

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 343—COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(ON BEHALF OF INTERIM STUDY ON INTEGRATION OF STATE
AND LOCAL CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS (ACR 53))

MARCH 13, 2001

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Provides for integration of state and local child welfare services.
(BDR 11-325)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.
Effect on the State: Yes

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the protection of children; transferring certain duties of the division of child and family services of the department of human resources to an agency of the county in certain large counties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- 1 WHEREAS, Under the current child welfare system in this state, a child
2 in a county whose population is 100,000 or more who is placed in
3 protective custody is initially under the supervision of the child protective
4 services agency of the county; and
5 WHEREAS, If such a child remains in protective custody for more than 6
6 months, the child is then removed from the supervision of the child
7 protective services agency of the county and placed under the supervision
8 of the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Human
9 Resources; and
10 WHEREAS, After being transferred from the supervision of the county to
11 the supervision of the state, a child typically is assigned a different case
12 manager, placed in a different foster home and treated by a different
13 therapist; and
14 WHEREAS, Under this bifurcated system, a permanent plan for the care
15 and treatment of a child is delayed for up to 6 months, thereby causing the
16 child to remain in the system for a longer period of time; and
17 WHEREAS, The current bifurcated system also creates disparities in the
18 rates of reimbursement for providers of foster care and the compensation
19 paid to employees of the county and the state; and
20 WHEREAS, The duplication of efforts inherent in a bifurcated system is
21 inefficient; and



1 WHEREAS, Unification of the child welfare system in this state will
2 begin to eliminate these disparities; and

3 WHEREAS, Caseload standards should be established to provide best
4 practices for the provision of child welfare services in this state; and

5 WHEREAS, The rates for foster care reimbursement should be
6 standardized; and

7 WHEREAS, Fairness to employees affected by the unification of the
8 child welfare system is a priority; and

9 WHEREAS, Unification of the child welfare system will allow the
10 placement of children in the child welfare system in more stable and less
11 disruptive environments; now, therefore,

12
13 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
14 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
15

16 **Section 1.** NRS 125A.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 125A.080 1. If the petitioner for an initial decree has wrongfully
18 taken the child from another state or has engaged in similar reprehensible
19 conduct the court may decline to exercise jurisdiction if this is just and
20 proper under the circumstances.

21 2. Unless required in the interest of the child, the court shall not
22 exercise its jurisdiction to modify a custody decree of another state if the
23 petitioner, without consent of the person entitled to custody, has
24 improperly removed the child from the physical custody of the person
25 entitled to custody or has improperly retained the child after a visit or other
26 temporary relinquishment of physical custody. If the petitioner has violated
27 any other provision of a custody decree of another state the court may
28 decline to exercise its jurisdiction if this is just and proper under the
29 circumstances.

30 3. Where the court declines to exercise jurisdiction pursuant to
31 subsection 1, the court shall notify the parent or other appropriate person
32 and the prosecuting attorney of the appropriate jurisdiction in the other
33 state. Upon request of the court of the other state, the court of this state
34 shall order the petitioner to appear with the child in a custody proceeding
35 instituted in the other state in accordance with NRS 125A.230.

36 4. Where the court refused to assume jurisdiction to modify the
37 custody decree of another state pursuant to subsection 2 or pursuant to
38 NRS 125A.180, the court shall notify the person who has legal custody
39 under the decree of the other state and the prosecuting attorney of the
40 appropriate jurisdiction in the other state and may order the petitioner to
41 return the child to the person who has legal custody. If it appears that the
42 order will be ineffective and the legal custodian is ready to receive the
43 child within 10 days, the court may place the child in a foster home
44 ~~approved by the division of child and family services of the department of~~
45 ~~human resources~~ *that is licensed pursuant to NRS 424.030* for that
46 period, pending return of the child to the legal custodian. At the same time,
47 the court shall advise the petitioner that any petition for modification of
48 custody must be directed to the appropriate court of the other state which



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1 has continuing jurisdiction or, if that court declines jurisdiction, to a court
2 in a state which has jurisdiction.

3 5. In appropriate cases a court dismissing a petition under this section
4 may charge the petitioner with necessary travel and other expenses,
5 including attorney's fees, incurred by other parties or their witnesses.

6 **Sec. 2.** NRS 127.003 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 127.003 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

8 1. *"Agency which provides child welfare services" has the meaning*
9 *ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.*

10 2. "Division" means the division of child and family services of the
11 department of human resources.

12 ~~12-1~~ 3. "Indian child" has the meaning ascribed to it in 25 U.S.C. §
13 1903.

14 ~~13-1~~ 4. "Indian Child Welfare Act" means the Indian Child Welfare
15 Act of 1978, ~~14~~ 25 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq. ~~11~~

16 **Sec. 3.** NRS 127.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 127.050 1. The following agencies may accept relinquishments for
18 the adoption of children from parents and guardians in this state:

19 (a) ~~1The division1~~ *An agency which provides child welfare services* in
20 its own capacity or on behalf of a child-placing agency authorized under
21 the laws of another state to accept relinquishments and make placements;
22 or

23 (b) A child-placing agency licensed by the division.

24 2. The following agencies may consent to the adoption of children in
25 this state:

26 (a) ~~1The division, to whom1~~ *An agency which provides child welfare*
27 *services to which* the child has been relinquished for adoption;

28 (b) A child-placing agency licensed by the division, to whom the child
29 has been relinquished for adoption; or

30 (c) Any child-placing agency authorized under the laws of another state
31 to accept relinquishments and make placements, to whom the child has
32 been relinquished or otherwise approved for adoption in that state.

33 3. If ~~1the division1~~ *an agency which provides child welfare services*
34 accepts a relinquishment on behalf of a child-placing agency pursuant to
35 subsection 1, the child-placing agency shall reimburse the ~~1division1~~
36 *agency which provides child welfare services* for any costs associated with
37 the acceptance.

38 **Sec. 4.** NRS 127.053 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 127.053 No consent to a specific adoption executed in this state, or
40 executed outside this state for use in this state, is valid unless it:

41 1. Identifies the child to be adopted by name, if any, sex and date of
42 birth.

43 2. Is in writing and signed by the person consenting to the adoption as
44 required in this chapter.

45 3. Is acknowledged by the person consenting and signing the consent
46 to adoption in the manner and form required for conveyances of real
47 property.

48 4. Contains, at the time of execution, the name of the person or persons
49 to whom consent to adopt the child is given.



1 5. Is attested by at least two competent, disinterested witnesses who
2 subscribe their names to the consent in the presence of the person
3 consenting. If neither the petitioner ~~for~~ nor the spouse of a petitioner is
4 related to the child within the third degree of consanguinity, then one of the
5 witnesses must be a social worker employed by:

- 6 (a) ~~The division;~~ *An agency which provides child welfare services;*
7 (b) An agency licensed in this state to place children for adoption;
8 (c) A comparable state or county agency of another state; or
9 (d) An agency authorized under the laws of another state to place
10 children for adoption, if the natural parent resides in that state.

11 **Sec. 5.** NRS 127.057 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 127.057 1. Any person to whom a consent to adoption executed in
13 this state or executed outside this state for use in this state is delivered
14 shall, within 48 hours after receipt of the executed consent to adoption,
15 furnish a true copy ~~thereof to the division;~~ *of the consent*, together with a
16 report of the permanent address of the person in whose favor the consent
17 was executed ~~to the division;~~ *to the agency which provides child welfare services.*

18 2. Any person recommending in his professional or occupational
19 capacity, the placement of a child for adoption in this state shall
20 immediately notify the ~~division;~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
21 *services* of the impending adoption.

22 3. All information received by the ~~division;~~ *agency which provides*
23 *child welfare services* pursuant to the provisions of this section is
24 confidential and must be protected from disclosure in the same manner that
25 information is protected under NRS 432.035.

26 4. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is
27 guilty of a misdemeanor.

28 **Sec. 6.** NRS 127.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 127.120 1. A petition for adoption of a child must be filed in
30 duplicate with the county clerk. The county clerk shall send one copy of
31 the petition to the ~~division;~~ *agency which provides child welfare services.*

32 2. *The agency which provides child welfare services* shall make an
33 investigation and report as provided in this section. If one petitioner or the
34 spouse of a petitioner is related to the child within the third degree of
35 consanguinity, the court may, in its discretion, waive the investigation by
36 the ~~division;~~ *agency which provides child welfare services.* A copy of the
37 order waiving the investigation must be sent to the nearest office of the
38 ~~division;~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* by the petitioners
39 within 7 days after the order is issued.

40 ~~2. The division;~~

41 3. *The agency which provides child welfare services* or a licensed
42 child-placing agency ~~authorized;~~ *designated* to do so by the court shall:

- 43 (a) Verify the allegations of the petition;
44 (b) Investigate the condition of the child, including, without limitation,
45 whether the child is an Indian child; and
46 (c) Make proper inquiry to determine whether the proposed adopting
47 parents are suitable for the child.

48 ~~3. The division;~~



1 **4. The agency which provides child welfare services** or the designated
2 **child-placing** agency shall, before the date on which the child has lived for
3 a period of 6 months in the home of the petitioners or within 30 days after
4 receiving the copy of the petition for adoption, whichever is later, submit to
5 the court a full written report of its findings pursuant to subsection ~~2.~~ **3,**
6 which must contain, without limitation, a specific recommendation for or
7 against approval of the petition and a statement of whether the child is
8 known to be an Indian child, and shall furnish to the court any other
9 information regarding the child or proposed home which the court requires.
10 The court, on good cause shown, may extend the time, designating a time
11 certain, within which to submit the report.

12 ~~4.~~ **5.** If the court is dissatisfied with the report submitted by the
13 ~~division~~ **agency which provides child welfare services or the designated**
14 **child-placing agency,** the court may order an independent investigation to
15 be conducted and a report submitted by an agency or person selected by the
16 court. The costs of the investigation and report may be assessed against the
17 petitioner or charged against the county in which the adoption proceeding
18 is pending.

19 **Sec. 7.** NRS 127.127 is hereby amended to read as follows:
20 127.127 The petitioners shall file with the court, within 15 days after
21 the petition is filed or 5 months after the child begins to live in their home,
22 whichever is later, an affidavit executed by them and their attorney setting
23 forth all fees, donations and expenses paid by them in furtherance of the
24 adoption. A copy of the affidavit must be sent to the ~~division~~ **agency**
25 **which provides child welfare services.** If one petitioner or the spouse of a
26 petitioner is related to the child within the third degree of consanguinity,
27 the court may waive the filing of the affidavit.

28 **Sec. 8.** NRS 127.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:
29 127.130 The report of either the ~~division~~ **agency which provides**
30 **child welfare services** or the licensed child-placing agency designated by
31 the court must not be made a matter of public record, but must be given in
32 writing and in confidence to the district judge before whom the matter is
33 pending. If the recommendation of the ~~division~~ **agency which provides**
34 **child welfare services** or the designated agency is adverse, the district
35 judge, before denying the petition, shall give the petitioner an opportunity
36 to rebut the findings and recommendation of the report of the ~~division~~
37 **agency which provides child welfare services** or the designated agency.

