- (4) a partnership;
- (5) an unincorporated association; or
- (6) a governmental entity.

(b) "Person"; for purposes of section 44.5 of this chapter, means an adult or a minor.

(c) "Person"; for purposes of IC 31-27, means an individual who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; a corporation; a partnership; a voluntary association; or other entity.

(d) "Person"; for purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act under IC 31-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-21-2-13.

(e) "Person"; for purposes of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act under IC 31-18.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 31-18.5-1-2.

- (f) "Person"; for purposes of IC 31-10-3.5, means:
 - (1) an individual; or



(2) a legal entity, including a religious organization.

SECTION 260. IC 31-9-2-107.2, AS ADDED BY HEA 1389-2026, SECTION 4, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 107-2:~~ "Religious organization", for purposes of section 89 of this chapter, refers to any of the following:

(1) A house of worship, including a church, synagogue, shrine, mosque, or temple.

(2) A religious:

(A) group;

(B) corporation;

(C) association;

(D) school or educational institution;

(E) ministry;

(F) order;

(G) society; or

(H) entity, regardless of whether the entity is integrated or affiliated with a house of worship.

(3) Any officer, owner, employee, manager, religious leader, clergy, or minister of an entity described in this section.

SECTION 261. IC 31-9-2-119.5, AS ADDED BY HEA 1389-2025, SECTION 5, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 119-5:~~ "State benefit", for purposes of section 40-9 of this chapter, means any program administered, controlled, or funded by the state that provides any one (1) or more of the following:

(1) Cash.

(2) Payments.

(3) Grants.

(4) Contracts.

(5) Loans.

(6) In-kind assistance.

SECTION 262. IC 31-9-2-29.5, AS AMENDED BY SEA 261-2026, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 29-5:~~ "Crime involving domestic or family violence" means a crime that occurs when a family or household member commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit any of the following against another family or household member:

(1) A homicide offense under IC 35-42-1.

(2) A battery offense under IC 35-42-2.

(3) Kidnapping or confinement under IC 35-42-3.

(4) A sex offense under IC 35-42-4.

(5) Robbery under IC 35-42-5.

(6) Arson or vandalism under IC 35-43-1.



- (7) Burglary or trespass under IC 35-43-2.
- (8) Disorderly conduct under IC 35-45-1.
- (9) Intimidation or harassment under IC 35-45-2.
- (10) Voyeurism under IC 35-45-4.
- (11) Stalking under IC 35-45-10.
- (12) An offense against the family under IC 35-46-1-2 through IC 35-46-1-8; IC 35-46-1-12; IC 35-46-1-15.1; or IC 35-46-1-15.3.
- (13) Human and sexual trafficking crimes under IC 35-42-3-5.
- (14) A crime involving animal cruelty and a family or household member under IC 35-46-3-12(b)(2) or IC 35-46-3-12.5.

SECTION 263. IC 12-7-2-24.3, AS ADDED BY SEA 1-2026, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 24.3. "Candy"; for purposes of IC 12-14-30-10; has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-30-10(a).~~

SECTION 264. IC 12-7-2-179.5, AS ADDED BY SEA 1-2026, SECTION 3, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 179.5. "Soft drink"; for purposes of IC 12-14-30-10; has the meaning set forth in IC 12-14-30-10(b).~~

SECTION 265. IC 35-31.5-2-273.2, AS AMENDED BY SEA 160-2026, SECTION 2, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 261-2026, SECTION 10, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 273.2. "Refuse", for purposes of IC 35-45-3-2 and IC 35-45-3-4, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-45-3-2(b)~~. IC 35-45-3-2.

SECTION 266. IC 16-21-6-6, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1358-2026, SECTION 20, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 76-2026, SECTION 15, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027]: Sec. 6. In addition to the report filed under section 3 of this chapter, each hospital shall, *not more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the end of each calendar quarter; not later than October 1 of the year following the end of the hospital's fiscal year*, file with the state department, or the state department's designated contractor, inpatient and outpatient discharge information at the patient level, in a format prescribed by the state health commissioner, including the following:

- (1) The patient's:
 - (A) length of stay;
 - (B) diagnoses and surgical procedures performed during the patient's stay;
 - (C) date of:
 - (i) admission;



- (ii) discharge; and
- (iii) birth;
- (D) type of admission;
- (E) admission source;
- (F) gender;
- (G) race;
- (H) discharge disposition; and
- (I) payor, including:
 - (i) Medicare;
 - (ii) Medicaid;
 - (iii) a local government program;
 - (iv) commercial insurance;
 - (v) self-pay; and
 - (vi) charity care.
- (2) The total charge for the patient's stay.
- (3) The ZIP code of the patient's residence.
- (4) Beginning October 1, 2013, all diagnosed external causes of injury codes.
- (5) *Beginning January 1, 2027, in cases where Medicaid is the patient's payor, the form of identification, if any, used by the patient when the patient was admitted, including whether the patient used an Indiana driver's license or identification card, a temporary Indiana driver's license or identification card, a driver's license or identification card issued by another state, a form of identification issued by a foreign government, or no identification.*

SECTION 267. IC 31-9-2-47.3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 15-2026, SECTION 4, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. *Sec. 47.3:*

(a) "Foster youth", for purposes of IC 31-26-4.5, refers to an individual:

- (1) who is at least fifteen (15) years of age;
- (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age; and
- (3) who:
 - (A) is adjudicated a child in need of services under IC 31-34-1; or
 - (B) was in foster care when the individual became an adult (as defined by section 7(b) of this chapter).

(b) "Foster youth", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-29, refers to an individual:

- (1) who is at least twelve (12) years of age;
- (2) who is not more than twenty-three (23) years of age;
- (3) who:
 - (A) is a child in need of services under IC 31-34-1; or



(B) is receiving collaborative care (as defined in IC 31-28-5.8-1); and

~~(4) who is in an out-of-home placement.~~

SECTION 268. IC 4-21.5-3-6, AS AMENDED BY SEA 169-2026, SECTION 6, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 4, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Notice shall be given under this section concerning the following:

(1) A safety order under IC 22-8-1.1.

(2) Any order that:

(A) imposes a sanction on a person or terminates a legal right, duty, privilege, immunity, or other legal interest of a person;

(B) is not described in section 4 or 5 of this chapter or IC 4-21.5-4; and

(C) by statute becomes effective without a proceeding under this chapter if there is no request for a review of the order within a specified period after the order is issued or served.

(3) A notice of program reimbursement or equivalent determination or other notice regarding a hospital's reimbursement issued by the office of Medicaid policy and planning or by a contractor of the office of Medicaid policy and planning regarding a hospital's year end cost settlement.

(4) A determination of audit findings or an equivalent determination by the office of Medicaid policy and planning or by a contractor of the office of Medicaid policy and planning arising from a Medicaid postpayment or concurrent audit of a hospital's Medicaid claims.

(5) A license suspension or revocation under:

(A) ~~IC 24-4.4-2~~; IC 37-1-3;

(B) ~~IC 24-4.5-3~~; IC 37-2-4;

(C) IC 28-1-29;

(D) IC 28-7-5;

(E) IC 28-8-4.1;

(F) IC 28-8-5; or

(G) IC 28-8-6.

(6) An order issued by the secretary or the secretary's designee against providers regulated by the office of the secretary, the *division bureau* of better aging or the bureau of disabilities services and not licensed by the Indiana department of health under IC 16-27 or IC 16-28.

(b) When an agency issues an order described by subsection (a), the agency shall give notice to the following persons:



(1) Each person to whom the order is specifically directed.

(2) Each person to whom a law requires notice to be given.

A person who is entitled to notice under this subsection is not a party to any proceeding resulting from the grant of a petition for review under section 7 of this chapter unless the person is designated as a party in the record of the proceeding.

(c) The notice must include the following:

(1) A brief description of the order.

(2) A brief explanation of the available procedures and the time limit for seeking administrative review of the order under section 7 of this chapter.

(3) Any other information required by law.

(d) An order described in subsection (a) is effective fifteen (15) days after the order is served, unless a statute other than this article specifies a different date or the agency specifies a later date in its order. This subsection does not preclude an agency from issuing, under IC 4-21.5-4, an emergency or other temporary order concerning the subject of an order described in subsection (a).

(e) If a petition for review of an order described in subsection (a) is filed within the period set by section 7 of this chapter and a petition for stay of effectiveness of the order is filed by a party or another person who has a pending petition for intervention in the proceeding, an administrative law judge shall, as soon as practicable, conduct a preliminary hearing to determine whether the order should be stayed in whole or in part. The burden of proof in the preliminary hearing is on the person seeking the stay. The administrative law judge may stay the order in whole or in part. The order concerning the stay may be issued after an order described in subsection (a) becomes effective. The resulting order concerning the stay shall be served on the parties and any person who has a pending petition for intervention in the proceeding. It must include a statement of the facts and law on which it is based.

SECTION 269. IC 12-7-2-24, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 12, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 24: "Bureau" means the following:~~

~~(1) For purposes of IC 12-10, the bureau of better aging established by IC 12-10-1-1.~~

~~(2) For purposes of IC 12-11, the bureau of disabilities services established by IC 12-11-1.1-1.~~

~~(3) For purposes of IC 12-12, the rehabilitation services bureau of the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services established by IC 12-12-1-1.~~



SECTION 270. IC 12-7-2-24.8, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 13, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec: 24.8: "Caretaker", for purposes of IC 12-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-22-1.

SECTION 271. IC 12-7-2-26.4, AS ADDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 14, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec: 26.4: "Certified peer", for purposes of IC 12-21, means an individual who is trained and certified by the division of mental health and addiction or an approved nationally accredited certification body to provide ongoing support to individuals and families of individuals who are receiving mental health or substance use recovery supports and services.

SECTION 272. IC 12-7-2-39, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 15, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec: 39: "Community intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities centers", for purposes of IC 12-29 (except as provided in IC 12-29-3-6), means a program of services that meets the following conditions:

- (1) Is approved by the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services.
- (2) Is organized for the purpose of providing multiple services for persons with developmental disabilities.
- (3) Is operated by one (1) of the following or any combination of the following:
 - (A) A city, a town, a county, or another political subdivision of Indiana.
 - (B) An agency of the state.
 - (C) An agency of the United States.
 - (D) A political subdivision of another state.
 - (E) A hospital owned or operated by a unit of government described in clauses (A) through (D).
 - (F) A building authority organized for the purpose of constructing facilities to be leased to units of government.
 - (G) A corporation incorporated under IC 23-7-1.1 (before its repeal August 1, 1991) or IC 23-17.
 - (H) A nonprofit corporation incorporated in another state.
 - (I) A university or college.
- (4) Is accredited for the services provided by one (1) of the following organizations:
 - (A) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), or its successor.
 - (B) The Council on Quality and Leadership in Supports for People with Disabilities, or its successor.
 - (C) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare



Organizations (JCAHO); or its successor:

(D) The National Commission on Quality Assurance; or its successor:

(E) An independent national accreditation organization approved by the secretary:

SECTION 273. IC 12-7-2-64, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 16, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 64: "Director" refers to the following:

(1) With respect to a particular division; the director of the division:

(2) With respect to a particular state institution; the director who has administrative control of and responsibility for the state institution:

(3) For purposes of IC 12-10-15; the term refers to the director of the bureau of better aging:

(4) For purposes of IC 12-25; the term refers to the director of the division of mental health and addiction:

(5) For purposes of IC 12-26; the term:

(A) refers to the director who has administrative control of and responsibility for the appropriate state institution; and

(B) includes the director's designee:

(6) If subdivisions (1) through (5) do not apply; the term refers to the director of any of the divisions:

SECTION 274. IC 12-7-2-69, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 17, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 69: (a) "Division"; except as provided in subsections (b); (c); and (d); refers to any of the following:

(1) The division of disability; aging; and rehabilitative services established by IC 12-9-1-1:

(2) The division of family resources established by IC 12-13-1-1:

(3) The division of mental health and addiction established by IC 12-21-1-1:

(b) The term refers to the following:

(1) For purposes of the following statutes; the division of disability; aging; and rehabilitative services established by IC 12-9-1-1:

(A) IC 12-9:

(B) IC 12-10:

(C) IC 12-11:

(D) IC 12-12:

(E) IC 12-12.7:

(F) IC 12-28-5:



(2) For purposes of the following statutes, the division of family resources established by IC 12-13-1-1:

- (A) IC 12-8-12.
- (B) IC 12-13.
- (C) IC 12-14.
- (D) IC 12-15.
- (E) IC 12-16.
- (F) IC 12-17.
- (G) IC 12-17.2.
- (H) IC 12-18.
- (I) IC 12-19.
- (J) IC 12-20.