38 **Sec. 9.** NRS 127.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:
39 127.150 1. If the court finds that the best interests of the child
40 warrant the granting of the petition, an order or decree of adoption must be
41 made and filed, ordering that henceforth the child is the child of the
42 petitioners. When determining whether the best interests of the child
43 warrant the granting of a petition that is filed by a foster parent, the court
44 shall give strong consideration to the emotional bond between the child and
45 the foster parent. A copy of the order or decree must be sent to the nearest
46 office of the ~~division~~ **agency which provides child welfare services** by
47 the petitioners within 7 days after the order or decree is issued. In the
48 decree the court may change the name of the child, if desired. No order or



1 decree of adoption may be made until after the child has lived for 6 months
2 in the home of the petitioners.

3 2. If the court is not satisfied that the proposed adoption is in the best
4 interests of the child, the court shall deny the petition and may order the
5 child returned to the custody of the person or agency legally vested with
6 custody.

7 3. After a petition for adoption has been granted, there is a
8 presumption that remaining in the home of the adopting parent is in the
9 child's best interest.

10 **Sec. 10.** NRS 127.152 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 127.152 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the
12 ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or a licensed
13 child-placing agency shall provide the adopting parents of a child with a
14 report which includes:

15 (a) A copy of any medical records of the child which are in the
16 possession of the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services*
17 or licensed child-placing agency; and

18 (b) Any information obtained by the ~~division~~ *agency which provides*
19 *child welfare services* or licensed child-placing agency during interviews
20 of the natural parent regarding:

21 (1) The medical and sociological history of the child and the natural
22 parents of the child; and

23 (2) Any behavioral, emotional or psychological problems that the
24 child may have. Information regarding any behavioral, emotional or
25 psychological problems that the child may have must be discussed in
26 accordance with policies *established by an agency which provides child*
27 *welfare services and a child-placing agency pursuant to regulations*
28 adopted by the division for the disclosure of such information.

29 2. The report created pursuant to subsection 1 must exclude any
30 information that would lead to the identification of the natural parent.

31 **Sec. 11.** NRS 127.157 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 127.157 1. After an order or decree of adoption has been entered, the
33 court shall direct the petitioner or his attorney to prepare a report of
34 adoption on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar of vital
35 statistics. The report must:

36 (a) Identify the original certificate of birth of the person adopted;

37 (b) Provide sufficient information to prepare a new certificate of birth
38 for the person adopted;

39 (c) Identify the order or decree of adoption; and

40 (d) Be certified by the clerk of the court.

41 2. The ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* shall
42 provide the petitioner or his attorney with any factual information which
43 will assist in the preparation of the report required in subsection 1.

44 3. If an order or decree of adoption is amended or annulled, the
45 petitioner or his attorney shall prepare a report to the state registrar of vital
46 statistics, which includes sufficient information to identify the original
47 order or decree of adoption and the provisions of that decree which were
48 amended or annulled.



1 4. The petitioner or his attorney shall forward all reports required by
2 the provisions of this section to the state registrar of vital statistics not later
3 than the 10th day of the month next following the month in which the order
4 or decree was entered, or more frequently if requested by the state registrar,
5 together with any related material the state registrar may require.

6 **Sec. 12.** NRS 127.186 is hereby amended to read as follows:
7 127.186 1. The ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
8 *services* or a child-placing agency licensed by the division pursuant to this
9 chapter ~~{}~~ may consent to the adoption of a child under 18 years of age
10 with special needs due to race, age or physical or mental problems who is
11 in the custody of the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
12 *services* or the licensed agency by proposed adoptive parents when, in the
13 judgment of the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or
14 the ~~{licensed}~~ *child placing* agency, it would be in the best interests of the
15 child to be placed in that adoptive home.

16 2. The ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or
17 child-placing agency shall determine whether a child has special needs and
18 notify the proposed adoptive parents of a child who is determined to have
19 special needs:

20 (a) That they may be eligible for a grant of financial assistance pursuant
21 to this section if the petition for adoption is granted; and
22 (b) The manner in which to apply for such financial assistance.

23 3. The ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* may
24 grant financial assistance for attorney's fees and court costs in the adoption
25 proceeding, for maintenance and for preexisting physical or mental
26 conditions to the adoptive parents out of money provided for that purpose
27 if the ~~{administrator of the division}~~ *head of the agency which provides*
28 *child welfare services or his designee* has reviewed and approved in
29 writing the proposed adoption and grant of assistance.

30 4. The grant of financial assistance must be limited, both as to amount
31 and duration, by agreement in writing between the ~~{division}~~ *agency which*
32 *provides child welfare services* and the adoptive parents. The agreement
33 does not become effective until the entry of the order of adoption.

34 5. Any grant of financial assistance must be reviewed and evaluated at
35 least once annually by the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
36 *services*. The evaluation must be presented for approval to the
37 ~~{administrator of the division}~~ *head of the agency which provides child*
38 *welfare services or his designee*. Financial assistance must be discontinued
39 immediately upon written notification to the adoptive parents by the
40 ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* that continued
41 assistance is denied.

42 6. All financial assistance provided under this section ceases
43 immediately when the child attains majority, becomes self-supporting, is
44 emancipated or dies, whichever occurs first.

45 7. Neither a grant of financial assistance pursuant to this section nor
46 any discontinuance of such assistance affects the legal status or respective
47 obligations of any party to the adoption.



1 8. *The division, in consultation with each agency which provides*
2 *child welfare services, shall adopt regulations regarding eligibility for*
3 *and the procedures for applying for a grant of financial assistance*
4 *pursuant to this section.*

5 Sec. 13. NRS 127.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 127.220 As used in NRS 127.220 to 127.310, inclusive, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 1. *“Agency which provides child welfare services” has the meaning*
9 *ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.*

10 2. “Arrange the placement of a child” means to make preparations for
11 or bring about any agreement or understanding concerning the adoption of
12 a child.

13 ~~12.1~~ 3. “Child-placing agency” means ~~the division or~~ a nonprofit
14 corporation organized pursuant to chapter 82 of NRS, and licensed by the
15 division to place children for adoption or permanent free care.

16 ~~13.1~~ 4. “Person” includes a hospital.

17 ~~14.1~~ 5. “Recommend the placement of a child” means to suggest to a
18 ~~licensed~~ child-placing agency that a prospective adoptive parent be
19 allowed to adopt a specific child, born or in utero.

20 Sec. 14. NRS 127.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 127.230 1. The division shall:

22 (a) Establish reasonable minimum standards for child-placing agencies.

23 (b) ~~Adopt regulations~~ *In consultation with each agency which*
24 *provides child welfare services, adopt:*

25 (1) *Regulations* concerning the operation of *an agency which*
26 *provides child welfare services and* child-placing agencies.

27 ~~(c) Adopt regulations~~

28 (2) *Regulations* establishing the procedure to be used *by an agency*
29 *which provides child welfare services and a child-placing agency* in
30 placing children for adoption, which must allow the natural parent or
31 parents and the prospective adoptive parent or parents to determine, by
32 mutual consent, the amount of identifying information that will be
33 communicated concerning each of them.

34 ~~(d) Adopt any~~

35 (3) *Any* other regulations necessary to carry out its powers and duties
36 regarding the adoption of children or the placement of children for
37 adoption or permanent free care ~~;~~

38 ~~2. All licensed child placing agencies~~ *, including, without limitation,*
39 *such regulations necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of*
40 *this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.*

41 2. *Each agency which provides child welfare services and child-*
42 *placing agency* shall conform to the standards established and the
43 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 1.

44 Sec. 15. NRS 127.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

45 127.240 1. ~~No~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this section, no*
46 person may place, arrange the placement of, or assist in placing or in
47 arranging the placement of, any child for adoption or permanent free care
48 without securing and having in full force a license to operate a child-
49 placing agency issued by the division. This subsection applies to agents,



1 servants, physicians and attorneys of parents or guardians, as well as to
2 other persons.

3 2. This section does not prohibit a parent or guardian from placing,
4 arranging the placement of, or assisting in placing or in arranging the
5 placement of, any child for adoption or permanent free care if the
6 placement is made pursuant to the provisions of NRS 127.280, 127.2805
7 and 127.2815.

8 3. This section does not prohibit ~~{the division}~~ *an agency which*
9 *provides child welfare services* from placing, arranging the placement of,
10 or assisting in placing or in arranging the placement of, any child for
11 adoption or permanent free care.

12 4. This section does not prohibit a person, including a person acting in
13 his professional capacity, from sharing information regarding an adoption
14 if no money or other valuable consideration is paid:

15 (a) For such information; or

16 (b) For any other service related to the adoption that is performed after
17 sharing information.

18 **Sec. 16.** NRS 127.275 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 127.275 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section ~~{}~~:

20 (a) *In a county whose population is less than 100,000* the division
21 shall, in accordance with NRS 232.464 ~~{}~~; and

22 (b) *In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the board of*
23 *county commissioners of the county shall, by ordinance,*
24 charge reasonable fees for the services ~~{}~~ *provided by an agency which*
25 *provides child welfare services* in placing, arranging the placement of or
26 assisting in placing or arranging the placement of any child for adoption,
27 and for conducting any investigation required by NRS 127.2805.

28 2. The fees charged for those services must vary based on criteria
29 developed by the division ~~{}~~ *and board of county commissioners* but must
30 not exceed the usual and customary fees that ~~{licensed}~~ child-placing
31 agencies in the area where the services are provided, or in a similar
32 geographic area, would charge for those services. The division *and board*
33 *of county commissioners* shall not discriminate between adoptions made
34 through an agency and specific adoptions in setting its fees.

35 3. A fee must not be charged for services related to the adoption of a
36 child with special needs.

37 4. ~~{The division}~~ *An agency which provides child welfare services*
38 may waive or reduce any fee charged pursuant to this section if ~~{the}~~ *the*
39 *agency which provides child welfare services* determines that the adoptive
40 parents are not able to pay the fee or the needs of the child require a waiver
41 or reduction of the fee.

42 5. Any money collected *by an agency which provides child welfare*
43 *services in a county whose population is less than 100,000* pursuant to
44 this section must be accounted for in the appropriate account of the
45 division and may be used only to pay for the costs of any adoptive or post-
46 adoptive services provided by ~~{the division}~~ *any agency which provides*
47 *child welfare services in a county whose population is less than 100,000.*

48 6. *Any money collected by an agency which provides child welfare*
49 *services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more pursuant to this*



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1 *section must be deposited in the county treasury for the credit of the*
2 *agency which provides child welfare services and may be used only to pay*
3 *for the costs of any adoption or post-adoptive services provided by the*
4 *agency which provides child welfare services.*

5 **Sec. 17.** NRS 127.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 127.280 1. A child may not be placed in the home of prospective
7 adoptive parents for the 30-day residence in that home which is required
8 before the filing of a petition for adoption, except where a child and one of
9 the prospective adoptive parents are related within the third degree of
10 consanguinity, unless:

11 (a) The ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or a
12 ~~{licensed}~~ child-placing agency first receives written notice of the proposed
13 placement from:

14 (1) The prospective adoptive parents of the child;

15 (2) The person recommending the placement; or

16 (3) A natural parent;

17 (b) The investigation required by the provisions of NRS 127.2805 has
18 been completed; and

19 (c) In the case of a specific adoption, the natural parent placing the child
20 for adoption has had an opportunity to review the report on the
21 investigation of the home, if possible.