(3) For purposes of the following statutes, the division of mental health and addiction established by IC 12-21-1-1:

- (A) IC 12-21.
- (B) IC 12-22.
- (C) IC 12-23.
- (D) IC 12-25.

(c) With respect to a particular state institution, the term refers to the division whose director has administrative control of and responsibility for the state institution.

(d) For purposes of IC 12-24, IC 12-26, and IC 12-27, the term refers to the division whose director has administrative control of and responsibility for the appropriate state institution:

SECTION 275. IC 12-7-2-76.6, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 18, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 76.6:

(a) "Emergency medical condition", for purposes of IC 12-15-12, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-12-0.3:

(b) "Emergency medical responder", for purposes of IC 12-10-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-21-1:

SECTION 276. IC 12-7-2-99, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 19, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 99:

"A person with a disability" means, for purposes of the following statutes, an individual who has a physical or mental disability and meets the program eligibility requirements of the division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services:

- (1) IC 12-8-1.5-10.
- (2) IC 12-12-1.
- (3) IC 12-12-6.

SECTION 277. IC 12-7-2-146, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 20, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 146:

"Program" refers to the following:



(1) For purposes of IC 12-10-5.7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-5.7-2.

(2) For purposes of IC 12-10-7, the adult guardianship services program established by IC 12-10-7-5.

(3) For purposes of IC 12-10-10, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-10-5.

(4) For purposes of IC 12-10-21, the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-21-3.

(5) For purposes of IC 12-15-12.7, the meaning set forth in IC 12-15-12.7-1.

(6) For purposes of IC 12-17.2-2-14.2, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-2-14.2(a).

(7) For purposes of IC 12-17.6, the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.6-1-5.

SECTION 278. IC 12-7-2-146.2, AS ADDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 21, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 146.2: "Program participant", for purposes of IC 12-10-21, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-21-4.

SECTION 279. IC 12-7-2-155.4, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 22, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 155.4: "Qualified provider", means the following:

(1) For purposes of IC 12-15-1-16:

(A) a school based nurse; or

(B) another provider who:

(i) is licensed and in good standing with the Indiana professional licensing agency; and

(ii) is employed by or contracts with a school corporation that participates in Medicaid.

(2) For purposes of IC 12-15-4, a provider who:

(A) is enrolled in the Indiana Medicaid program; and

(B) maintains a valid agreement, as prescribed by the office, to make determinations concerning presumptive eligibility.

SECTION 280. IC 12-7-2-180.1, AS AMENDED BY SEA 222-2026, SECTION 23, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 180.1: "Special needs", for purposes of IC 12-10, has the meaning set forth in IC 12-10-22-2.

SECTION 281. IC 22-9-1-3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 169-2026, SECTION 17, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1193-2026, SECTION 2, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. As used in this chapter:

(a) "Person" means one (1) or more individuals, partnerships, associations, organizations, limited liability companies, corporations,



labor organizations, cooperatives, legal representatives, trustees, trustees in bankruptcy, receivers, and other organized groups of persons.

(b) "Commission" means the civil rights commission created under section 4 of this chapter.

(c) "Director" means the director of the civil rights commission.

(d) "Deputy director" means the deputy director of the civil rights commission.

(e) "Commission attorney" means the deputy attorney general, such assistants of the attorney general as may be assigned to the commission, or such other attorney as may be engaged by the commission.

(f) "Consent agreement" means a formal agreement entered into in lieu of adjudication.

(g) "Affirmative action" means those acts that the commission determines necessary to assure compliance with the Indiana civil rights law.

(h) "Employer" means the state or any political or civil subdivision thereof and any person employing six (6) or more persons within the state, except that the term "employer" does not include:

- (1) any nonprofit corporation or association organized exclusively for fraternal or religious purposes;
- (2) any school, educational, or charitable religious institution owned or conducted by or affiliated with a church or religious institution; or
- (3) any exclusively social club, corporation, or association that is not organized for profit.

(i) "Employee" means any person employed by another for wages or salary. However, the term does not include any individual employed:

- (1) by the individual's parents, spouse, or child; or
- (2) in the domestic service of any person.

(j) "Labor organization" means any organization that exists for the purpose in whole or in part of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms, or conditions of employment or for other mutual aid or protection in relation to employment.

(k) "Employment agency" means any person undertaking with or without compensation to procure, recruit, refer, or place employees.

(l) "Discriminatory practice" means:

- (1) the exclusion of a person from equal opportunities because of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran;
- (2) a system that excludes persons from equal opportunities



because of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran;

(3) the promotion of racial segregation or separation in any manner, including but not limited to the inducing of or the attempting to induce for profit any person to sell or rent any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry in the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, or ancestry;

(4) a violation of IC 22-9-5 that occurs after July 25, 1992, and is committed by a covered entity (as defined in IC 22-9-5-4);

(5) the performance of an abortion solely because of the race, color, sex, disability, national origin, or ancestry of the fetus; ~~or~~

(6) a violation of any of the following statutes protecting the right of conscience regarding abortion:

(A) IC 16-34-1-4.

(B) IC 16-34-1-5.

(C) IC 16-34-1-6;

(7) *a violation of a person's rights protected under:*

(A) *Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.);*

(B) *Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.); or*

(C) *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); or*

(8) *an adverse action against a person because the person has taken action to protect a right enjoyed by:*

(A) *the person; or*

(B) *another person;*

under this article. As used in this subdivision, "taken action" includes submitting or filing a charge or complaint with a private or governmental entity or participating in any proceeding related to a complaint of a discriminatory practice described under this subsection.

Every discriminatory practice relating to the acquisition or sale of real estate, education, public accommodations, employment, or the extending of credit (as defined in ~~IC 24-4.5-1-301.5~~ IC 37-2-2-14) shall be considered unlawful unless it is specifically exempted by this chapter.

(m) "Public accommodation" means any establishment that caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public.

(n) "Complainant" means:

(1) any individual charging on the individual's own behalf to have



been personally aggrieved by a discriminatory practice; or
 (2) the director or deputy director of the commission charging that a discriminatory practice was committed against a person (other than the director or deputy director) or a class of people, in order to vindicate the public policy of the state (as defined in section 2 of this chapter).

(o) "Complaint" means any written grievance that is:

- (1) sufficiently complete and filed by a complainant with the commission; or
- (2) filed by a complainant as a civil action in the circuit or superior court having jurisdiction in the county in which the alleged discriminatory practice occurred.

The original of any complaint filed under subdivision (1) shall be signed and verified by the complainant.

(p) "Sufficiently complete" refers to a complaint that includes:

- (1) the full name and address of the complainant;
- (2) the name and address of the respondent against whom the complaint is made;
- (3) the alleged discriminatory practice and a statement of particulars thereof;
- (4) the date or dates and places of the alleged discriminatory practice and if the alleged discriminatory practice is of a continuing nature the dates between which continuing acts of discrimination are alleged to have occurred; and
- (5) a statement as to any other action, civil or criminal, instituted in any other form based upon the same grievance alleged in the complaint, together with a statement as to the status or disposition of the other action.

No complaint shall be valid unless filed within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the occurrence of the alleged discriminatory practice.

(q) "Sex" as it applies to segregation or separation in this chapter applies to all types of employment, education, public accommodations, and housing. However:

- (1) it shall not be a discriminatory practice to maintain separate restrooms;
- (2) it shall not be an unlawful employment practice for an employer to hire and employ employees, for an employment agency to classify or refer for employment any individual, for a labor organization to classify its membership or to classify or refer for employment any individual, or for an employer, labor organization, or joint labor management committee controlling



apprenticeship or other training or retraining programs to admit or employ any other individual in any program on the basis of sex in those certain instances where sex is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of that particular business or enterprise; and

(3) it shall not be a discriminatory practice for a private or religious educational institution to continue to maintain and enforce a policy of admitting students of one (1) sex only.

(r) "Disabled" or "disability" means the physical or mental condition of a person that constitutes a substantial disability. In reference to employment under this chapter, "disabled or disability" also means the physical or mental condition of a person that constitutes a substantial disability unrelated to the person's ability to engage in a particular occupation.

(s) "Veteran" means:

- (1) a veteran of the armed forces of the United States;
- (2) a member of the Indiana National Guard; or
- (3) a member of a reserve component.

SECTION 282. IC 13-18-10-2.1, AS AMENDED BY SEA 277-2026, SECTION 161, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1355-2026, SECTION 2, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.1. (a) The department:

(1) shall make a determination on an application submitted under section 2 of this chapter not later than ninety (90) days after the date the department receives the completed application, including all required supplemental information, unless the department and the applicant agree to a longer time; and

(2) may conduct any inquiry or investigation, consistent with the department's duties under this chapter, the department considers necessary before making a determination.

(b) If the department fails to make a determination on an application not later than ninety (90) days after the date the department receives the completed application, the *applicant may request and receive department shall issue* a refund of an approval application fee paid by the applicant, and the commissioner shall:

- (1) continue to review the application;
- (2) approve or deny the application as soon as practicable; and
- (3) refund the applicant's application fee not later than twenty-five (25) *working business* days after the receipt of the applicant's request.

(c) The commissioner may suspend the processing of an application



and the ninety (90) day period described under this section if the department determines within thirty (30) days after the department receives the application that the application is incomplete and has mailed a notice of deficiency to the applicant that specifies the parts of the application that:

- (1) do not contain adequate information for the department to process the application; or
- (2) are not consistent with applicable law.

(d) The department may establish requirements in an approval regarding that part of the confined feeding operation that concerns manure handling and application to assure compliance with:

- (1) this chapter;
- (2) rules adopted under this chapter;
- (3) the water pollution control laws;
- (4) rules adopted under the water pollution control laws; and
- (5) policies and statements adopted under IC 13-14-1-11.5 relative to confined feeding operations.

(e) Subject to subsection (f), the commissioner may deny an application upon making either or both of the following findings:

- (1) A responsible party intentionally misrepresented or concealed any material fact in either or both of the following:
 - (A) An application for approval under section 1 of this chapter.
 - (B) A disclosure statement required by section 1.4 of this chapter.
- (2) An enforcement action was resolved against a responsible party as described in either or both of the following:
 - (A) Section 1.4(c)(5) of this chapter.
 - (B) Section 1.4(c)(6) of this chapter.

(f) Before making a determination to approve or deny an application, the commissioner must consider the following factors:

- (1) The nature and details of the acts attributed to the responsible party.
- (2) The degree of culpability of the responsible party.
- (3) The responsible party's cooperation with the state, federal, or foreign agencies involved in the investigation of the activities involved in actions referred to in section 1.4(c)(5) and 1.4(c)(6) of this chapter.
- (4) The responsible party's dissociation from any other persons or entities convicted in a criminal enforcement action referred to in section 1.4(c)(5) and 1.4(c)(6) of this chapter.
- (5) Prior or subsequent self-policing or internal education



programs established by the responsible party to prevent acts, omissions, or violations referred to in section 1.4(c)(5) and 1.4(c)(6) of this chapter.

(g) Except as provided in subsection (h), in taking action under subsection (e), the commissioner must make separately stated findings of fact to support the action taken. The findings of fact must:

- (1) include a statement of ultimate fact; and
- (2) be accompanied by a concise statement of the underlying basic facts of record to support the findings.

(h) If the commissioner denies an application under subsection (e), the commissioner is not required to explain the extent to which any of the factors set forth in subsection (f) influenced the denial.

(i) The department may amend an approval under section 1 of this chapter or revoke an approval under section 1 of this chapter:

- (1) for failure to comply with:
 - (A) this chapter;
 - (B) rules adopted under this chapter;
 - (C) the water pollution control laws; or
 - (D) rules adopted under the water pollution control laws; and
- (2) as needed to prevent discharges of manure into the environment that pollute or threaten to pollute the waters of the state.

(j) *The department may not require changes to the design of a confined feeding operation if the design:*

- (1) *complies with this chapter; and*
- (2) *is submitted and certified by a professional engineer registered under IC 25-31-1.*

SECTION 283. P.L.18-2026, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: SECTION 1. (a) The amendment to the Constitution of the State of Indiana concerning the residency of a city or town court judge, agreed to by the One Hundred Twenty-Third General Assembly (P.L.254-2023) and the One Hundred Twenty-Fourth General Assembly (P.L.244-2025), shall be submitted to the electors of Indiana at the 2026 general election in the manner provided for the submission of constitutional amendments under IC 3.

(b) Under Article 16, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, which requires the general assembly to submit constitutional amendments to the electors at the next general election after the general assembly agrees to the amendment referred to it by the last previously elected general assembly, and in accordance with IC 3-10-3, the general assembly prescribes the form in which the public question



concerning the ratification of this state constitutional amendment must appear on the 2026 general election ballot as follows:

~~"Public Question #1~~ **"Public Question #2**

Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to permit the judge of a city or town court to reside in: (1) the county in which the court is located; or (2) the bordering county closest to the city or town in which the court is located? (This question concerns Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana.)"

SECTION 284. IC 31-9-2-19.3, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1257-2026, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 19.3. "Child welfare agency", for purposes of IC 31-25-2-20.4 and IC 31-33-18-1.6, means:

- (1) the department of child services; and
- (2) a person (as defined in IC 24-4-14-5) that, directly or indirectly, provides:

- (A) services to a child or family of a child, for which payment is made, in whole or in part, by the department of child services or a local office of the department of child services;

- (B) services to:

- (i) a child who is; or

- (ii) a family with;

- a child at imminent risk of placement (as defined in IC 31-26-5-1) who is referred by the department of child services or a local office of the department of child services to the person for family support or family preservation services;
 - or

- (C) assistance to or works in cooperation with the department of child services in the investigations of allegations of possible child abuse or neglect in accordance with IC 31-33-

SECTION 285. IC 31-9-2-81.7, AS ADDED BY HEA 1257-2026, SECTION 3, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 81.7. "Near fatality", for purposes of IC 31-33-18.5, means a severe childhood injury or condition that is certified by a physician as being life threatening:

SECTION 286. IC 31-9-2-112.4, AS ADDED BY HEA 1257-2026, SECTION 4, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 112.4.

(a) "Reunification services" means all services that are provided:

- (1) to a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who is the subject of a petition alleging that the child is a child in need of services; and

- (2) with the intent of rehabilitating the relationship between the child and the parent, guardian, or custodian:



(b) The term includes services such as:

- (1) individual, group, and family counseling;
- (2) inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services;
- (3) mental health services;
- (4) assistance to address domestic violence;
- (5) services designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families;
- (6) peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers;
- (7) services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings;
- (8) substance abuse treatment and screening; and
- (9) transportation to or from any of the services and activities described in this subsection.

(c) The term does not include services provided to a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child while the child is residing in a:

- (1) child caring institution;
- (2) group home; or
- (3) private secure facility;

licensed by the department.

SECTION 287. IC 31-9-2-113.6, AS ADDED BY HEA 1257-2026, SECTION 5, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 113-6:~~ "Screened out", with regard to a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect under IC 31-33, means that the department:

- (1) received the report under IC 31-33-7; and
- (2) did not refer the report for investigation under IC 31-33-9 based on the department's determination that the report:
 - (A) lacked sufficient information;
 - (B) did not contain allegations of child abuse or neglect;
 - (C) contained duplicative allegations that were previously assessed by the department; or
 - (D) did not contain information indicating a current risk to a child.

SECTION 288. IC 35-33-8-3.4, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1258-2026, SECTION 19, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 2-2026, SECTION 5, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027]: Sec. 3.4. (a) This section applies only to a violent arrestee.

(b) *The following definitions apply throughout this section:*

- (1) "Crime of violence" means an offense:
 - (A) described in IC 35-50-1-2(a); and



~~(B) that is a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.~~

~~(2) As used in this section, "violent arrestee" means a person arrested for or charged with a crime of violence (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-79), that is a Level 1 felony, Level 2 felony, Level 3 felony, Level 4 felony, or Level 5 felony.~~

(c) A violent arrestee may only be released on bail set individually by the court following a hearing held in open court. Before releasing a violent arrestee on bail, the court must:

- (1) review the probable cause affidavit or arrest warrant; and
- ~~(2) impose money bail payable by surety bond or cash deposit.~~
- (2) set an amount for money bail, the full amount which must be payable by:
 - (A) surety bond;
 - (B) cash deposit; or
 - (C) a combination surety bond and cash deposit.

(d) In accordance with IC 27-10-2-4.5(g)(2), a charitable bail organization may not pay money bail imposed under this section on behalf of a violent arrestee.

SECTION 289. IC 35-50-1-2, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1258-2026, SECTION 25, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1303-2026, SECTION 35, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section, "crime of violence" ~~means the following:~~ has the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-79.

- ~~(1) Murder (IC 35-42-1-1).~~
- ~~(2) Attempted murder (IC 35-41-5-1).~~
- ~~(3) Voluntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-3).~~
- ~~(4) Involuntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-4).~~
- ~~(5) Reckless homicide (IC 35-42-1-5).~~
- ~~(6) Battery (IC 35-42-2-1) as a:~~
 - ~~(A) Level 2 felony;~~
 - ~~(B) Level 3 felony;~~
 - ~~(C) Level 4 felony; or~~
 - ~~(D) Level 5 felony.~~
- ~~(7) Domestic battery (IC 35-42-2-1.3) as a:~~
 - ~~(A) Level 2 felony;~~
 - ~~(B) Level 3 felony;~~
 - ~~(C) Level 4 felony; or~~
 - ~~(D) Level 5 felony.~~
- ~~(8) Aggravated battery (IC 35-42-2-1.5).~~
- ~~(9) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).~~



- (10) Rape (IC 35-42-4-1).
 (11) Criminal deviate conduct (IC 35-42-4-2) (before its repeal).
 (12) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).
 (13) Sexual misconduct with a minor as a Level 1 felony under IC 35-42-4-9(a)(2) or a Level 2 felony under IC 35-42-4-9(b)(2).
 (14) Robbery as a Level 2 felony or a Level 3 felony (IC 35-42-5-1).
 (15) Burglary as a Level 1 felony, Level 2 felony, Level 3 felony, or Level 4 felony (IC 35-43-2-1).
 (16) Operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death or catastrophic injury (IC 9-30-5-5).
 (17) Operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing serious bodily injury to another person (IC 9-30-5-4).
 (18) Child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4) as a Level 5 felony under IC 35-42-4-4(b) or a Level 4 felony under IC 35-42-4-4(c).
 (19) Resisting law enforcement as a felony (IC 35-44.1-3-1).
 (20) Unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon (IC 35-47-4-5).
 (21) Strangulation (IC 35-42-2-9) as a Level 5 felony.
 (22) A child sexual abuse material offense (IC 35-42-4-4.5).

(b) As used in this section, "episode of criminal conduct" means offenses or a connected series of offenses that are closely related in time, place, and circumstance.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (e) or (f) the court shall determine whether terms of imprisonment shall be served concurrently or consecutively. The court may consider the:

- (1) aggravating circumstances in IC 35-38-1-7.1(a); and
- (2) mitigating circumstances in IC 35-38-1-7.1(b);

in making a determination under this subsection. The court may order terms of imprisonment to be served consecutively even if the sentences are not imposed at the same time. However, except for crimes of violence, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment, exclusive of terms of imprisonment under IC 35-50-2-8 and IC 35-50-2-10 (before its repeal) to which the defendant is sentenced for felony or misdemeanor convictions arising out of an episode of criminal conduct shall not exceed the period described in subsection (d).

(d) Except as provided in subsection (c), the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment to which the defendant is sentenced for convictions arising out of an episode of criminal conduct may not exceed the following:

- (1) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Class C misdemeanor, the total of the consecutive terms of



imprisonment may not exceed one (1) year.

(2) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Class B misdemeanor, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed two (2) years.

(3) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Class A misdemeanor, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed three (3) years.

(4) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Level 6 felony, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed four (4) years.

(5) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Level 5 felony, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed seven (7) years.

(6) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Level 4 felony, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed fifteen (15) years.

(7) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Level 3 felony, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed twenty (20) years.

(8) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Level 2 felony, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed thirty-two (32) years.

(9) If the most serious crime for which the defendant is sentenced is a Level 1 felony, the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment may not exceed forty-two (42) years.

(e) If, after being arrested for one (1) crime, a person commits another crime:

(1) before the date the person is discharged from probation, parole, or a term of imprisonment imposed for the first crime; or

(2) while the person is released:

(A) upon the person's own recognizance; or

(B) on bond;

the terms of imprisonment for the crimes shall be served consecutively, regardless of the order in which the crimes are tried and sentences are imposed.

(f) If the factfinder determines under IC 35-50-2-11 that a person used a firearm in the commission of the offense for which the person was convicted, the term of imprisonment for the underlying offense and the additional term of imprisonment imposed under IC 35-50-2-11 must be served consecutively.