22 2. Upon receipt of written notice from any person other than the
23 natural parent, the ~~{division or licensed}~~ *agency which provides child*
24 *welfare services or* child-placing agency shall communicate with the
25 natural parent to confirm his intention to place the child for adoption with
26 the prospective adoptive parents identified in the written notice.

27 **Sec. 18.** NRS 127.2805 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 127.2805 1. The ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
29 *services* or a ~~{licensed}~~ child-placing agency shall, within 60 days after
30 receipt of confirmation of the natural parents' intent to place the child for
31 adoption and a completed application for adoption from the prospective
32 adoptive parents, complete an investigation of the medical, mental,
33 financial and moral backgrounds of the prospective adoptive parents to
34 determine the suitability of the home for placement of the child for
35 adoption. The investigation must also embrace any other relevant factor
36 relating to the qualifications of the prospective adoptive parents and may
37 be a substitute for the investigation required to be conducted by the
38 ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* on behalf of the
39 court when a petition for adoption is pending, if the petition for adoption is
40 filed within 6 months after the completion of the investigation required by
41 this subsection. If a ~~{licensed}~~ child-placing agency undertakes the
42 investigation, it shall provide progress reports to the ~~{division}~~ *agency*
43 *which provides child welfare services* in such a format and at such times as
44 the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* requires to
45 ensure that the investigation will be completed within the 60-day period. If,
46 at any time, the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services*
47 determines that it is unlikely that the investigation will be completed in a
48 timely manner, the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare*



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1 *services* shall take over the investigation and complete it within the 60-day
2 period or as soon thereafter as practicable.

3 2. If the placement is to be made in a home outside of this state, the
4 ~~{division or licensed}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services or*
5 child-placing agency must receive a copy of a report, completed by the
6 appropriate authority, of an investigation of the home and the medical,
7 mental, financial and moral backgrounds of the prospective adoptive
8 parents to determine the suitability of the home for placement of the child
9 for adoption, unless the child and one of the prospective adoptive parents
10 are related within the third degree of consanguinity.

11 **Sec. 19.** NRS 127.281 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 127.281 1. A prospective adoptive parent who is subject to an
13 investigation by the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
14 *services* or a child-placing agency must submit as part of the investigation
15 a complete set of his fingerprints and written permission authorizing the
16 ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or child-placing
17 agency to forward those fingerprints to the central repository for Nevada
18 records of criminal history for submission to the Federal Bureau of
19 Investigation.

20 2. The ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or
21 child-placing agency may exchange with the central repository or the
22 Federal Bureau of Investigation any information respecting the fingerprints
23 submitted.

24 3. When a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is received
25 by the central repository, it shall immediately forward a copy of the report
26 to the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* or child-
27 placing agency that submitted the fingerprints.

28 4. Any fees for fingerprinting and submission to the central repository
29 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation must be paid by the prospective
30 adoptive parent, except that :

31 *(a) In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the division*
32 *may adopt regulations providing for the payment of those fees by the*
33 *division ~~{}~~ ; or*

34 *(b) In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the board of*
35 *county commissioners may provide by ordinance for the payment of*
36 *those fees by the agency which provides child welfare services.*

37 **Sec. 20.** NRS 127.2815 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 127.2815 1. Pending completion of the required investigation, the
39 child must be:

40 (a) Retained by the natural parent; or

41 (b) Placed by the natural parent with the ~~{division or licensed}~~ *agency*
42 *which provides child welfare services or* child-placing agency and placed
43 by ~~{it}~~ *the agency which provides child welfare services* in a foster home
44 licensed ~~{by the division,}~~ *pursuant to NRS 424.030,*

45 until a determination is made concerning the suitability of the prospective
46 adoptive parents.

47 2. Upon completion of the investigation, the ~~{division or licensed}~~
48 *agency which provides child welfare services or* child-placing agency
49 shall forthwith inform the natural parent, the person recommending the



1 placement and the prospective adoptive parents of the decision to approve
2 or deny the placement. If the prospective adoptive home is found:

3 (a) Suitable, the natural parent may execute a consent to a specific
4 adoption pursuant to NRS 127.053, if not previously executed, and then the
5 child may be placed in the home of the prospective adoptive parents for the
6 purposes of adoption.

7 (b) Unsuitable or detrimental to the interest of the child, the ~~division or~~
8 ~~licensed~~ *agency which provides child welfare services or* child-placing
9 agency shall file an application in the district court for an order prohibiting
10 the placement. If the court determines that the placement should be
11 prohibited, the court may nullify the written consent to the specific
12 adoption and order the return of the child to the care and control of the
13 parent who executed the consent, but if the parental rights of the parent
14 have been terminated by a relinquishment or a final order of a court of
15 competent jurisdiction or if the parent does not wish to accept the child,
16 then the court may order the placement of the child with the ~~division~~
17 *agency which provides child welfare services* or a ~~licensed~~ child-placing
18 agency for adoption.

19 **Sec. 21.** NRS 127.2817 is hereby amended to read as follows:
20 127.2817 The division *, in consultation with each agency which*
21 *provides child welfare services*, shall:

22 1. Adopt regulations setting forth the criteria to be used by ~~the~~
23 ~~division~~ *an agency which provides child welfare services* or a ~~licensed~~
24 child-placing agency for determining whether a prospective adoptive home
25 is suitable or unsuitable for the placement of a child for adoption; and

26 2. If a determination is made pursuant to an investigation required by
27 NRS 127.120 or 127.2805 that a prospective adoptive home is unsuitable
28 for placement or detrimental to the interest of the child, *adopt by*
29 *regulation a procedure to* provide the prospective adoptive parent or
30 parents with an opportunity to review and respond to the investigation with
31 the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* before the
32 issuance of the results of the investigation. The identity of those persons
33 who are interviewed or submit information concerning the investigation
34 must remain confidential.

35 **Sec. 22.** NRS 127.282 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 127.282 1. Whenever the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child*
37 *welfare services* believes that anyone has violated or is about to violate any
38 of the provisions of this chapter, in addition to any other penalty or remedy
39 provided:

40 (a) The ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* may
41 petition the appropriate district court for an order to restrain and enjoin the
42 violation or threatened violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, or
43 to compel compliance with the provisions of this chapter; and

44 (b) The court shall, if a child has been or was about to be placed in a
45 prospective adoptive home in violation of the provisions of this chapter:

46 (1) Prohibit the placement if the child was about to be so placed, or
47 order the removal of the child if the child was so placed within 6 months
48 before the filing of the ~~division's petition,~~ *petition by the agency which*



1 *provides child welfare services* and proceed pursuant to paragraph (b) of
2 subsection 2 of NRS 127.2815; or

3 (2) Proceed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS
4 127.2815 in all other cases if the court determines that it is in the best
5 interest of the child that the child should be removed.

6 2. Whenever the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
7 *services* believes that a person has received for the purposes of adoption or
8 permanent free care a child not related by blood, and the required written
9 notice has not been given, if the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child*
10 *welfare services* does not proceed pursuant to subsection 1, it shall make
11 an investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, if the home is
12 found suitable for the child, the prospective adoptive parents must be
13 allowed 6 months from the date of completion of the investigation to file a
14 petition for adoption. If a petition for adoption is not filed within that time
15 a license as a foster home must thereafter be issued ~~by the division~~
16 *pursuant to NRS 424.030* if the home meets established standards. If, in
17 the opinion of the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
18 *services*, the placement is detrimental to the interest of the child, the
19 ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* shall file an
20 application with the district court for an order for the removal of the child
21 from the home. If the court determines that the child should be removed,
22 the court shall proceed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS
23 127.2815.

24 **Sec. 23.** NRS 127.283 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 127.283 1. ~~The division~~ *An agency which provides child welfare*
26 *services* or any child-placing agency ~~licensed pursuant to this chapter~~
27 may publish in any newspaper published in this state or broadcast by
28 television a photograph of and relevant personal information concerning
29 any child who is difficult to place for adoption.

30 2. A child-placing agency shall not publish or broadcast:

31 (a) Any personal information which reveals the identity of the child or
32 his parents; or

33 (b) A photograph or personal information for a child without the prior
34 approval of the agency having actual custody of the child.

35 **Sec. 24.** NRS 127.285 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 127.285 1. Any attorney licensed to practice in this state or in any
37 other state:

38 (a) May not receive compensation for:

39 (1) Taking part in finding children for adoption; or

40 (2) Finding parents to adopt children.

41 (b) May receive a reasonable compensation for legal services provided
42 in relation to adoption proceedings.

43 2. ~~The division~~ *An agency which provides child welfare services*
44 shall report any violation of subsection 1 to the State Bar of Nevada if the
45 alleged violator is licensed to practice in this state, or to the bar association
46 of the state in which the alleged violator is licensed to practice.

47 3. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is guilty of a
48 misdemeanor.



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1 **Sec. 25.** NRS 127.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 127.310 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 127.240, 127.283
3 and 127.285, any person or organization other than ~~the division~~ *an*
4 *agency which provides child welfare services* who, without holding a valid
5 unrevoked license to place children for adoption issued by the division:

6 (a) Places, arranges the placement of, or assists in placing or in
7 arranging the placement of, any child for adoption or permanent free care;
8 or

9 (b) Advertises in any periodical or newspaper, or by radio or other
10 public medium, that he will place children for adoption, or accept, supply,
11 provide or obtain children for adoption, or causes any advertisement to be
12 published in or by any public medium soliciting, requesting or asking for
13 any child or children for adoption,
14 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

15 2. Any person who places, accepts placement of, or aids, abets or
16 counsels the placement of any child in violation of NRS 127.280, 127.2805
17 and 127.2815 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

18 3. A periodical, newspaper, radio station or other public medium is not
19 subject to any criminal penalty or civil liability for publishing or
20 broadcasting an advertisement that violates the provisions of this section.

21 **Sec. 26.** Chapter 128 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a
22 new section to read as follows:

23 *“Agency which provides child welfare services” has the meaning*
24 *ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.*

25 **Sec. 27.** NRS 128.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 128.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,
27 the words and terms defined in NRS 128.011 to 128.018, inclusive, *and*
28 *section 26 of this act*, have the meanings ascribed to them in those
29 sections.

30 **Sec. 28.** NRS 128.013 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 128.013 1. “Injury” to a child’s health or welfare occurs when the
32 parent, guardian or custodian:

33 (a) Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child, physical, mental or
34 emotional injury, including injuries sustained as a result of excessive
35 corporal punishment;

36 (b) Commits or allows to be committed against the child, sexual abuse
37 as defined in NRS 432B.100;

38 (c) Neglects or refuses to provide for the child proper or necessary
39 subsistence, education or medical or surgical care, although he is
40 financially able to do so or has been offered financial or other reasonable
41 means to do so; or

42 (d) Fails, by specific acts or omissions, to provide the child with
43 adequate care, supervision or guardianship under circumstances requiring
44 the intervention of:

45 (1) ~~The division of child and family services of the department of~~
46 ~~human resources;~~

47 ~~— (2) A county agency authorized by the juvenile court or family court~~
48 ~~to receive and investigate reports of abuse or neglect of a child pursuant to~~
49 ~~NRS 432B.300; or~~



1 ~~(3) An agency which provides child welfare services; or~~
2 (2) The juvenile or family court itself.