SECTION 290. IC 35-31.5-2-79, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1258-2026, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS



[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 79. "Crime of violence", means the following:

- (1) Murder (IC 35-42-1-1).
- (2) Attempted murder (IC 35-41-5-1).
- (3) Voluntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-3).
- (4) Involuntary manslaughter (IC 35-42-1-4).
- (5) Reckless homicide (IC 35-42-1-5).
- (6) Battery (IC 35-42-2-1) as a felony.
- (7) Domestic battery (IC 35-42-2-1.3) as a felony.
- (8) Aggravated battery (IC 35-42-2-1.5).
- (9) Strangulation (IC 35-42-2-9) as a Level 5 felony.
- (10) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).
- (11) Rape (IC 35-42-4-1).
- (12) Criminal deviate conduct (IC 35-42-4-2) (before its repeal).
- (13) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).
- (14) Child exploitation (**IC 35-42-4-4**), as a Level 5 felony under ~~IC 35-42-4-4(b)~~ or a Level 4 felony under ~~IC 35-42-4-4(c)~~.
- (15) A child sexual abuse material offense (IC 35-42-4-4.5).**
- ~~(15)~~ **(16)** Sexual misconduct with a minor as a:
 - (A) Class A felony under IC 35-42-4-9(a)(2) (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014);
 - (B) Class B felony under IC 35-42-4-9(b)(2) (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014);
 - (C) Level 1 felony under IC 35-42-4-9(a)(2) (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014); or
 - (D) Level 2 felony under IC 35-42-4-9(b)(2) (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).
- ~~(16)~~ **(17)** Robbery as a:
 - (A) Class A felony or Class B felony under IC 35-42-5-1 (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014); or
 - (B) Level 2 felony or Level 3 felony under IC 35-42-5-1 (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).
- ~~(17)~~ **(18)** Arson as a:
 - (A) Class A felony or Class B felony under IC 35-43-1-1 (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014); or
 - (B) Level 2 felony, Level 3 felony, or Level 4 felony under IC 35-43-1-1 (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).
- ~~(18)~~ **(19)** Burglary as a:
 - (A) Class A felony or Class B felony under IC 35-43-2-1 (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014); or
 - (B) Level 1 felony, Level 2 felony, Level 3 felony, or Level 4 felony under IC 35-43-2-1 (for a crime committed after June



30, 2014).

- ~~(19)~~ **(20)** Escape (IC 35-44.1-3-4) as a Level 5 or higher felony.
- ~~(20)~~ **(21)** Criminal stalking (IC 35-45-10-5) as a Level 5 or higher felony.
- ~~(21)~~ **(22)** Offenses relating to regulated explosives (IC 35-47.5-5).
- ~~(22)~~ **(23)** Operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death or catastrophic injury (IC 9-30-5-5).
- ~~(23)~~ **(24)** Operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing serious bodily injury to another person (IC 9-30-5-4).
- ~~(24)~~ **(25)** Resisting law enforcement as a felony (IC 35-44.1-3-1).
- ~~(25)~~ **(26)** Unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon (IC 35-47-4-5).
- ~~(26)~~ **(27)** Dangerous possession of a firearm (IC 35-47-10-5), if:
 - (A) the child has at least two (2) unrelated prior convictions under IC 35-47-10-5 or IC 35-47-2-1.5 (unlawful carrying of a handgun);
 - (B) the child has at least two (2) unrelated prior delinquency adjudications for an act that would be an offense under IC 35-47-10-5 or IC 35-47-2-1.5 (unlawful carrying of a handgun); or
 - (C) the child has at least one (1) unrelated prior:
 - (i) conviction under IC 35-47-10-5 or IC 35-47-2-1.5 (unlawful carrying of a handgun); and
 - (ii) delinquency adjudication for an act that would be an offense under IC 35-47-10-5 or IC 35-47-2-1.5 (unlawful carrying of a handgun).
- ~~(27)~~ **(28)** Unlawful carrying of a handgun (IC 35-47-2-1.5), if:
 - (A) the person has two (2) unrelated prior convictions under IC 35-47-2-1.5 or IC 35-47-10-5 (dangerous possession of a firearm);
 - (B) the person has at least two (2) unrelated prior delinquency adjudications for an act that would be an offense under IC 35-47-2-1.5 or IC 35-47-10-5 (dangerous possession of a firearm); or
 - (C) the person has at least one (1) unrelated prior:
 - (i) conviction under IC 35-47-2-1.5 or IC 35-47-10-5 (dangerous possession of a firearm); and
 - (ii) delinquency adjudication for an act that would be an offense under IC 35-47-2-1.5 or IC 35-47-10-5 (dangerous possession of a firearm).

SECTION 291. IC 11-12-2-2, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1033-2026, SECTION 1, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1161-2026, SECTION



3, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) To qualify for financial aid under this chapter, a county must establish a community corrections advisory board by resolution of the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council. A community corrections advisory board consists of:

- (1) the county sheriff or the sheriff's designee;
- (2) the prosecuting attorney or the prosecuting attorney's designee;
- (3) the executive of the most populous municipality in the county or the executive's designee;
- (4) *in a county*:
 - (A) *without a consolidated city*, two (2) judges having criminal jurisdiction, if available, appointed by the circuit court judge or the judges' designees; *or*
 - (B) *with a consolidated city*, one (1) of the judges must be the chief judge selected under IC 33-33-49-14.1(c) and the other judge shall be appointed by the chief judge;
- (5) *in a county*:
 - (A) *without a consolidated city*, one (1) judge having juvenile jurisdiction, appointed by the circuit court judge; *or*
 - (B) *with a consolidated city*, one (1) judge having juvenile jurisdiction, appointed by the chief judge selected under IC 33-33-49-14.1(c);
- (6) one (1) public defender or the public defender's designee, if available, or one (1) attorney with a substantial criminal defense practice appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (7) one (1) victim, or victim advocate if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (8) one (1) ex-offender, if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (9) the director of the local office of the department of child services or the director's designee;
- (10) *in a county*:
 - (A) *without a consolidated city*, a representative from a juvenile correctional facility or juvenile detention center in the county, but if no facility exists, one (1) mental health representative chosen by the judge described in subdivision (5); *or*



(B) with a consolidated city, a mental health representative, which could include a representative from a juvenile correctional facility or juvenile detention center in the county, appointed by the chief judge selected under IC 33-33-49-14.1(c);

(11) a representative from the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, but if no program exists, a representative from the court appointed special advocate program in the county or guardian ad litem program in the county; and

(12) the following members appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council:

(A) One (1) member of the county fiscal body or the member's designee.

(B) One (1) probation officer.

(C) One (1) juvenile probation officer.

(D) One (1) educational administrator.

(E) One (1) representative of a private correctional agency, if such an agency exists in the county.

(F) One (1) mental health administrator, or, if there is none available in the county, one (1) psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician.

(G) Four (4) lay persons, at least one (1) of whom must be a member of a minority race if a racial minority resides in the county and a member of that minority is willing to serve.

(b) Designees of officials designated under subsection (a)(1) through (a)(6), (a)(9), and (a)(12)(A) serve at the pleasure of the designating official.

(c) This subsection only applies to an advisory board appointed by the county executive in a county not having a consolidated city. An individual who is appointed a member of the advisory board serves at the pleasure of the county executive as long as the county executive retains all of the same members who served on the body when the individual was appointed.

~~(c)~~ (d) Members of the advisory board appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council, shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. The criminal defense attorney, the ex-offender, and the victim or victim advocate shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. Other members serve only while holding the office or position held at the time of appointment. ~~The~~ *In a county that does not have a consolidated city, the circuit court judge may fill the position of the judge having juvenile court jurisdiction by self appointment if the circuit court judge is*



otherwise qualified. A vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of office shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments for the unexpired term. Members may be reappointed.

~~(d)~~ (e) Two (2) or more counties, by resolution of their county executives or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council, may combine to apply for financial aid under this chapter. If counties so combine, the counties may establish one (1) community corrections advisory board to serve these counties. This board must contain the representation prescribed in subsection (a), but the members may come from the participating counties as determined by agreement of the county executives or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council.

~~(e)~~ (f) The members of the community corrections advisory board shall, within thirty (30) days after the last initial appointment is made, meet and elect one (1) member as chairman and another as vice chairman and appoint a secretary-treasurer who need not be a member. A majority of the members of a community corrections advisory board may provide for a number of members that is:

- (1) less than a majority of the members; and
- (2) at least six (6);

to constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting business. The affirmative votes of at least five (5) members, but not less than a majority of the members present, are required for the board to take action. A vacancy in the membership does not impair the right of a quorum to transact business.

~~(f)~~ (g) The county executive and county fiscal body shall provide necessary assistance and appropriations to the community corrections advisory board established for that county. Appropriations required under this subsection are limited to amounts received from the following sources:

- (1) Department grants.
- (2) User fees.
- (3) Other funds as contained within an approved plan.

Additional funds may be appropriated as determined by the county executive and county fiscal body.

SECTION 292. IC 31-9-2-133.1, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1303-2026, SECTION 14, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 133.1: "Victim of human or sexual trafficking", for purposes of IC 31-34-1-3.5, refers to a child who is recruited, harbored, transported, or engaged in:

- ~~(1)~~ forced labor;
- ~~(2)~~ involuntary servitude;



- (3) prostitution;
- (4) juvenile prostitution, as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-178.5;
- (5) child exploitation under IC 35-42-4-4;
- (6) marriage, unless authorized by a court under IC 31-11-1-7;
- (7) trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, juvenile prostitution, or participation in sexual conduct as defined in IC 35-42-4-4(a); or
- (8) human trafficking as defined in IC 35-42-3.5-0.5.

SECTION 293. IC 35-38-1-7.1, AS AMENDED BY SEA 160-2026, SECTION 3, AND AS AMENDED BY 1165-2026, SECTION 4, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1258-2026, SECTION 20, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.1. (a) In determining what sentence to impose for a crime, the court may consider the following aggravating circumstances:

- (1) The harm, injury, loss, or damage suffered by the victim of an offense was:
 - (A) significant; and
 - (B) greater than the elements necessary to prove the commission of the offense.
- (2) The person has a history of criminal or delinquent behavior.
- (3) The victim of the offense was less than twelve (12) years of age or at least sixty-five (65) years of age at the time the person committed the offense.
- (4) The person:
 - (A) committed a crime of violence (~~IC 35-50-1-2~~); (*IC 35-31.5-2-79*); and
 - (B) knowingly committed the offense in the presence or within hearing of an individual who:
 - (i) was less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time the person committed the offense; and
 - (ii) is not the victim of the offense.
- (5) The person violated a protective order issued against the person under IC 34-26-5 (or IC 31-1-11.5, IC 34-26-2, or IC 34-4-5.1 before their repeal), a workplace violence restraining order issued against the person under IC 34-26-6, or a no contact order issued against the person.
- (6) The person has recently violated the conditions of any probation, parole, pardon, community corrections placement, or pretrial release granted to the person.
- (7) The victim of the offense was:
 - (A) a person with a disability (as defined in IC 27-7-6-12), and the defendant knew or should have known that the victim was



a person with a disability; or

(B) mentally or physically infirm.

(8) The person was in a position having care, custody, or control of the victim of the offense.

(9) The injury to or death of the victim of the offense was the result of shaken baby syndrome (as defined in IC 16-41-40-2) or abusive head trauma.

(10) The person threatened to harm the victim of the offense or a witness if the victim or witness told anyone about the offense.

(11) The person:

(A) committed trafficking with an inmate under IC 35-44.1-3-5; and

(B) is an employee of the penal facility.

(12) The person committed the offense with bias due to the victim's or the group's real or perceived characteristic, trait, belief, practice, association, or other attribute the court chooses to consider, including but not limited to an attribute described in IC 10-13-3-1.

(13) The person is or has been an alien (as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) unlawfully present in the United States. A determination by the United States Department of Homeland Security that an alien has come to, entered, or remained in the United States in violation of law is evidence that the alien is or has been unlawfully present in the United States.