3 2. A child's health or welfare is not considered injured solely because
4 his parent or guardian, in the practice of his religious beliefs, selects and
5 depends upon nonmedical remedial treatment for the child, if such
6 treatment is recognized and permitted under the laws of this state.

7 **Sec. 29.** NRS 128.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 128.040 The ~~{administrator of the division of child and family services~~
9 ~~of the department of human resources, or his agent,}~~ *agency which*
10 *provides child welfare services*, the probation officer, or any other person,
11 including the mother of an unborn child, may file with the clerk of the
12 court a petition under the terms of this chapter. The probation officer of
13 that county or any agency or person designated by the court shall make
14 such investigations at any stage of the proceedings as the court may order
15 or direct.

16 **Sec. 30.** NRS 6.155 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 6.155 1. Each board of county commissioners may establish and
18 maintain a program whereby a person may forfeit any money that he is
19 entitled to receive pursuant to NRS 6.150 for his services and expenses and
20 have that money donated to an agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child*
21 *welfare* services and that is located in the county in which the person is
22 serving as a juror. Any money donated through a program established
23 pursuant to this section must be used only for a program or activity which
24 is designed to prevent the abuse or neglect of a child or to benefit an
25 abused or neglected child.

26 2. As used in this section:

27 (a) "Abuse or neglect of a child" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS
28 432B.020.

29 (b) "Agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare* services" has the
30 meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

31 **Sec. 31.** NRS 62.880 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 62.880 1. In carrying out the objects and purposes of this chapter, the
33 juvenile court may use the services and facilities of the ~~{division of child~~
34 ~~and family services of the department of human resources provided by~~
35 ~~such division pursuant to the provisions of chapter 432 of NRS and NRS~~
36 ~~432B.010 to 432B.400, inclusive.~~

37 ~~2. The division of child and family}~~ *agency which provides child*
38 *welfare services.*

39 2. *The agency which provides child welfare* services shall determine
40 the plans, placements and services to be provided any child pursuant to this
41 chapter, chapter 432 of NRS and NRS 432B.010 to 432B.400, inclusive.

42 3. *As used in this section, "agency which provides child welfare*
43 *services" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.*

44 **Sec. 32.** NRS 159.044 is hereby amended to read as follows:

45 159.044 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 127.045, a
46 proposed ward, a governmental agency, a nonprofit corporation or any
47 concerned person may petition the court for the appointment of a guardian.

48 2. The petition must state:

49 (a) The name and address of the petitioner.



- 1 (b) The name, age and address of the proposed ward. If he is a minor,
2 the petition must state the date on which he will attain the age of majority
3 and whether he will need guardianship after attaining the age of majority.
4 (c) Whether the proposed ward is a resident or nonresident of this state.
5 (d) The names and addresses, so far as they are known to the petitioner,
6 of the relatives of the proposed ward within the second degree.
7 (e) The name and address of the proposed guardian.
8 (f) That the proposed guardian has never been convicted of a felony.
9 (g) A summary of the reasons why a guardian is needed.
10 (h) Whether the appointment of a general or a special guardian is
11 sought.
12 (i) A general description and the probable value of the property of the
13 proposed ward and any income to which he is entitled, if the petition is for
14 the appointment of a guardian of the estate or a special guardian. If any
15 money is paid or is payable to the proposed ward by the United States
16 through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the petition must so state.
17 (j) The name and address of any person or institution having the care,
18 custody or control of the proposed ward.
19 (k) The relationship, if any, of the petitioner to the proposed ward and
20 the interest, if any, of the petitioner in the appointment.
21 (l) Requests for any of the specific powers set forth in NRS 159.117 to
22 159.175, inclusive, necessary to enable the guardian to carry out the duties
23 of the guardianship.
24 (m) Whether the guardianship is sought as the result of an investigation
25 of a report of abuse or neglect that is conducted pursuant to chapter 432B
26 of NRS by an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services.
27 As used in this paragraph, “agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child*
28 *welfare* services” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.
29 **Sec. 33.** NRS 179A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
30 179A.100 1. The following records of criminal history may be
31 disseminated by an agency of criminal justice without any restriction
32 pursuant to this chapter:
33 (a) Any which reflect records of conviction only; and
34 (b) Any which pertain to an incident for which a person is currently
35 within the system of criminal justice, including parole or probation.
36 2. Without any restriction pursuant to this chapter, a record of criminal
37 history or the absence of such a record may be:
38 (a) Disclosed among agencies which maintain a system for the mutual
39 exchange of criminal records.
40 (b) Furnished by one agency to another to administer the system of
41 criminal justice, including the furnishing of information by a police
42 department to a district attorney.
43 (c) Reported to the central repository.
44 3. An agency of criminal justice shall disseminate to a prospective
45 employer, upon request, records of criminal history concerning a
46 prospective employee or volunteer which:
47 (a) Reflect convictions only; or



1 (b) Pertain to an incident for which the prospective employee or
2 volunteer is currently within the system of criminal justice, including
3 parole or probation.

4 4. The central repository shall disseminate to a prospective or current
5 employer, upon request, information relating to sexual offenses concerning
6 an employee, prospective employee, volunteer or prospective volunteer
7 who gives his written consent to the release of that information.

8 5. Records of criminal history must be disseminated by an agency of
9 criminal justice upon request, to the following persons or governmental
10 entities:

11 (a) The person who is the subject of the record of criminal history for
12 the purposes of NRS 179A.150.

13 (b) The person who is the subject of the record of criminal history or his
14 attorney of record when the subject is a party in a judicial, administrative,
15 licensing, disciplinary or other proceeding to which the information is
16 relevant.

17 (c) The state gaming control board.

18 (d) The state board of nursing.

19 (e) The private investigator's licensing board to investigate an applicant
20 for a license.

21 (f) A public administrator to carry out his duties as prescribed in chapter
22 253 of NRS.

23 (g) A public guardian to investigate a ward or proposed ward or persons
24 who may have knowledge of assets belonging to a ward or proposed ward.

25 (h) Any agency of criminal justice of the United States or of another
26 state or the District of Columbia.

27 (i) Any public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the public utilities
28 commission of Nevada when the information is necessary to conduct a
29 security investigation of an employee or prospective employee, or to
30 protect the public health, safety or welfare.

31 (j) Persons and agencies authorized by statute, ordinance, executive
32 order, court rule, court decision or court order as construed by appropriate
33 state or local officers or agencies.

34 (k) Any person or governmental entity which has entered into a contract
35 to provide services to an agency of criminal justice relating to the
36 administration of criminal justice, if authorized by the contract, and if the
37 contract also specifies that the information will be used only for stated
38 purposes and that it will be otherwise confidential in accordance with state
39 and federal law and regulation.

40 (l) Any reporter for the electronic or printed media in his professional
41 capacity for communication to the public.

42 (m) Prospective employers if the person who is the subject of the
43 information has given written consent to the release of that information by
44 the agency which maintains it.

45 (n) For the express purpose of research, evaluative or statistical
46 programs pursuant to an agreement with an agency of criminal justice.

47 (o) ~~The division of child and family services of the department of~~
48 ~~human resources and any county agency that is operated pursuant to NRS~~
49 ~~432B.325 or authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to receive and~~



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1 ~~investigate reports of abuse or neglect of children and which provides or~~
2 ~~arranges for protective services for such children.] An agency which~~
3 ~~provides child welfare services, as defined in NRS 432B.030.~~

4 (p) The welfare division of the department of human resources or its
5 designated representative.

6 (q) An agency of this or any other state or the Federal Government that
7 is conducting activities pursuant to Part D of Title IV of the Social Security
8 Act, ~~(H)~~ 42 U.S.C. §§ 651 et seq. ~~D-I~~

9 (r) The state disaster identification team of the division of emergency
10 management of the department of motor vehicles and public safety.

11 6. Agencies of criminal justice in this state which receive information
12 from sources outside this state concerning transactions involving criminal
13 justice which occur outside Nevada shall treat the information as
14 confidentially as is required by the provisions of this chapter.

15 **Sec. 34.** NRS 200.359 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 200.359 1. A person having a limited right of custody to a child by
17 operation of law or pursuant to an order, judgment or decree of any court,
18 including a judgment or decree which grants another person rights to
19 custody or visitation of the child, or any parent having no right of custody
20 to the child, who:

21 (a) In violation of an order, judgment or decree of any court willfully
22 detains, conceals or removes the child from a parent, guardian or other
23 person having lawful custody or a right of visitation of the child; or

24 (b) In the case of an order, judgment or decree of any court that does not
25 specify when the right to physical custody or visitation is to be exercised,
26 removes the child from the jurisdiction of the court without the consent of
27 either the court or all persons who have the right to custody or
28 visitation,
29 is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS
30 193.130.

31 2. A parent who has joint legal custody of a child pursuant to NRS
32 125.465 shall not willfully conceal or remove the child from the custody of
33 the other parent with the specific intent to deprive the other parent of the
34 parent and child relationship. A person who violates this subsection shall
35 be punished as provided in subsection 1.

36 3. If the mother of a child has primary physical custody pursuant to
37 subsection 2 of NRS 126.031, the father of the child shall not willfully
38 conceal or remove the child from the physical custody of the mother. If the
39 father of a child has primary physical custody pursuant to subsection 2 of
40 NRS 126.031, the mother of the child shall not willfully conceal or remove
41 the child from the physical custody of the father. A person who violates
42 this subsection shall be punished as provided in subsection 1.

43 4. Before an arrest warrant may be issued for a violation of this
44 section, the court must find that:

45 (a) This is the home state of the child, as defined in subsection 5 of NRS
46 125A.040; and

47 (b) There is cause to believe that the entry of a court order in a civil
48 proceeding brought pursuant to chapter 125, 125A or 125C of NRS will



1 not be effective to enforce the rights of the parties and would not be in the
2 best interests of the child.

3 5. Upon conviction for a violation of this section, the court shall order
4 the defendant to pay restitution for any expenses incurred in locating or
5 recovering the child.

6 6. The prosecuting attorney may recommend to the judge that the
7 defendant be sentenced as for a misdemeanor and the judge may impose
8 such a sentence if he finds that:

9 (a) The defendant has no prior conviction for this offense and the child
10 has suffered no substantial harm as a result of the offense; or

11 (b) The interests of justice require that the defendant be punished as for
12 a misdemeanor.

13 7. A person who aids or abets any other person to violate this section
14 shall be punished as provided in subsection 1.

15 8. This section does not apply to a person who detains, conceals or
16 removes a child to protect the child from the imminent danger of abuse or
17 neglect or to protect himself from imminent physical harm, and reported
18 the detention, concealment or removal to a law enforcement agency or an
19 agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services within 24 hours
20 after detaining, concealing or removing the child, or as soon as the
21 circumstances allowed. As used in this subsection:

22 (a) “Abuse or neglect” has the meaning ascribed to it in paragraph (a) of
23 subsection 3 of NRS 200.508.

24 (b) “Agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services” has the
25 meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

26 **Sec. 35.** Chapter 218 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the
27 provisions set forth as sections 36 to 41, inclusive, of this act.

28 **Sec. 36.** *As used in sections 36 to 41, inclusive, of this act,*
29 *“committee” means the legislative committee on children, youth and*
30 *families.*

31 **Sec. 37. 1.** *There is hereby established a legislative committee on*
32 *children, youth and families consisting of:*

33 (a) *Four members appointed by the majority leader of the senate, at*
34 *least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party; and*

35 (b) *Four members appointed by the speaker of the assembly, at least*
36 *one of whom must be a member of the minority political party.*

37 2. *The members of the committee shall elect a chairman and vice*
38 *chairman from among their members. The chairman must be elected*
39 *from one house of the legislature and the vice chairman from the other*
40 *house. After the initial election of a chairman and vice chairman, each*
41 *of those officers holds office for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1*
42 *of each odd-numbered year. If a vacancy occurs in the chairmanship or*
43 *vice chairmanship, the members of the committee shall elect a*
44 *replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

45 3. *Any member of the committee who is not a candidate for*
46 *reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues to serve until the*
47 *convening of the next session of the legislature.*

48 4. *Vacancies on the committee must be filled in the same manner as*
49 *the original appointments.*



1 **Sec. 38.** 1. *The members of the committee shall meet throughout*
2 *each year at the times and places specified by a call of the chairman or a*
3 *majority of the committee.*

4 2. *The director of the legislative counsel bureau or his designee shall*
5 *act as the nonvoting recording secretary.*

6 3. *The committee shall prescribe regulations for its own management*
7 *and government.*

8 4. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, five voting members*
9 *of the committee constitute a quorum.*

10 5. *Any recommended legislation proposed by the committee must be*
11 *approved by a majority of the members of the senate and by a majority of*
12 *the members of the assembly appointed to the committee.*

13 6. *Except during a regular or special session of the legislature, the*
14 *members of the committee are entitled to receive the compensation*
15 *provided for a majority of the members of the legislature during the first*
16 *60 days of the preceding regular session, the per diem allowance*
17 *provided for state officers and employees generally and the travel*
18 *expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207 for each day or portion of a*
19 *day of attendance at a meeting of the committee and while engaged in the*
20 *business of the committee. The salaries and expenses paid pursuant to*
21 *this subsection and the expenses of the committee must be paid from the*
22 *legislative fund.*

23 **Sec. 39.** *The committee shall:*

24 1. *Evaluate, review and comment upon issues related to the provision*
25 *of child welfare services within this state, including, without limitation:*

26 (a) *Programs for the provision of child welfare services;*

27 (b) *Licensing and reimbursement of providers of foster care;*

28 (c) *Mental health services; and*

29 (d) *Compliance with federal requirements.*

30 2. *Monitor the activities of each mental health consortium*
31 *established pursuant to section 124 of this act.*

32 3. *Conduct investigations and hold hearings in connection with its*
33 *powers pursuant to this section.*

34 4. *Request that the legislative counsel bureau assist in the research,*
35 *investigations, hearings and reviews of the committee.*

36 5. *Make recommendations to the legislature concerning the manner*
37 *in which the provision of child welfare services within this state may be*
38 *improved.*

39 **Sec. 40.** 1. *In conducting the investigations and hearings of the*
40 *committee:*

41 (a) *Any member of the committee may administer oaths.*

42 (b) *The chairman of the committee may cause the deposition of*
43 *witnesses, residing either within or outside of the state, to be taken in the*
44 *manner prescribed by rule of court for taking depositions in civil actions*
45 *in the district courts.*

46 (c) *The chairman of the committee may issue subpoenas to compel the*
47 *attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers or*
48 *documents.*



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1 2. *If a witness refuses to attend or testify or produce books, papers or*
2 *documents as required by the subpoena, the chairman of the committee*
3 *may report to the district court by petition, setting forth:*

4 (a) *That due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance*
5 *of the witness or the production of the books, papers or documents;*

6 (b) *That the witness has been subpoenaed by the committee pursuant*
7 *to this section; and*

8 (c) *That the witness has failed or refused to attend or produce the*
9 *books, papers or documents required by the subpoena before the*
10 *committee that is named in the subpoena, or has refused to answer*
11 *questions propounded to him,*

12 *and asking for an order of the court compelling the witness to attend and*
13 *testify or produce the books, papers or documents before the committee.*

14 3. *Upon such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the*
15 *witness to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the*
16 *court in its order, the time to be not more than 10 days after the date of*
17 *the order, and to show cause why he has not attended or testified or*
18 *produced the books, papers or documents before the committee. A*
19 *certified copy of the order must be served upon the witness.*

20 4. *If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by*
21 *the committee, the court shall enter an order that the witness appear*
22 *before the committee at the time and place fixed in the order and testify*
23 *or produce the required books, papers or documents. Failure to obey the*
24 *order constitutes contempt of court.*

25 **Sec. 41.** *Each witness who appears before the committee by its*
26 *order, except a state officer or employee, is entitled to receive for his*
27 *attendance the fees and mileage provided for witnesses in civil cases in*
28 *the courts of record of this state. The fees and mileage must be audited*
29 *and paid upon the presentation of proper claims sworn to by the witness*
30 *and approved by the chairman of the committee.*

31 **Sec. 42.** NRS 232.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 232.400 1. The purposes of the division ~~of child and family services~~
33 ~~in the department~~ are to:

34 (a) Provide a comprehensive state system for the coordination and
35 provision of services to children and families who need assistance relating
36 to juvenile justice and the care, welfare and mental health of children.

37 (b) Aid in the preservation, rehabilitation and reunification of families.

38 (c) Ensure that children are placed in the least restrictive environment
39 available which is appropriate to their needs.

40 (d) ~~Provide~~ *Coordinate and provide* services for youth who are in
41 need of residential care or in need of treatment or both.

42 2. In accomplishing its purposes, the division shall:

43 (a) Establish and ~~operate a central, comprehensive state~~ *coordinate a*
44 system for:

45 (1) The diagnosis and assessment of the needs of particular children
46 and families, including those in need of multiple services;

47 (2) The referral of children and families to appropriate services; and

48 (3) The management and monitoring of cases in which children and
49 families are referred to multiple services.



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- 1 (b) ~~Provide~~ *Plan and coordinate the provision of* services for the
2 support of families to:
- 3 (1) Maintain the integrity of families;
- 4 (2) Ensure that children are not unnecessarily removed from their
5 homes; and
- 6 (3) Ensure that families are reunited as soon as practicable after the
7 removal of children from their homes.
- 8 (c) Ensure that a sufficient range of services is available to provide care
9 and treatment to children and families in the least restrictive setting
10 appropriate to their needs.
- 11 (d) Work closely with other governmental agencies and with public and
12 private agencies providing the same or similar services.
- 13 3. The division shall develop standards for carrying out programs
14 aimed toward the prevention of delinquent acts of children and programs
15 for the treatment of those brought to its attention. It shall assist in the
16 development of programs for the predelinquent children whose behavior
17 tends to lead them into contact with law enforcement agencies.
- 18 4. The division shall develop and assist in carrying out programs for
19 the diversion of juveniles out of the judicial system and programs for the
20 aftercare of juveniles who have been released from state institutions, who
21 have been brought before the juvenile court or family court or have
22 otherwise come into contact with law enforcement agencies. The
23 administrator of the division shall observe and evaluate the success of
24 those programs.
- 25 **Sec. 43.** NRS 392.126 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 26 392.126 1. There is hereby created in each county at least one
27 advisory board to review school attendance. The membership of each such
28 board may consist of:
- 29 (a) One probation officer in the county who works on cases relating to
30 juveniles, appointed by the judge or judges of the juvenile court of the
31 county;
- 32 (b) One representative of a law enforcement agency in the county who
33 works on cases relating to juveniles, appointed by the judge or judges of
34 the juvenile court of the county;
- 35 (c) One representative of the district attorney for the county, appointed
36 by the district attorney;
- 37 (d) One parent or legal guardian of a pupil who is enrolled in a public
38 school in the county, or his designee or alternate who is also a parent or
39 legal guardian, appointed by the president of the board of trustees of the
40 school district;
- 41 (e) One member of the board of trustees of the school district, appointed
42 by the president of the board of trustees;
- 43 (f) One school counselor or school teacher employed by the school
44 district, appointed by an organization or association that represents licensed
45 educational personnel in the school district;
- 46 (g) One deputy sheriff in the county, appointed by the sheriff of the
47 county; and
- 48 (h) One representative of the ~~local office of the division of child and~~
49 ~~family services of the department of human resources, appointed by the~~



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1 ~~executive head of that office.~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
2 *services, as defined in NRS 432B.030.*

3 2. The members of each such board shall elect a chairman from among
4 their membership.

5 3. Each member of such a board must be appointed for a term of 2
6 years. A vacancy in the membership of the board must be filled in the same
7 manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired
8 term.

9 4. Each member of such a board serves without compensation, except
10 that, for each day or portion of a day during which a member of the board
11 attends a meeting of the board or is otherwise engaged in the business of
12 the board, he is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel
13 expenses provided for state officers and employees generally. The board of
14 trustees of the school district shall pay the per diem allowance and travel
15 expenses from the general fund of the school district.

16 **Sec. 44.** NRS 392.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 392.165 1. The board of trustees of a school district and the
18 governing body of a charter school shall not allow a child to be
19 permanently enrolled in any school in the district or any charter school
20 until the parent or guardian of the child furnishes a birth certificate or other
21 document suitable as proof of the child's identity and, if applicable, a copy
22 of the child's records from the school he most recently attended.

23 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a child must be
24 enrolled in a school under his name as it appears in the identifying
25 document or records required by subsection 1, unless the parent or
26 guardian furnishes a court order or decree authorizing a change of name or
27 directing the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body
28 of a charter school to enroll the child under a name other than the name
29 which appears in the identifying document or records.

30 3. A child who is in the custody of the ~~division of child and family~~
31 ~~services of the department of human resources~~ *agency which provides*
32 *child welfare services, as defined in NRS 432B.030*, may be enrolled in a
33 school under a name other than the name which appears in the identifying
34 document or records required by subsection 1 if the court determines that
35 to do so would be in the best interests of the child.

36 4. If the parent or guardian fails to furnish the identifying document or
37 records required by subsection 1 within 30 days after the child is
38 conditionally enrolled, the principal, superintendent or governing body of a
39 charter school shall notify the local law enforcement agency and request a
40 determination as to whether the child has been reported as missing.

41 **Sec. 45.** NRS 392.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 392.210 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a parent,
43 guardian or other person who has control or charge of any child and to
44 whom notice has been given of the child's truancy as provided in NRS
45 392.130 and 392.140, and who fails to prevent the child's subsequent
46 truancy within that school year, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

47 2. A person who is licensed ~~by the division of child and family~~
48 ~~services of the department of human resources~~ pursuant to NRS 424.030
49 to conduct a family foster home or group foster home is liable pursuant to



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1 subsection 1 for a child in his foster care only if the person has received
2 notice of the truancy of the child as provided in NRS 392.130 and 392.140,
3 and negligently fails to prevent the subsequent truancy of the child within
4 that school year.