(14) The offense involved dealing in a controlled substance under IC 35-48-4 and the person distributed the controlled substance to at least three (3) different individuals in a one hundred eighty (180) day period.

(15) *The person committed the offense while wearing a mask.*

~~(15)~~ **(16)** *The offense resulted in the:*

(A) *death; or*

(B) *permanent loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ;*

of an animal.

(b) The court may consider the following factors as mitigating circumstances or as favoring suspending the sentence and imposing probation:

(1) The crime neither caused nor threatened serious harm to persons or property, or the person did not contemplate that it would do so.

(2) The crime was the result of circumstances unlikely to recur.

(3) The victim of the crime induced or facilitated the offense.



- (4) There are substantial grounds tending to excuse or justify the crime, though failing to establish a defense.
- (5) The person acted under strong provocation.
- (6) The person has no history of delinquency or criminal activity, or the person has led a law-abiding life for a substantial period before commission of the crime.
- (7) The person is likely to respond affirmatively to probation or short term imprisonment.
- (8) The character and attitudes of the person indicate that the person is unlikely to commit another crime.
- (9) The person has made or will make restitution to the victim of the crime for the injury, damage, or loss sustained.
- (10) Imprisonment of the person will result in undue hardship to the person or the dependents of the person.
- (11) The person was convicted of a crime involving the use of force against a person who had repeatedly inflicted physical or sexual abuse upon the convicted person and evidence shows that the convicted person suffered from the effects of battery as a result of the past course of conduct of the individual who is the victim of the crime for which the person was convicted.
- (12) The person was convicted of a crime relating to a controlled substance and the person's arrest or prosecution was facilitated in part because the person:
 - (A) requested emergency medical assistance; or
 - (B) acted in concert with another person who requested emergency medical assistance;
 for an individual who reasonably appeared to be in need of medical assistance due to the use of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- (13) The person has posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or a postconcussive brain injury.
- (14) The person is a person described in IC 31-30-1-4(d) who committed the offense while the person was a child but is now at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (15) The offense involved a controlled substance under IC 35-48-4 and the person:
 - (A) sought treatment:
 - (i) in the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period preceding the date of the commission of the offense; or
 - (ii) on or after the date on which the person committed the offense, but before sentencing; and
 - (B) successfully completed treatment:



- (i) in the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period preceding the date of the commission of the offense; or
- (ii) on or after the date on which the person committed the offense, but before sentencing.

(c) The criteria listed in subsections (a) and (b) do not limit the matters that the court may consider in determining the sentence.

(d) A court may impose any sentence that is:

- (1) authorized by statute; and
- (2) permissible under the Constitution of the State of Indiana; regardless of the presence or absence of aggravating circumstances or mitigating circumstances.

(e) If a court suspends a sentence and orders probation for a person described in subsection (b)(13), the court may require the person to receive treatment for the person's injuries.

SECTION 294. IC 24-5-0.5-3, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1116-2026, SECTION 1, AND AS AMENDED BY SEA 169-2026, SECTION 27, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1273-2026, SECTION 3, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A supplier may not commit an unfair, abusive, or deceptive act, omission, or practice in connection with a consumer transaction. Such an act, omission, or practice by a supplier is a violation of this chapter whether it occurs before, during, or after the transaction. An act, omission, or practice prohibited by this section includes both implicit and explicit misrepresentations.

(b) Without limiting the scope of subsection (a), the following acts, and the following representations as to the subject matter of a consumer transaction, made orally, in writing, or by electronic communication, by a supplier, are deceptive acts:

- (1) That such subject of a consumer transaction has sponsorship, approval, performance, characteristics, accessories, uses, or benefits it does not have which the supplier knows or should reasonably know it does not have.
- (2) That such subject of a consumer transaction is of a particular standard, quality, grade, style, or model, if it is not and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know that it is not.
- (3) That such subject of a consumer transaction is new or unused, if it is not and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know that it is not.
- (4) That such subject of a consumer transaction will be supplied to the public in greater quantity than the supplier intends or reasonably expects.
- (5) That replacement or repair constituting the subject of a



consumer transaction is needed, if it is not and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know that it is not.

(6) That a specific price advantage exists as to such subject of a consumer transaction, if it does not and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know that it does not.

(7) That the supplier has a sponsorship, approval, or affiliation in such consumer transaction the supplier does not have, and which the supplier knows or should reasonably know that the supplier does not have.

(8) That such consumer transaction involves or does not involve a warranty, a disclaimer of warranties, or other rights, remedies, or obligations, if the representation is false and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know that the representation is false.

(9) That the consumer will receive a rebate, discount, or other benefit as an inducement for entering into a sale or lease in return for giving the supplier the names of prospective consumers or otherwise helping the supplier to enter into other consumer transactions, if earning the benefit, rebate, or discount is contingent upon the occurrence of an event subsequent to the time the consumer agrees to the purchase or lease.

(10) That the supplier is able to deliver or complete the subject of the consumer transaction within a stated period of time, when the supplier knows or should reasonably know the supplier could not. If no time period has been stated by the supplier, there is a presumption that the supplier has represented that the supplier will deliver or complete the subject of the consumer transaction within a reasonable time, according to the course of dealing or the usage of the trade.

(11) That the consumer will be able to purchase the subject of the consumer transaction as advertised by the supplier, if the supplier does not intend to sell it.

(12) That the replacement or repair constituting the subject of a consumer transaction can be made by the supplier for the estimate the supplier gives a customer for the replacement or repair, if the specified work is completed and:

(A) the cost exceeds the estimate by an amount equal to or greater than ten percent (10%) of the estimate;

(B) the supplier did not obtain written permission from the customer to authorize the supplier to complete the work even if the cost would exceed the amounts specified in clause (A);

(C) the total cost for services and parts for a single transaction is more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750); and



- (D) the supplier knew or reasonably should have known that the cost would exceed the estimate in the amounts specified in clause (A).
- (13) That the replacement or repair constituting the subject of a consumer transaction is needed, and that the supplier disposes of the part repaired or replaced earlier than seventy-two (72) hours after both:
- (A) the customer has been notified that the work has been completed; and
 - (B) the part repaired or replaced has been made available for examination upon the request of the customer.
- (14) Engaging in the replacement or repair of the subject of a consumer transaction if the consumer has not authorized the replacement or repair, and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know that it is not authorized.
- (15) The act of misrepresenting the geographic location of the supplier by listing an alternate business name or an assumed business name (as described in IC 23-0.5-3-4) in a local telephone directory if:
- (A) the name misrepresents the supplier's geographic location;
 - (B) the listing fails to identify the locality and state of the supplier's business;
 - (C) calls to the local telephone number are routinely forwarded or otherwise transferred to a supplier's business location that is outside the calling area covered by the local telephone directory; and
 - (D) the supplier's business location is located in a county that is not contiguous to a county in the calling area covered by the local telephone directory.
- (16) The act of listing an alternate business name or assumed business name (as described in IC 23-0.5-3-4) in a directory assistance data base if:
- (A) the name misrepresents the supplier's geographic location;
 - (B) calls to the local telephone number are routinely forwarded or otherwise transferred to a supplier's business location that is outside the local calling area; and
 - (C) the supplier's business location is located in a county that is not contiguous to a county in the local calling area.
- (17) The violation by a supplier of IC 24-3-4 concerning cigarettes for import or export.
- (18) The act of a supplier in knowingly selling or reselling a product to a consumer if the product has been recalled, whether



by the order of a court or a regulatory body, or voluntarily by the manufacturer, distributor, or retailer, unless the product has been repaired or modified to correct the defect that was the subject of the recall.

(19) The violation by a supplier of 47 U.S.C. 227, including any rules or regulations issued under 47 U.S.C. 227.

(20) The violation by a supplier of the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.), including any rules or regulations issued under the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.).

(21) A violation of IC 24-5-7 (concerning health spa services), as set forth in IC 24-5-7-17.

(22) A violation of IC 24-5-8 (concerning business opportunity transactions), as set forth in IC 24-5-8-20.

(23) A violation of IC 24-5-10 (concerning home consumer transactions), as set forth in IC 24-5-10-18.

(24) A violation of IC 24-5-11 (concerning real property improvement contracts), as set forth in IC 24-5-11-14.

(25) A violation of IC 24-5-12 (concerning telephone solicitations), as set forth in IC 24-5-12-23.

(26) A violation of IC 24-5-13.5 (concerning buyback motor vehicles), as set forth in IC 24-5-13.5-14.

(27) A violation of IC 24-5-14 (concerning automatic dialing-announcing devices), as set forth in IC 24-5-14-13.

(28) A violation of IC 24-5-15 (concerning credit services organizations), as set forth in IC 24-5-15-11.

(29) A violation of IC 24-5-16 (concerning unlawful motor vehicle subleasing), as set forth in IC 24-5-16-18.

(30) A violation of IC 24-5-17 (concerning environmental marketing claims), as set forth in IC 24-5-17-14.

(31) A violation of IC 24-5-19 (concerning deceptive commercial solicitation), as set forth in IC 24-5-19-11.

(32) A violation of IC 24-5-21 (concerning prescription drug discount cards), as set forth in IC 24-5-21-7.

(33) A violation of IC 24-5-23.5-7 (concerning real estate appraisals), as set forth in IC 24-5-23.5-9.

(34) A violation of IC 24-5-26 (concerning identity theft), as set forth in IC 24-5-26-3.

(35) A violation of ~~IC 24-5-5~~ IC 37-4 (concerning mortgage rescue fraud), as set forth in ~~IC 24-5-5-6-1~~ IC 37-4-5-1.

(36) A violation of IC 24-8 (concerning promotional gifts and contests), as set forth in IC 24-8-6-3.



(37) A violation of IC 21-18.5-6 (concerning representations made by a postsecondary credit bearing proprietary educational institution), as set forth in IC 21-18.5-6-22.5.

(38) A violation of IC 24-5-15.5 (concerning collection actions of a plaintiff debt buyer), as set forth in IC 24-5-15.5-6.

(39) A violation of IC 24-14 (concerning towing services), as set forth in IC 24-14-10-1.

(40) A violation of IC 24-5-14.5 (concerning misleading or inaccurate caller identification information), as set forth in IC 24-5-14.5-12.

(41) A violation of IC 24-5-27 (concerning intrastate inmate calling services), as set forth in IC 24-5-27-27.

(42) A violation of IC 15-21 (concerning sales of dogs by retail pet stores), as set forth in IC 15-21-7-4.

(43) A violation of IC 24-4-23 (concerning the security of information collected and transmitted by an adult oriented website operator), as set forth in IC 24-4-23-14.

(44) A violation of IC 28-8-7 (concerning virtual currency kiosks), as set forth in IC 28-8-7-9.

~~(44)~~ **(45)** *A violation of IC 24-4-27.5 (concerning proxy advisors), as set forth in IC 24-4-27.5-12.*

(c) Any representations on or within a product or its packaging or in advertising or promotional materials which would constitute a deceptive act shall be the deceptive act both of the supplier who places such representation thereon or therein, or who authored such materials, and such other suppliers who shall state orally or in writing that such representation is true if such other supplier shall know or have reason to know that such representation was false.

(d) If a supplier shows by a preponderance of the evidence that an act resulted from a bona fide error notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures reasonably adopted to avoid the error, such act shall not be deceptive within the meaning of this chapter.