5 **Sec. 46.** NRS 394.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 394.145 1. A private elementary or secondary school in this state
7 shall not permanently admit any child until the parent or guardian of the
8 child furnishes a birth certificate or other document suitable as proof of the
9 child's identity and, if applicable, a copy of the child's records from the
10 school he most recently attended.

11 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a child must be
12 admitted to a school under his name as it appears in the identifying
13 document or records required by subsection 1, unless the parent or
14 guardian furnishes a court order or decree authorizing a change of name or
15 directing the principal or other person in charge of that school to admit the
16 child under a name other than the name which appears in the identifying
17 document or records.

18 3. A child who is in the custody of the ~~division of child and family~~
19 ~~services of the department of human resources~~ *agency which provides*
20 *child welfare services, as defined in NRS 432B.030*, may be admitted to a
21 school under a name other than the name which appears in the identifying
22 document or records required by subsection 1 if the court determines that
23 to do so would be in the best interests of the child.

24 4. If the parent or guardian fails to furnish the identifying document or
25 records required by subsection 1 within 30 days after the child is
26 conditionally admitted, the principal or other person in charge of the school
27 shall notify the local law enforcement agency and request a determination
28 as to whether the child has been reported as missing.

29 5. Any parent, guardian or other person who, with intent to deceive
30 under this section:

- 31 (a) Presents a false birth certificate or record of attendance at school; or
32 (b) Refuses to furnish a suitable identifying document, record of
33 attendance at school or proof of change of name, upon request by a local
34 law enforcement agency conducting an investigation in response to
35 notification pursuant to subsection 4,
36 of a child under 17 years of age who is under his control or charge, is
37 guilty of a misdemeanor.

38 **Sec. 47.** Chapter 424 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a
39 new section to read as follows:

40 **"Licensing authority" means:**

41 **1. In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the agency**
42 **which provides child welfare services, as defined in NRS 432B.030; and**

43 **2. In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the division.**

44 **Sec. 48.** NRS 424.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

45 424.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,
46 the words and terms defined in NRS 424.012 to 424.017, inclusive, *and*
47 *section 47 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.



1 **Sec. 49.** NRS 424.013 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 424.013 "Family foster home" means a family home in which one to
3 six children under ~~16~~ 18 years of age not related ~~by blood, adoption or~~
4 ~~marriage~~ *within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity* to the person
5 or persons maintaining the home are received, cared for and maintained,
6 for compensation or otherwise, including the provision of permanent free
7 care. The term includes a family home in which such a child is received,
8 cared for and maintained pending completion of proceedings for the
9 adoption of the child by the person or persons maintaining the home.

10 **Sec. 50.** NRS 424.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:
11 424.015 "Group foster home" means a natural person, partnership,
12 firm, corporation or association who provides full-time care for 7 to 15
13 children who are:

- 14 1. Under ~~16~~ 18 years of age;
- 15 2. Not related ~~by blood, adoption or marriage~~ *within the first degree*
16 *of consanguinity or affinity* to any natural person maintaining or operating
17 the home; and
- 18 3. Received, cared for and maintained for compensation or otherwise,
19 including the provision of permanent free care.

20 **Sec. 51.** NRS 424.017 is hereby amended to read as follows:
21 424.017 "Provider of family foster care" means a person who is
22 licensed ~~by the division~~ to conduct a family foster home pursuant to NRS
23 424.030.

24 **Sec. 52.** NRS 424.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:
25 424.020 1. *The division, in consultation with each licensing*
26 *authority in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, shall adopt*
27 *regulations to:*

- 28 (a) *Establish procedures and requirements for the licensure of family*
29 *foster homes and group foster homes; and*
- 30 (b) *Monitor such licensure.*

31 2. The division, in cooperation with the state board of health and the
32 state fire marshal, shall:

- 33 (a) Establish reasonable minimum standards for family foster homes
34 and group foster homes.
- 35 (b) Prescribe rules for the regulation of family foster homes and group
36 foster homes.

37 ~~2. All licensed~~
38 3. *All* family foster homes and group foster homes *licensed pursuant*
39 *to this chapter* must conform to the standards established and the rules
40 prescribed in subsection ~~1~~ 2.

41 **Sec. 53.** NRS 424.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
42 424.030 1. No person may conduct a family foster home or a group
43 foster home without receiving a license to do so from the ~~division.~~
44 ~~2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, no~~ *licensing*
45 *authority.*

46 2. *No* license may be issued to a family foster home or a group foster
47 home until a fair and impartial investigation of the home and its standards
48 of care has been made by the ~~division or a child placing agency licensed~~
49 ~~by the division~~ *licensing authority or its designee.*



1 3. Any family foster home or group foster home that conforms to the
2 established standards of care and prescribed rules must receive a regular
3 license from the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority*, which must be in force for
4 1 year after the date of issuance. On reconsideration of the standards
5 maintained, the license may be renewed annually.

6 ~~4. *When, because of an emergency situation, a child must be placed*~~
7 ~~*before completion of the licensing investigation, a family foster home or*~~
8 ~~*group foster home may be issued a provisional license for a period not to*~~
9 ~~*exceed 3 months, renewable for one additional period not to exceed 3*~~
10 ~~*months. A provisional license may be issued to a foster home only after*~~
11 ~~*determination that the health and safety of the child or children placed*~~
12 ~~*therein will not be jeopardized. If at any time during the period a*~~
13 ~~*provisional license is in effect, it is determined that the foster home does*~~
14 ~~*not meet minimum licensing standards, the provisional license must be*~~
15 ~~*revoked and any child or children placed in the foster home must be*~~
16 ~~*promptly removed by the placing agency. If, on or before the expiration*~~
17 ~~*date of the provisional license, it has been determined that the foster home*~~
18 ~~*meets minimum licensing standards, a regular license must be issued*~~
19 ~~*pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3, to be in force for 1 year after the*~~
20 ~~*date of issuance.*~~

21 ~~—5.—~~ *When* *If* a family foster home *or group foster home* does not meet
22 minimum licensing standards but offers values and advantages to a
23 particular child or children and will not jeopardize the health and safety of
24 the child or children placed therein, the family foster home *or group foster*
25 *home* may be issued a special license, which must be in force for 1 year
26 after the date of issuance and may be renewed annually. No foster children
27 other than those specified on the license may be cared for in the home.

28 ~~{6}~~ 5. The license must show:

29 (a) The name of the persons licensed to conduct the family foster home
30 or group foster home.

31 (b) The exact location of the family foster home or group foster home.

32 (c) The number of children that may be received and cared for at one
33 time.

34 (d) If the license is a special license issued pursuant to subsection ~~{5}~~ 4,
35 the name of the child or children for whom the family foster home *or*
36 *group foster home* is licensed to provide care.

37 ~~{7}~~ 6. No family foster home or group foster home may receive for
38 care more children than are specified in the license.

39 7. *In consultation with each licensing authority in a county whose*
40 *population is 100,000 or more, the division may adopt regulations*
41 *regarding the issuance of provisional and special licenses.*

42 **Sec. 54.** NRS 424.031 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 424.031 1. The ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or a person or entity*
44 *designated by the licensing authority* shall obtain from appropriate law
45 enforcement agencies information on the background and personal history
46 of each applicant for a license to conduct a foster home, prospective
47 employee of that applicant or of a person who is licensed to conduct a
48 foster home, and resident of a foster home who is 18 years of age or older,



1 to determine whether the person investigated has been arrested for or
2 convicted of any crime.

3 2. The ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or its approved designee* may
4 charge each person investigated pursuant to this section for the reasonable
5 cost of that investigation.

6 **Sec. 55.** NRS 424.033 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 424.033 1. Each applicant for a license to conduct a foster home,
8 prospective employee of that applicant or of a person who is licensed to
9 conduct a foster home, or resident of a foster home who is 18 years of age
10 or older ~~{shall}~~ *must* submit to the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or its*
11 *approved designee* a complete set of his fingerprints and written
12 permission authorizing the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or its approved*
13 *designee* to forward those fingerprints to the central repository for Nevada
14 records of criminal history for submission to the Federal Bureau of
15 Investigation for its report to enable the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or*
16 *its approved designee* to conduct an investigation pursuant to NRS
17 424.031.

18 2. The ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or its approved designee* may
19 exchange with the central repository or the Federal Bureau of Investigation
20 any information respecting the fingerprints submitted.

21 3. When a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is received
22 by the central repository, it shall immediately forward a copy of the report
23 to the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority or its approved designee*.

24 **Sec. 56.** NRS 424.036 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 424.036 Before issuing a license to conduct a family foster home
26 pursuant to NRS 424.030, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall discuss
27 with the applicant and, to the extent possible, ensure that the applicant
28 understands:

29 1. The role of a provider of family foster care, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing*
30 *authority* and the members of the immediate family of a child placed in a
31 family foster home; and

32 2. The personal skills which are required of a provider of family foster
33 care and the other residents of a family foster home to provide effective
34 foster care.

35 **Sec. 57.** NRS 424.037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 424.037 1. Before placing a child with a provider of family foster
37 care, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall inform the provider of the
38 plans, if any, which the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* has developed
39 relating to the provision of care required for that child. If the plan for the
40 child changes, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall inform the provider
41 of family foster care of the changes and the reasons for those changes.

42 2. The ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall consult with a provider of
43 family foster care concerning the care to be provided to a child placed with
44 the provider, including appropriate disciplinary actions that may be taken.

45 3. If issues concerning the health, safety or care of a child occur during
46 the placement of the child with a provider of family foster care, the
47 ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall:

48 (a) Consider the daily routine of the provider when determining how to
49 respond to those issues; and



1 (b) To the extent possible, respond to those issues in a manner which is
2 the least disruptive to that daily routine, unless that response would not be
3 in the best interest of the child.

4 **Sec. 58.** NRS 424.038 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 424.038 1. Before placing, and during the placement of, a child in a
6 family foster home, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall provide to the
7 provider of family foster care such information relating to the child as is
8 necessary to ensure the health and safety of the child and the other
9 residents of the family foster home. This information must include the
10 medical history and previous behavior of the child to the extent that such
11 information is available.

12 2. The provider of family foster care may at any time before, during or
13 after the placement of the child in his family foster home, request
14 information about the child from the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority*. After
15 the child has left the care of the provider, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority*
16 shall provide the information requested by the provider, unless the
17 information is otherwise declared to be confidential by law or the
18 ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* determines that providing the information is
19 not in the best interests of the child.

20 3. The provider of family foster care shall maintain the confidentiality
21 of information obtained pursuant to this section under the terms and
22 conditions otherwise required by law.

23 **Sec. 59.** NRS 424.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 424.040 ~~{The division, or its authorized agent,}~~ *A licensing authority*
25 *or its designee* shall visit every licensed family foster home and group
26 foster home as often as necessary to ensure that proper care is given to the
27 children.