(e) It shall be a defense to any action brought under this chapter that the representation constituting an alleged deceptive act was one made in good faith by the supplier without knowledge of its falsity and in reliance upon the oral or written representations of the manufacturer, the person from whom the supplier acquired the product, any testing organization, or any other person provided that the source thereof is disclosed to the consumer.

(f) For purposes of subsection (b)(12), a supplier that provides estimates before performing repair or replacement work for a customer shall give the customer a written estimate itemizing as closely as



possible the price for labor and parts necessary for the specific job before commencing the work.

(g) For purposes of subsection (b)(15) and (b)(16), a telephone company or other provider of a telephone directory or directory assistance service or its officer or agent is immune from liability for publishing the listing of an alternate business name or assumed business name of a supplier in its directory or directory assistance data base unless the telephone company or other provider of a telephone directory or directory assistance service is the same person as the supplier who has committed the deceptive act.

(h) For purposes of subsection (b)(18), it is an affirmative defense to any action brought under this chapter that the product has been altered by a person other than the defendant to render the product completely incapable of serving its original purpose.

SECTION 295. IC 12-7-2-96, AS AMENDED BY SEA 285-2026, SECTION 3, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. See: 96: "Gravely disabled", for purposes of IC 12-26, means a condition in which an individual, as a result of mental illness, is in danger of coming to harm because the individual:

- (1) is unable to provide for that individual's food; clothing; shelter; or other essential human needs;
- (2) has a substantial impairment or an obvious deterioration of that individual's judgment; reasoning; or behavior that results in the individual's inability to function independently; or
- (3) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate shelter, resulting in the individual remaining outdoors in places not designed for or ordinarily used for sleeping during weather conditions that are likely to result in death or serious physical injury; if:
 - (A) the individual has refused transportation to a shelter or mental health service provider; and
 - (B) a shelter or mental health service provider was reasonably offered and available.

SECTION 296. IC 35-31.5-2-300, AS AMENDED BY SEA 119-2026, SECTION 2, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1303-2026, SECTION 22, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 300. (a) "Sexual conduct", for purposes of IC 35-42-3.5-0.5, *and* IC 35-42-4-4, *and* IC 35-42-4-13, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-42-4-4(a)~~. IC 35-42-4-4.

(b) "Sexual conduct", for purposes of IC 35-49, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-49-1-9.

SECTION 297. IC 35-42-4-14, AS AMENDED BY SEA 119-2026,



SECTION 5, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1303-2026, SECTION 33, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) As used in this section, "serious sex offender" means a person required to register as a sex offender under IC 11-8-8 who is:

- (1) found to be a sexually violent predator under IC 35-38-1-7.5; or
- (2) convicted of one (1) or more of the following offenses:
 - (A) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).
 - (B) Child exploitation (~~IC 35-42-4-4(b) or IC 35-42-4-4(c)~~; IC 35-42-4-4).
 - (C) Possession of child sex abuse material (IC 35-42-4-4(d) or IC 35-42-4-4(e)) (*before July 1, 2026*), or a child sex abuse material offense under IC 35-42-4-4.5 (*after June 30, 2026*).
 - (D) Vicarious sexual gratification (IC 35-42-4-5(a) and IC 35-42-4-5(b)).
 - (E) Performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor (IC 35-42-4-5(c)).
 - (F) Child solicitation (IC 35-42-4-6).
 - (G) Child seduction (IC 35-42-4-7).
 - (H) Sexual misconduct with a minor (IC 35-42-4-9).
- (b) A serious sex offender who knowingly or intentionally enters:
 - (1) school property; or
 - (2) a:
 - (A) facility; or
 - (B) location holding an event; *that provides entertainment or programming primarily directed toward a child less than eighteen (18) years of age;*
 commits unlawful entry by a serious sex offender, a Level 6 felony.
- (c) It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection (b) that:
 - (1) a religious institution or house of worship is located on the school property; and
 - (2) the person:
 - (A) enters the school property or other entity described in IC 35-31.5-2-285(1)(A) through IC 35-31.5-2-285(1)(D) when classes, extracurricular activities, or any other school activities are not being held:
 - (i) for the sole purpose of attending worship services or receiving religious instruction; and
 - (ii) not earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the beginning of the worship services or religious instruction; and
 - (B) leaves the school property not later than thirty (30)



minutes after the conclusion of the worship services or religious instruction.

SECTION 298. IC 21-22-6-3, AS AMENDED BY SEA 254-2026, SECTION 4, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1408-2026, SECTION 3, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. The campus board consists of at least seven (7) members, including *the respective regional representative of the state board of trustees appointed under IC 21-22-3-3, who serves as a nonvoting member, and* at least five (5) members who are representative of ~~the manufacturing, commercial, agricultural, labor, and educational groups~~ *the knowledge or experience areas described in IC 21-22-3-3(1) through IC 21-22-3-3(9)* of the campus service area, all appointed by the state board of trustees. Membership may include a representative from a school corporation that has part of its district within the campus service area and at least one (1) Ivy Tech Community College student who is enrolled at the campus. All members of the campus board must be residents of the campus service area *or represent an employer that operates within the campus service area*. Appointments are for three (3) year terms, on a staggered basis, and all trustees must be citizens of Indiana. Members may serve for an unlimited number of terms.

SECTION 299. IC 21-22-6-8, AS AMENDED BY SEA 254-2026, SECTION 6, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1408-2026, SECTION 4, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. A campus board shall do the following:

- (1) Make a careful analysis of the educational needs and opportunities of the campus service area *including an analysis of programs and pathways designed to meet workforce and employer demand*; in accordance with IC 21-41-5.
- (2) Develop and recommend to the state board of trustees a plan for providing postsecondary:
 - (A) general education;
 - (B) liberal arts education; and
 - (C) occupational and technical education;
 programs and appropriate workforce development, assessment, and training services for the residents of that campus service area.
- (3) *Develop and recommend to the state board of trustees a plan to:*
 - (A) *align postsecondary academic curriculum with employer needs;*
 - (B) *provide relevant skills training opportunities; and*



(C) ensure college transferability;
for the residents of a campus service area.

~~(3)~~ (4) *Develop and recommend a* Review the budget for campus programs and operations, and make recommendations to the campus chancellor for efficiencies in operation and alignment with campus service area needs.

~~(4)~~ (5) Identify and recommend methods to optimize the use of facilities and equipment to support programs and pathways designed to meet workforce and employer demand.

~~(5)~~ (6) Facilitate and develop cooperation with employers, community leaders, economic development efforts, area career and technical education centers, and other public and private education and training entities *in order to provide postsecondary general, liberal arts, and occupational and technical education and training designed to meet to ensure alignment with* workforce and employer demand in an efficient and cost effective manner and to avoid duplication of services.

~~(6)~~ (7) Determine through evaluation, studies, or assessments the degree to which the established training needs of the campus service area are being met.

~~(7)~~ (8) Make recommendations to the state board of trustees concerning policies that appear to substantially affect the campus board's capacity to deliver effective and efficient programming.

~~(8)~~ (9) *Review building utilization data prior to approving capital requests or requests for proposals to ensure capital investments are justified by enrollment projections and operational efficiency data.*S

SECTION 49. IC 20-20.5-11-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5.5. A policy to provide employer liability and worker's compensation insurance coverage under this chapter is subject to the requirements of IC 27-7-19.S**

SECTION 50. IC 20-20-38.5-5.5, AS ADDED BY HEA 1098-2026, SECTION 1, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 5-5:~~ A policy to provide employer liability and worker's compensation insurance coverage under this chapter is subject to the requirements of ~~IC 27-7-19:~~

SECTION 300. IC 20-20.5-11.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Chapter 11.5. Agreements with Work Based Learning Employers

SEA 80 — CC 1



Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "intermediary" has the meaning set forth in IC 21-18-1-3.5.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "school" means the following:

- (1) A school maintained by a school corporation.**
- (2) A charter school.**

Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter, "work based learning program" refers to:

- (1) an apprenticeship program (as defined in IC 20-43-8-0.3);**
- (2) a modern youth apprenticeship (as defined in IC 20-51.4-2-9.5);**
- (3) a pre-apprenticeship program that meets the elements of a quality pre-apprenticeship program established by the United States Department of Labor; and**
- (4) a work based learning course (as defined in IC 20-43-8-0.7).**

(b) The term does not include the following:

- (1) A virtual, remote, or online work based learning program in which the student performs activities primarily outside of an employer controlled physical worksite.**
- (2) An activity that does not involve ongoing work responsibilities or recurring placement with an employer, such as a career awareness visit or field trip.**

Sec. 4. (a) If an intermediary, an industry talent association, or a school connects a student with an employer to obtain work experience as part of a work based learning program, the intermediary, industry talent association, or school and the employer shall enter into a written agreement under which the employer assumes responsibility for obtaining worker's compensation insurance coverage for any student who performs services for the employer as part of the work based learning program.

(b) An intermediary, an industry talent association, or a school may comply with subsection (a) by entering into an agreement with a third party employer of record.

SECTION 301. IC 20-20-38.6, AS ADDED BY HEA 1098-2026, SECTION 2, IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. (Agreements with Work Based Learning Employers).

SECTION 302. IC 20-26-5-40.7, AS AMENDED BY SEA 78-2026, SECTION 1, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1004-2026, SECTION 62, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 40.7. (a) As used in this section, *"instructional time" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-30-2-1. "school*



day" means the entirety of the time a student is present on school property for a student instructional day (as defined in IC 20-30-2-2).

(b) As used in this section, "school sanctioned wireless communication device" means a wireless communication device that:

- (1) is owned by a student or a third party vendor;*
- (2) is approved by the school for instructional use;*
- (3) is required or permitted by the school for participation in classroom instruction;*
- (4) is subject to school managed network controls, filtering, or monitoring that restrict access to noninstructional content during the school day; and*
- (5) is not a cellular telephone, gaming device, or smartwatch described in subsection (c)(5).*

This subsection expires July 1, 2028.

~~(b)~~ *(c) As used in this section, "wireless communication device" means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or more parties, including a:*

- (1) cellular telephone;*
- (2) tablet computer;*
- (3) laptop computer; ~~or~~*
- (4) gaming device; or*
- (5) smartwatch that is connected to a cellular telephone, a cell tower, or the Internet.*

The term does not include a device described in subsection (i).

~~(c)~~ *(d) Except as provided in subsection (e), each school corporation and charter school shall adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that does the following:*

- (1) Except as provided in ~~subdivisions (2) and (3);~~ subdivision (2), ~~and subsection (d);~~ prohibits a student from using a:

 - (A) wireless communication device during ~~instructional time;~~ the school day; and*
 - (B) school supplied wireless communication device for a noneducational purpose during the school day;**
 - (2) authorizes a teacher to allow a student to use a wireless communication device for educational purposes during instructional time; and*
 - (3) permits a student to use a wireless communication device in the event of an emergency or to manage the student's health care.*
- (2) Requires teacher directed use of a wireless communication device for educational purposes during the school day to occur only on the following:*



(A) Before July 1, 2028, on:

- (i) a school supplied wireless communication device; or
- (ii) if the school corporation or charter school does not provide a school supplied wireless communication device, a school sanctioned wireless communication device.

This clause expires July 1, 2028.

(B) After June 30, 2028, a school supplied wireless communication device.

(3) Mandates one (1) of the following policies:

(A) A no device policy under which students are not permitted to bring wireless communication devices to school.

(B) A storage policy under which wireless communication devices may be brought to school, but must be stored away, powered off, and inaccessible to a student throughout the school day.