28 **Sec. 60.** NRS 424.047 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 424.047 1. ~~{The division}~~ *A licensing authority* shall, upon request,
30 provide to a provider of family foster care access to all information, except
31 references, in the records maintained by the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority*
32 concerning that provider.

33 2. After reasonable notice and by appointment, a provider of family
34 foster care may inspect the information kept in those records.

35 **Sec. 61.** NRS 424.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 424.050 Whenever ~~{the division}~~ *a licensing authority* is advised or
37 has reason to believe that any person is conducting or maintaining a foster
38 home for children without a license, as required by this chapter, the
39 ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall have an investigation made. If the
40 person is conducting a foster home, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall
41 either issue a license or take action to prevent continued operation of the
42 foster home.

43 **Sec. 62.** NRS 424.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

44 424.060 If the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* at any time finds that a
45 child in a foster home is subject to undesirable influences or lacks proper
46 or wise care and management, the ~~{division}~~ *licensing authority* shall
47 notify any agency or institution that has placed the child in the home to
48 remove the child from the home. If the child is in a foster home where he
49 has been placed by his parents, relatives or other persons independently of



1 any agency, the ~~division~~ *licensing authority* shall take necessary action
2 to remove the child and arrange for his care.

3 **Sec. 63.** NRS 424.070 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 424.070 No person other than the parents or guardian of a child and no
5 agency or institution in this state or from outside this state may place any
6 child in the control or care of any person without sending notice of the
7 pending placement and receiving approval of the placement from the
8 division ~~+~~ *or its designee*. No such person, parent, guardian, agency or
9 institution may place a child for adoption except as *otherwise* provided in
10 chapter 127 of NRS.

11 **Sec. 64.** NRS 424.075 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 424.075 1. A provider of family foster care may:

13 (a) Refuse to accept the placement of a child in his family foster home;
14 or

15 (b) Request that a child placed in his family foster home be
16 removed,
17 unless the provider has a written agreement with the ~~division~~ *licensing*
18 *authority* to the contrary.

19 2. If a provider of family foster care refuses to accept the placement of
20 a child in, or requests the removal of a child from, his family foster home,
21 the ~~division~~ *licensing authority* may not, based solely on that refusal or
22 request:

23 (a) Revoke the license of the provider to conduct a family foster home;

24 (b) Remove any other child placed in the family foster home;

25 (c) Refuse to consider future placements of children in the family foster
26 home; or

27 (d) Refuse or deny any other rights of the provider as may be provided
28 by the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant
29 thereto.

30 **Sec. 65.** NRS 424.077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 424.077 1. The division shall ~~establish, by regulation,~~ *, in*
32 *consultation with each licensing authority in a county whose population*
33 *is 100,000 or more, adopt regulations for the establishment of* a program
34 pursuant to which a provider of family foster care may receive respite from
35 the stresses and responsibilities that result from the daily care of children
36 placed in his family foster home.

37 2. The ~~division shall provide~~ *licensing authority shall establish and*
38 *operate a program that complies with the regulations adopted pursuant*
39 *to subsection 1 to provide respite*, training and support to a provider of
40 family foster care in order to develop and enhance the skills of the provider
41 to provide foster care.

42 **Sec. 66.** NRS 424.079 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 424.079 Upon the request of a provider of family foster care, the
44 ~~division~~ *licensing authority* shall allow the provider to visit a child after
45 the child leaves the care of the provider if:

46 1. The child agrees to the visitation; and

47 2. The division licensing authority determines that the visitation is in
48 the best interest of the child.



1 **Sec. 67.** NRS 424.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 424.085 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, a person
3 who is licensed by the ~~division~~ *licensing authority* pursuant to NRS
4 424.030 to conduct a family foster home or group foster home is not liable
5 for any act of a child in his foster care unless the person licensed by the
6 ~~division~~ *licensing authority* took an affirmative action that contributed to
7 the act of the child.

8 2. The immunity from liability provided pursuant to this section
9 includes, without limitation, immunity from any fine, penalty, debt or other
10 liability incurred as a result of the act of the child.

11 **Sec. 68.** NRS 424.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 424.090 The provisions of this chapter do not apply to homes in
13 which:

14 1. Care is provided only for a neighbor's or friend's child on an
15 irregular or occasional basis for a brief period, not to exceed 90 days.

16 2. Care is provided by the legal guardian.

17 3. Care is provided for an exchange student.

18 4. Care is provided to enable a child to take advantage of educational
19 facilities that are not available in his home community.

20 5. Any child or children are received, cared for and maintained
21 pending completion of proceedings for adoption of such child or children,
22 except as otherwise provided in ~~NRS 127.2815~~ *regulations adopted by*
23 *the division*.

24 **Sec. 69.** Chapter 432 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a
25 new section to read as follows:

26 1. *The head of the agency which provides child welfare services in a*
27 *county whose population is 100,000 or more shall furnish to the county*
28 *comptroller and the administrator of the division a full, true and correct*
29 *list of claimants in the county who are entitled to payment for the care*
30 *and services provided for in NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, and of*
31 *the amount to be paid to each of them from the account created in the*
32 *county general fund pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 432.050, certified*
33 *to by him as being a full, true and correct list of such claimants in that*
34 *county and the amount to which each of them is entitled pursuant to*
35 *NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive. The list is subject to revision by the*
36 *head of the agency which provides child welfare services to make it*
37 *conform to such changes as may be made pursuant to the terms of NRS*
38 *432.010 to 432.085, inclusive.*

39 2. *The total amount of federal and state money to which each*
40 *claimant is entitled pursuant to the provisions of NRS 432.010 to*
41 *432.085, inclusive, must be paid in the manner provided in NRS 244.210.*

42 **Sec. 70.** NRS 432.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 432.010 As used in this chapter, except as otherwise defined by
44 specific statute or unless the context otherwise requires:

45 1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the division.

46 2. *"Agency which provides child welfare services" has the meaning*
47 *ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.*



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1 3. "Child" means a person less than 18 years of age, or if in school,
2 until graduation from high school.

3 ~~3-~~ 4. "Division" means the division of child and family services of
4 the department of human resources.

5 ~~4-~~ 5. "Maintenance" means general expenses for care such as board,
6 shelter, clothing, transportation and other necessary or incidental expenses,
7 or any of them, or monetary payments therefor.

8 ~~5-~~ 6. "Special services" means medical, hospital, psychiatric,
9 surgical or dental services, or any combination thereof.

10 **Sec. 71.** NRS 432.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 432.020 ~~{The division}~~ *An agency which provides child welfare*
12 *services* shall:

13 1. Provide, to the extent that support is not otherwise required by court
14 order or pursuant to specific statute, maintenance and special services to:

15 (a) Unmarried mothers and children awaiting adoptive placement.

16 (b) Children who are placed in the custody of the ~~{division}~~ *agency*
17 *which provides child welfare services*, and who are placed in foster homes,
18 homes of relatives other than parents or other facilities or institutions.
19 Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, if any child is to be
20 placed in the custody of the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child*
21 *welfare services*, pursuant to any order of a court or request made by a
22 person or agency other than the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child*
23 *welfare services*, this order or request may be issued or made only after an
24 opportunity for a hearing has been given to the ~~{division}~~ *agency which*
25 *provides child welfare services* after 3 days' notice, or upon request of the
26 ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services*.

27 2. Except as otherwise provided by court order or specific statute,
28 return a child to his natural home or home of a competent relative for a
29 probationary period any time after the expiration of 60 days after the
30 placement of the child in the custody of the ~~{division}~~ *agency which*
31 *provides child welfare services*, with notification to but without formal
32 application to a court, but the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides child*
33 *welfare services* retains the right to custody of the child during the
34 probationary period, until a court of competent jurisdiction determines
35 proper custody of the child.

36 ~~{3. Accept money from and cooperate with the United States or any of~~
37 ~~its agencies in carrying out the provisions of NRS 432.010 to 432.085,~~
38 ~~inclusive, and of any federal acts pertaining to public child welfare and~~
39 ~~youth services, insofar as authorized by the legislature.}~~

40 **Sec. 72.** NRS 432.027 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 432.027 As soon as practicable after ~~{the division}~~ *an agency which*
42 *provides child welfare services* receives an application by a person to
43 receive the placement of a child, the ~~{division}~~ *agency which provides*
44 *child welfare services* shall notify the person in writing as to whether the
45 person will be considered for approval as an adoptive parent or as a
46 provider of foster care.

47 **Sec. 73.** NRS 432.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:



1 432.030 No employee of ~~the division~~ *an agency which provides*
2 *child welfare services* may provide maintenance and special services for
3 any child except as otherwise provided by specific statute or:
4 1. Upon the request of a child whom the ~~division~~ *agency which*
5 *provides child welfare services* determines to be emancipated;
6 2. Pursuant to court order or request; or
7 3. Upon referral of appropriate law enforcement officials for
8 emergency care.
9 **Sec. 74.** NRS 432.0305 is hereby amended to read as follows:
10 432.0305 The department of human resources, through the division,
11 shall:
12 1. Observe and study the changing nature and extent of the need for
13 child welfare *services* and develop through tests and demonstrations
14 effective ways of meeting those needs.
15 2. Cooperate with the Federal Government in adopting state plans, in
16 all matters of mutual concern, including the adoption of methods of
17 administration found by the Federal Government to be necessary for the
18 efficient operation of programs for child welfare, and in increasing the
19 efficiency of those programs by prompt and judicious use of new federal
20 grants which will assist the division in carrying out the provisions of NRS
21 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive. *The department shall consider any request*
22 *for a change in the state plan submitted by an agency which provides*
23 *child welfare services.*
24 3. Enter into reciprocal agreements with other states relative to
25 services for child welfare and institutional care, when deemed necessary or
26 convenient by the administrator of the division.
27 4. *Enter into agreements with an agency which provides child*
28 *welfare services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more when*
29 *deemed necessary or convenient by the administrator of the division.*
30 5. *Accept money from and cooperate with the United States or any of*
31 *its agencies in carrying out the provisions of NRS 432.010 to 432.085,*
32 *inclusive, and of any federal acts pertaining to public child welfare and*
33 *youth services, insofar as authorized by the legislature.*
34 **Sec. 75.** NRS 432.032 is hereby amended to read as follows:
35 432.032 The division , *in consultation with each agency which*
36 *provides child welfare services,* shall adopt regulations for the
37 administration of NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, which are binding
38 upon all recipients and local units.
39 **Sec. 76.** NRS 432.033 is hereby amended to read as follows:
40 432.033 To secure accuracy, uniformity and completeness in statistics
41 and information, the division , *in consultation with each agency which*
42 *provides child welfare services,* may prescribe forms of reports and records
43 to be kept by *an agency which provides child welfare services and* all
44 persons subject to ~~its~~ supervision *by the division* or investigation pursuant
45 to NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive.
46 **Sec. 77.** NRS 432.035 is hereby amended to read as follows:
47 432.035 1. To safeguard and restrict the use or disclosure of any
48 information concerning applicants for and recipients of services for child
49 welfare to purposes directly connected to the administration of NRS



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1 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, by the division, pursuant to the applicable
2 provisions of the Social Security Act, the division shall , *in consultation*
3 *with each agency which provides child welfare services*, establish and
4 enforce reasonable regulations governing the custody, use and preservation
5 of the records, files and communications filed with the division ~~+~~ *and any*
6 *agency which provides child welfare services*.