~~(d)~~ (e) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection ~~(e)~~ (d) may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device during *instructional time* the school day if the use of the wireless communication device is: *included in the student's*:

- (1) *included in the student's* individualized education program; ~~or~~
- (2) *included in the student's* plan developed under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794;
- (3) *necessary for the management of a documented medical condition pursuant to an order provided by a licensed health care provider;*
- (4) *authorized by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee at the appropriate time during an emergency, as determined by the superintendent or designee; or*
- (5) *necessary for language translation to ensure access for multi-lingual learners, prioritizing school-managed wireless communication devices or applications where available.*

~~(e)~~ (f) Each school corporation and charter school shall publish on its website the wireless communication device policy established under subsection ~~(e)~~ (d).

(g) The department shall publish model policy language and implementation guidance consistent with this section, which may include guidance for how existing lockers and resources can be used to comply with this section.

(h) A school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, a charter school, and personnel of a school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, or a charter school, are immune from civil liability for any actions taken in good faith to



comply with this section. The civil immunity under this subsection does not apply to an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful, wanton, or intentional misconduct.

(i) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (g), a student may possess and use an unobtrusive audio recording device solely for the student's individual educational notetaking or personal learning assistance if the device:

- (1) is designed principally to capture spoken word audio for the purpose described in this subsection, including through recording, transcription, summarization, or other personal assistant functionality;*
- (2) does not capture, store, or transmit images or video;*
- (3) is visible to the classroom teacher or other appropriate school personnel at all times while in use;*
- (4) is provided to the school for inspection upon request; and*
- (5) is used in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law governing consent to audio recording.*

(j) Except as provided in subsection (e), nothing in the exemption under subsection (i) shall be interpreted to limit a school's authority to adopt and enforce policies to control or restrict the possession or use of audio recording devices described in subsection (i), including policies that:

- (1) restrict where and when such devices may be used while at school;*
- (2) prohibit the use of the devices during an assessment or other activity designated by the school;*
- (3) prohibit the real time transmission, broadcasting, or live streaming of audio recorded by the devices;*
- (4) require advance notification to either a classroom teacher or building administrator as may be applicable in the school's policy before use;*
- (5) require that recorded material be stored, retained, or deleted in a manner consistent with school policy; and*
- (6) require consent requirements consistent with applicable law for the recording of another student or school employee.*

(k) A school corporation or charter school that adopts a policy under this section that permits the possession or use of an audio recording device under subsection (i) shall include in the policy a provision that a recording made under subsection (i) may not be used for a disciplinary, evaluative, or supervisory purpose against a:

- (1) student; or*
- (2) school employee.*



SECTION 303. IC 20-30-4-2, AS AMENDED BY SEA 88-2026, SECTION 3, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1004-2026, SECTION 110, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) In consultation with the student's school counselor, *after seeking consultation with each student's parents*, and not later than the date on which the student completes grade 8, each student shall develop a graduation plan that is a part of the student's permanent school record and accessible to a parent of the student in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g et seq.).

(b) The graduation plan developed under subsection (a) must include the following:

- (1) A statement of intent to graduate from high school.
- (2) An acknowledgment of the importance of:
 - (A) good citizenship;
 - (B) school attendance; and
 - (C) diligent study habits.
- (3) The subject and skill areas of interest to the student.
- (4) The postsecondary goals of the student aligned with the graduation pathway requirements under IC 20-32-4-1.5.
- (5) A program of study under the college/technology preparation curriculum adopted by the state board under IC 20-30-10-2 for grades 10, 11, and 12 that meets the interests, aptitude, and postsecondary goals of the student.
- (6) Assurances that, upon satisfactory fulfillment of the plan, the student:
 - (A) is entitled to graduate; and
 - (B) will have taken at least the minimum variety and number of courses necessary to gain admittance to a state educational institution.
- (7) An indication of assessments (other than the statewide assessment program and the graduation examination (before July 1, 2018)) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade 10 through grade 12 and which may include any of the following:
 - (A) The SAT Reasoning Test.
 - (B) The ACT test.
 - (C) *The Classic Learning Test*.
 - ~~(D)~~ (D) Advanced placement exams.
 - ~~(E)~~ (E) College readiness exams approved by the department.
 - ~~(F)~~ (F) Workforce readiness exams approved by the department of workforce development established under IC 22-4.1-2.



~~(F)~~ (G) Cambridge International examinations.

(c) A school corporation shall:

- (1) provide a copy of a student's graduation plan developed under this section to a parent of the student; and
- (2) provide the parent described in subdivision (1) an opportunity to consult with the school corporation on the student's graduation plan.

SECTION 304. IC 6-6-6.5-13, AS AMENDED BY SEA 243-2026, SECTION 27, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1210-2026, SECTION 155, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) As the basis for measuring the tax imposed by this chapter, the department shall classify every taxable aircraft in its proper class according to the following classification plan:

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
A	Piston-driven
B	Piston-driven, and Pressurized
C	Turbine driven or other Powered
D	Homebuilt, Gliders, or Hot Air Balloons

(b) The tax imposed under this chapter is based on the age, class, and maximum landing weight of the taxable aircraft. The amount of tax imposed on the taxable aircraft is based on the following table:

Age	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
0-4	\$.04/lb	\$.065/lb	\$.09/lb	\$.0175/lb
5-8	\$.035/lb	\$.055/lb	\$.08/lb	\$.015/lb
9-12	\$.03/lb	\$.05/lb	\$.07/lb	\$.0125/lb
13-16	\$.025/lb	\$.025/lb	\$.025/lb	\$.01/lb
17-25	\$.02/lb	\$.02/lb	\$.02/lb	\$.0075/lb
over 25	\$.01/lb	\$.01/lb	\$.01/lb	\$.005/lb

(c) An aircraft owner, who sells an aircraft on which the owner has paid the tax imposed under this chapter, is entitled to a credit for the tax paid. The credit equals excise tax paid on the aircraft that was sold, times the lesser of:

- (1) ninety percent (90%); or
- (2) ten percent (10%) times the number of months remaining in the registration year after the sale of the aircraft.

The credit may only be used to reduce the tax imposed under this chapter on another aircraft purchased by that owner during the registration year in which the credit accrues. A person may not receive



a refund for a credit under this subsection.

(d) A person who is entitled to a property tax deduction under IC 6-1.1-12-13 (*before its expiration*) or IC 6-1.1-12-14 is entitled to a credit against the tax imposed on the person's aircraft under this chapter. The credit equals the amount of the property tax deduction to which the person is entitled under IC 6-1.1-12-13 (*before its expiration*) and IC 6-1.1-12-14 minus the amount of that deduction used to offset the person's property taxes or vehicle excise taxes, times seven hundredths (.07). ~~The credit~~ *Additionally, a person entitled to a property tax deduction under IC 6-1.1-51-10 is also entitled to a credit against the tax imposed on the person's aircraft under this chapter. Such credit equals the amount of the property tax deduction to which the person is entitled under IC 6-1.1-51-10 minus the amount of that deduction used to offset the person's property taxes (unless the aircraft is subject to both the aircraft excise tax and personal property tax, in which case the deduction shall apply to both property taxes and excise taxes). The credits in this subsection may not exceed the amount of the tax due under this chapter. The county auditor shall, upon the person's request, furnish a certified statement showing the credit allowable under this subsection. The department may not allow a credit under this subsection until the auditor's statement has been filed in the department's office.*

SECTION 305. IC 36-7.5-7-10, AS AMENDED BY SEA 27-2026, SECTION 28, AND AS AMENDED BY HEA 1210-2026, SECTION 267, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 10. (a) A local county fund known as the Lake County convention and event center reserve fund is established to pay for:

- (1) additions;
- (2) refurbishment; and
- (3) budget shortfalls or other unusual costs;

of a convention and event center that is constructed using money from the convention fund under this chapter.

(b) The reserve fund consists of:

- (1) transfers under IC 6-9-2-1.5(c) (*as in effect before amendment in the 2026 session of the general assembly*); and
- (2) gifts, grants, donations, or other contributions from any other public or private source.

(c) *The Lake County commissioners shall administer the reserve fund until the convention center authority is established. Thereafter, the convention center authority shall administer the reserve fund.*

SECTION 306. IC 22-3-2-2.6, AS ADDED BY HEA 1098-2026,



SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.6. (a) As used in this section, "work based learning program" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 20-20-38.6-3.~~ **IC 20-20.5-11.5-3.**

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program:

- (1) is entitled to compensation and benefits under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6; and
- (2) may not recover any additional benefit otherwise payable as a result of being less than seventeen (17) years of age under the definition of a minor in IC 22-3-6-1.

(c) The following apply if a student is unpaid for the services performed for an employer as part of a work based learning program:

- (1) The student is not entitled to the following compensation:
 - (A) Temporary total disability compensation under IC 22-3-3-8.
 - (B) Temporary partial disability compensation under IC 22-3-3-9.

(2) In the case that death results from the injury, death benefits in a lump sum amount of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) shall be paid upon agreement or final award to any dependents of the student under IC 22-3-3-18 through IC 22-3-3-20, or, if the student has no dependents, to the student's parents.

(d) Except for remedies available under IC 5-2-6.1, recovery under this section is the exclusive right and remedy for:

- (1) a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program; and
- (2) the personal representatives, dependents, or next of kin, at common law or otherwise, of a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program;

on account of personal injury or death by accident arising out of and in the course of employment as part of the work based learning program.

SECTION 307. IC 22-3-6-1, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1098-2026, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. In IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Employer" includes the state and any political subdivision, any municipal corporation within the state, any individual or the legal representative of a deceased individual, firm, association, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or corporation or the receiver or trustee of the same, using the services of another for pay. A



corporation, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership that controls the activities of another corporation, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership, or a corporation and a limited liability company or a corporation and a limited liability partnership that are commonly owned entities, or the controlled corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or commonly owned entities, and a parent corporation and its subsidiaries shall each be considered joint employers of the corporation's, the controlled corporation's, the limited liability company's, the limited liability partnership's, the commonly owned entities', the parent's, or the subsidiaries' employees for purposes of IC 22-3-2-6 and IC 22-3-3-31. Both a lessor and a lessee of employees shall each be considered joint employers of the employees provided by the lessor to the lessee for purposes of IC 22-3-2-6 and IC 22-3-3-31. If the employer is insured, the term includes the employer's insurer so far as applicable. However, the inclusion of an employer's insurer within this definition does not allow an employer's insurer to avoid payment for services rendered to an employee with the approval of the employer. The term also includes an employer that employs a student as part of a work based learning program to the extent set forth in IC 22-3-2-2.6. The term does not include a nonprofit corporation that is recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (as defined in IC 6-3-1-11(a)) to the extent the corporation enters into an independent contractor agreement with a person for the performance of youth coaching services on a part-time basis.

(b) "Employee" means every person, including a minor, in the service of another, under any contract of hire or apprenticeship, written or implied, except one whose employment is both casual and not in the usual course of the trade, business, occupation, or profession of the employer.

(1) An executive officer elected or appointed and empowered in accordance with the charter and bylaws of a corporation, other than a municipal corporation or governmental subdivision or a charitable, religious, educational, or other nonprofit corporation, is an employee of the corporation under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6. An officer of a corporation who is an employee of the corporation under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 may elect not to be an employee of the corporation under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6. An officer of a corporation who is also an owner of any interest in the corporation may elect not to be an employee of the corporation under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6. If an officer makes this election, the officer must serve written notice of the



election on the corporation's insurance carrier and the board. An officer of a corporation may not be considered to be excluded as an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 until the notice is received by the insurance carrier and the board.

(2) An executive officer of a municipal corporation or other governmental subdivision or of a charitable, religious, educational, or other nonprofit corporation may, notwithstanding any other provision of IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6, be brought within the coverage of its insurance contract by the corporation by specifically including the executive officer in the contract of insurance. The election to bring the executive officer within the coverage shall continue for the period the contract of insurance is in effect, and during this period, the executive officers thus brought within the coverage of the insurance contract are employees of the corporation under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6.

(3) Any reference to an employee who has been injured, when the employee is dead, also includes the employee's legal representatives, dependents, and other persons to whom compensation may be payable.

(4) An owner of a sole proprietorship may elect to include the owner as an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 if the owner is actually engaged in the proprietorship business. If the owner makes this election, the owner must serve upon the owner's insurance carrier and upon the board written notice of the election. No owner of a sole proprietorship may be considered an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 until the notice has been received. If the owner of a sole proprietorship:

(A) is an independent contractor in the construction trades and does not make the election provided under this subdivision, the owner must obtain a certificate of exemption under IC 22-3-2-14.5; or

(B) is an independent contractor and does not make the election provided under this subdivision, the owner may obtain a certificate of exemption under IC 22-3-2-14.5.

(5) A partner in a partnership may elect to include the partner as an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 if the partner is actually engaged in the partnership business. If a partner makes this election, the partner must serve upon the partner's insurance carrier and upon the board written notice of the election. No partner may be considered an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 until the notice has been received. If a partner in a partnership:



- (A) is an independent contractor in the construction trades and does not make the election provided under this subdivision, the partner must obtain a certificate of exemption under IC 22-3-2-14.5; or
- (B) is an independent contractor and does not make the election provided under this subdivision, the partner may obtain a certificate of exemption under IC 22-3-2-14.5.
- (6) Real estate professionals are not employees under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 if:
- (A) they are licensed real estate agents;
- (B) substantially all their remuneration is directly related to sales volume and not the number of hours worked; and
- (C) they have written agreements with real estate brokers stating that they are not to be treated as employees for tax purposes.
- (7) A person is an independent contractor and not an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 if the person is an independent contractor under the guidelines of the United States Internal Revenue Service.
- (8) An owner-operator that provides a motor vehicle and the services of a driver under a written contract that is subject to IC 8-2.1-24-23, 45 IAC 16-1-13, or 49 CFR 376 to a motor carrier is not an employee of the motor carrier for purposes of IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6. The owner-operator may elect to be covered and have the owner-operator's drivers covered under a worker's compensation insurance policy or authorized self-insurance that insures the motor carrier if the owner-operator pays the premiums as requested by the motor carrier. An election by an owner-operator under this subdivision does not terminate the independent contractor status of the owner-operator for any purpose other than the purpose of this subdivision.
- (9) A member or manager in a limited liability company may elect to include the member or manager as an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 if the member or manager is actually engaged in the limited liability company business. If a member or manager makes this election, the member or manager must serve upon the member's or manager's insurance carrier and upon the board written notice of the election. A member or manager may not be considered an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 until the notice has been received.
- (10) A student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program, either paid or unpaid, is an



employee to the extent set forth in IC 22-3-2-2.6.

(11) A person who enters into an independent contractor agreement with a nonprofit corporation that is recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (as defined in IC 6-3-1-11(a)) to perform youth coaching services on a part-time basis is not an employee for purposes of IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6.

(12) An individual who is not an employee of the state or a political subdivision is considered to be a temporary employee of the state for purposes of IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 while serving as a member of a mobile support unit on duty for training, an exercise, or a response, as set forth in IC 10-14-3-19(c)(2)(B).

(13) A driver providing drive away operations is an independent contractor and not an employee when:

(A) the vehicle being driven is the commodity being delivered; and

(B) the driver has entered into an agreement with the party arranging for the transportation that specifies the driver is an independent contractor and not an employee.

(c) "Minor" means an individual who has not reached seventeen (17) years of age.

(1) Unless otherwise provided in this subsection, a minor employee shall be considered as being of full age for all purposes of IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6.

(2) If the employee is a minor who, at the time of the accident, is employed, required, suffered, or permitted to work in violation of IC 22-2-18-40 (before its expiration on June 30, 2021) and IC 22-2-18.1-23, the amount of compensation and death benefits, as provided in IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6, shall be double the amount which would otherwise be recoverable. The insurance carrier shall be liable on its policy for one-half (1/2) of the compensation or benefits that may be payable on account of the injury or death of the minor, and the employer shall be liable for the other one-half (1/2) of the compensation or benefits. If the employee is a minor who is not less than sixteen (16) years of age and who has not reached seventeen (17) years of age and who at the time of the accident is employed, suffered, or permitted to work at any occupation which is not prohibited by law, this subdivision does not apply.

(3) A minor employee who, at the time of the accident, is a student performing services for an employer as part of an approved program under IC 20-37-2-7 or a work based learning



program (as defined in ~~IC 20-20-38.6-3~~ **IC 20-20.5-11.5-3**) shall be considered a full-time employee for the purpose of computing compensation for permanent impairment under IC 22-3-3-10. The average weekly wages for such a student shall be calculated as provided in subsection (d)(4).

(4) The rights and remedies granted in this subsection to a minor under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 on account of personal injury or death by accident shall exclude all rights and remedies of the minor, the minor's parents, or the minor's personal representatives, dependents, or next of kin at common law, statutory or otherwise, on account of the injury or death. This subsection does not apply to minors who have reached seventeen (17) years of age.

(d) "Average weekly wages" means the earnings of the injured employee in the employment in which the employee was working at the time of the injury during the period of fifty-two (52) weeks immediately preceding the date of injury, divided by fifty-two (52), except as follows:

(1) If the injured employee lost seven (7) or more calendar days during this period, although not in the same week, then the earnings for the remainder of the fifty-two (52) weeks shall be divided by the number of weeks and parts thereof remaining after the time lost has been deducted.

(2) Where the employment prior to the injury extended over a period of less than fifty-two (52) weeks, the method of dividing the earnings during that period by the number of weeks and parts thereof during which the employee earned wages shall be followed, if results just and fair to both parties will be obtained. Where by reason of the shortness of the time during which the employee has been in the employment of the employee's employer or of the casual nature or terms of the employment it is impracticable to compute the average weekly wages, as defined in this subsection, regard shall be had to the average weekly amount which during the fifty-two (52) weeks previous to the injury was being earned by a person in the same grade employed at the same work by the same employer or, if there is no person so employed, by a person in the same grade employed in the same class of employment in the same district.

(3) Wherever allowances of any character made to an employee in lieu of wages are a specified part of the wage contract, they shall be deemed a part of the employee's earnings.

(4) In computing the average weekly wages to be used in



calculating an award for permanent impairment under IC 22-3-3-10 for a student employee in an approved training program under IC 20-37-2-7 or a work based learning program (as defined in ~~IC 20-20-38.6-3~~), **IC 20-20.5-11.5-3**), the following formula shall be used. Calculate the product of:

- (A) the student employee's hourly wage rate; multiplied by
- (B) forty (40) hours.

The result obtained is the amount of the average weekly wages for the student employee.

(e) "Injury" and "personal injury" mean only injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment and do not include a disease in any form except as it results from the injury.

(f) "Billing review service" refers to a person or an entity that reviews a medical service provider's bills or statements for the purpose of determining pecuniary liability. The term includes an employer's worker's compensation insurance carrier if the insurance carrier performs such a review.

(g) "Billing review standard" means the data used by a billing review service to determine pecuniary liability.

(h) "Community" means a geographic service area based on ZIP code districts defined by the United States Postal Service according to the following groupings:

- (1) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 463 and 464.
- (2) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 465 and 466.
- (3) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 467 and 468.
- (4) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 469 and 479.
- (5) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 460, 461 (except 46107), and 473.
- (6) The geographic service area served by the 46107 ZIP code and ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 462.
- (7) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 470, 471, 472, 474, and 478.
- (8) The geographic service area served by ZIP codes with the first three (3) digits 475, 476, and 477.

(i) "Medical service provider" refers to a person or an entity that provides services or products to an employee under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6. Except as otherwise provided in IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6, the term includes a medical service facility.



(j) "Medical service facility" means any of the following that provides a service or product under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6 and uses the CMS 1450 (UB-04) form or the CMS 1500 (HCFA-1500) form for Medicare reimbursement:

- (1) An ambulatory outpatient surgical center (as defined in IC 16-18-2-14).
- (2) A hospital (as defined in IC 16-18-2-179).
- (3) A hospital based health facility (as defined in IC 16-18-2-180).
- (4) A medical center (as defined in IC 16-18-2-223.4).

(k) "Pecuniary liability" means the responsibility of an employer or the employer's insurance carrier for the payment of the charges for each specific service or product for human medical treatment provided under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6, as follows:

(1) This subdivision applies before July 1, 2014, to all medical service providers, and after June 30, 2014, to a medical service provider that is not a medical service facility. Payment of the charges in a defined community, equal to or less than the charges made by medical service providers at the eightieth percentile in the same community for like services or products.

(2) Payment of the charges in a reasonable amount, which is established by payment of one (1) of the following:

(A) The amount negotiated at any time between the medical service facility and any of the following, if an amount has been negotiated:

- (i) The employer.
- (ii) The employer's insurance carrier.
- (iii) A billing review service on behalf of a person described in item (i) or (ii).
- (iv) A direct provider network that has contracted with a person described in item (i) or (ii).

(B) Two hundred percent (200%) of the amount that would be paid to the medical service facility on the same date for the same service or product under the medical service facility's Medicare reimbursement rate, if, after conducting the negotiations described in clause (A), an agreement has not been reached.

(l) "Service or product" or "services and products" refers to medical, hospital, surgical, or nursing service, treatment, and supplies provided under IC 22-3-2 through IC 22-3-6.

SECTION 308. IC 22-3-7-2.6, AS ADDED BY HEA 1098-2026, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2.6. (a) As used in this section, "work based learning program" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 20-20-38.6-3~~.
IC 20-20.5-11.5-3.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program:

(1) is entitled to compensation and benefits under this chapter; and

(2) may not recover any additional benefit otherwise payable as a result of being less than seventeen (17) years of age under the definition of a minor in section 9 of this chapter.

(c) The following apply if a student is unpaid for the services performed for an employer as part of a work based learning program:

(1) The student is not entitled to the following compensation:

(A) Temporary total disability compensation under section 16 of this chapter.

(B) Temporary partial disability compensation under section 16 of this chapter.

(2) In the case that death results from the injury, death benefits in a lump sum amount of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) shall be paid upon agreement or final award to any dependents of the student under sections 11 through 14 of this chapter, or, if the student has no dependents, to the student's parents.

(d) Except for remedies available under IC 5-2-6.1, recovery under this section is the exclusive right and remedy for:

(1) a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program; and

(2) the personal representatives, dependents, or next of kin, at common law or otherwise, of a student who performs services for an employer as part of a work based learning program;

on account of disablement or death by occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment as part of the work based learning program.

SECTION 309. IC 27-7-19-5, AS ADDED BY HEA 1098-2026, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "work based learning program" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 20-20-38.6-3~~.
IC 20-20.5-11.5-3.

SECTION 310. **An emergency is declared for this act.**



President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: _____ Time: _____

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