7 2. Whenever, pursuant to the provisions of law or regulations of the
8 division, names and addresses of, or information concerning, applicants for
9 and recipients of services for child welfare are furnished to or held by *an*
10 *agency which provides child welfare services or* any other agency or
11 department of government, that agency or department shall comply with
12 the regulations of the division prohibiting the publication of information
13 and its use for purposes not directly connected with the administration of
14 NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, by the division.

15 3. Except for purposes directly connected with the administration of
16 NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, no person may publish, disclose, use
17 or permit or cause to be published, disclosed or used any confidential
18 information pertaining to a recipient of services under the provisions of
19 NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive.

20 **Sec. 78.** NRS 432.037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 432.037 1. The trust fund for child welfare is hereby created. All
22 benefits for survivors or other awards payable to children receiving *child*
23 *welfare* services pursuant to NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, *in a*
24 *county whose population is less than 100,000* must be deposited in the
25 state treasury for credit to the fund.

26 2. The division shall:

27 (a) Keep a separate account for each child who receives money.

28 (b) Deduct from the account any services to the child provided by
29 public money. Any surplus remaining may be expended for extraordinary
30 items deemed beneficial to the child.

31 (c) Remit any surplus balance to the parent or legal guardian of the
32 child, or to the child if he is emancipated or has reached the age of 18
33 years, when the division is no longer legally responsible for him.

34 3. The division shall pay interest to each child's separate account
35 maintained in the trust fund for child welfare at the end of each interest
36 period. Interest must be paid at a rate equal to the average of the interest
37 rates quoted by at least three banking institutions for interest-bearing
38 savings accounts of \$3,000 or less on the first day of each interest period.
39 Interest must be paid on the child's account commencing with the first
40 interest period that the division is legally responsible for the child. Interest
41 must not be paid for the interest period during which the child ceases to be
42 the legal responsibility of the division.

43 4. *All benefits for survivors or other awards payable to children*
44 *receiving child welfare services in a county whose population is 100,000*
45 *or more pursuant to NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, must be*
46 *deposited in the trust fund for child welfare established in the county*
47 *treasury. A disbursement from the benefits for survivors or other awards*
48 *of a child which is deposited in the fund may be made to the agency*



1 *which provides child welfare services for any child welfare services*
2 *provided to the child with public money.*

3 5. As used in this section, “interest period” means that period not less
4 frequent than quarterly, as determined by the state treasurer, for which
5 interest must be paid.

6 **Sec. 79.** NRS 432.038 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 432.038 1. Subject to the approval and regulations of the state board
8 of examiners, the division may maintain an account in a bank or credit
9 union for the purchase of birth certificates, death certificates and other
10 records of vital statistics necessary to perform eligibility and other case-
11 work functions of the division *in a county whose population is less than*
12 *100,000* pursuant to NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive.

13 2. *Subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners of*
14 *the county, an agency that provides child welfare services in a county*
15 *whose population is 100,000 or more may maintain an account in a bank*
16 *or credit union for the purchase of birth certificates, death certificates*
17 *and other records of vital statistics necessary to perform eligibility and*
18 *other case-work functions of the agency pursuant to NRS 432.010 to*
19 *432.085, inclusive.*

20 **Sec. 80.** NRS 432.039 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 432.039 1. When in the judgment of the court it is in the best
22 interests of a child in the lawful custody of ~~the division, the division~~ *an*
23 *agency which provides child welfare services, such an agency* may
24 petition for appointment as guardian of the person and estate of the child in
25 the manner provided by chapter 159 of NRS.

26 2. The clerk of the district court, county clerk, county recorder or other
27 county officer shall not require the payment of any fees or charges by the
28 ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* for appointment
29 as guardian pursuant to this section and the district court shall waive the
30 furnishing of a bond by the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child welfare*
31 *services* if it is appointed guardian.

32 3. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the ~~division~~ *agency*
33 *which provides child welfare services* shall comply with all applicable
34 provisions of chapter 159 of NRS.

35 **Sec. 81.** NRS 432.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 432.040 The ~~nonfederal share of all expenses for special services and~~
37 ~~maintenance provided to children and unmarried mothers pursuant to NRS~~
38 ~~432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, must be paid from money which may be~~
39 ~~provided to the division by direct legislative appropriation.~~ *division, in*
40 *consultation with each agency which provides child welfare services,*
41 *shall adopt regulations to distribute federal and nonfederal money for*
42 *the provision of child welfare services throughout this state. The*
43 *regulations must include a formula for the distribution of such money*
44 *that provides for:*

45 1. *Predictability regarding the allocation of such money between the*
46 *division and the agencies which provide child welfare services;*

47 2. *Shared fiscal responsibility for the costs of providing child welfare*
48 *services between the division and the agencies which provide child*
49 *welfare services; and*



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1 **3. Incentives for increasing the amount of such money that is**
2 **available to an agency which provides child welfare services.**

3 **Sec. 82.** NRS 432.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 432.050 All money appropriated by the legislature pursuant to the
5 provisions of NRS 432.040 must be accounted for in the state child welfare
6 services account, and all money received from the United States pursuant
7 to Parts B and E of Title IV of the Social Security Act, or for programs of
8 child welfare administered by the division pursuant to NRS 432.010 to
9 432.085, inclusive, must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to
10 the account, out of which must be paid the expenses incurred in providing
11 maintenance and special services under the provisions of NRS 432.010 to
12 432.085, inclusive ~~+~~ , **pursuant to the formula adopted by regulation**
13 **pursuant to section 88 of this act.**

14 **Sec. 83.** NRS 432.070 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 432.070 1. The administrator shall furnish to the state controller a
16 full, true and correct list of claimants in each county **whose population is**
17 **less than 100,000 who are** entitled to payment for the care and services
18 provided for in NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, and of the amount to
19 be paid to each of them from the state child welfare services account,
20 certified to by him as being a full, true and correct list of such claimants in
21 that county and the amount to which each of them is entitled ~~under~~
22 **pursuant to** NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive. The list is subject to
23 revision by the administrator to make it conform to such changes as may be
24 made pursuant to the terms of NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive.

25 2. Upon receiving the certified list the state controller shall promptly
26 draw his warrant upon the state child welfare services account payable to
27 each claimant in the amount to which he is entitled, and the state treasurer
28 shall pay the same. Every warrant must be for the total amount of federal
29 and state money to which each claimant is entitled ~~under~~ **pursuant to** the
30 provisions of NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive.

31 3. Immediately after the warrants have been drawn, the state controller
32 shall deliver or mail them to the division. Immediately thereafter the
33 division shall mail them to the individual recipients. The facilities of the
34 central mailing room must be used.

35 **Sec. 84.** NRS 432.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 432.080 All administrative expenses incurred by the division in
37 carrying out the provisions of NRS 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, must be
38 paid out of money which may be appropriated by the legislature from the
39 state general fund , **money received from an agency which provides child**
40 **welfare services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more** and out
41 of such other money as may be made available to the division for the
42 payment of administrative expenses. Disbursements must be made upon
43 claims filed, audited and allowed in the same manner as other money in the
44 state treasury is disbursed. All claims must be approved by the
45 administrator before they are paid.

46 **Sec. 85.** NRS 432.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

47 432.085 1. The parents of a child placed in the custody of ~~the~~
48 ~~division~~ **an agency which provides child welfare services** pursuant to the
49 provisions of NRS 62.880 or 432.010 to 432.085, inclusive, or chapter



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1 432B of NRS are liable to the ~~division~~ *agency which provides child*
2 *welfare services* for the cost of maintenance and special services provided
3 to the child.

4 2. The division shall ~~in accordance with NRS 232.464,~~ establish *by*
5 *regulation* reasonable schedules for the repayment of money owed by
6 parents pursuant to subsection 1.

7 3. ~~The division~~ *An agency which provides child welfare services*
8 may waive all or any part of the amount due pursuant to this section if it
9 determines that the parents of the child do not have the ability to pay the
10 amount.

11 4. If a parent refuses to pay ~~the division~~ *an agency which provides*
12 *child welfare services* for money owed under this section, the ~~division~~
13 *agency which provides child welfare services* may bring a civil action to
14 recover all money owed with interest thereon at the rate of 7 percent per
15 year commencing 30 days after an itemized statement of the amount owed
16 is submitted to the parents.

17 5. All money collected pursuant to this section must be deposited :

18 (a) *In a county whose population is less than 100,000*, with the state
19 treasurer for credit to the state child welfare services account.

20 (b) *In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, with the county*
21 *treasurer for credit to a fund or account established in the county*
22 *treasury.*

23 **Sec. 86.** NRS 432.095 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 432.095 1. There is hereby created the placement prevention
25 revolving account in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for the payment of
26 claims *in a county whose population is less than 100,000* of recipients of
27 goods or services from the division and vendors providing goods or
28 services to those recipients pursuant to procedures established by the
29 division.

30 2. Upon written request from the administrator, the state controller
31 shall draw his warrant from money already authorized for the use of the
32 division in the sum of \$25,000. When the warrant is paid, the administrator
33 shall deposit the money in a financial institution qualified to receive
34 deposits of public money. All money deposited in the placement
35 prevention revolving account pursuant to this section must be secured with
36 a depository bond that is satisfactory to the state board of examiners, unless
37 it is otherwise secured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the
38 National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or a private insurer approved
39 pursuant to NRS 678.755.

40 3. After an expenditure of money from the placement prevention
41 revolving account, the administrator shall present a claim to the state board
42 of examiners to maintain a balance of \$25,000. If the claim is approved by
43 the state board of examiners, the state controller shall draw his warrant
44 from money already authorized for the use of the division in the amount of
45 the claim in favor of the placement prevention revolving account, and the
46 state treasurer shall pay the warrant.

47 4. Money in the placement prevention revolving account *created*
48 *pursuant to subsection 1* does not revert to the state general fund at the end
49 of the fiscal year, and the balance in the account must be carried forward.



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1 5. Purchases made by the division pursuant to this section are exempt
2 from the State Purchasing Act.

3 6. *The board of county commissioners of a county whose population*
4 *is 100,000 or more may establish a fund or account in the county*
5 *treasury to be used for the payment of claims of recipients of goods or*
6 *services from the agency which provides child welfare services and*
7 *vendors providing goods or services to those recipients pursuant to*
8 *procedures established by the agency which provides child welfare*
9 *services.*

10 **Sec. 87.** Chapter 432B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a
11 new section to read as follows:

12 *"Child welfare services" includes, without limitation:*

13 1. *Protective services, including, without limitation, investigations of*
14 *abuse or neglect and assessments;*

15 2. *Foster care services, including, without limitation, maintenance*
16 *and special services, as defined in NRS 432.010; and*

17 3. *Services related to adoption.*

18 **Sec. 88.** NRS 432B.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 432B.030 "Agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
20 *services*" means:

21 1. ~~The~~ *In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the* local
22 office of the division of child and family services; or

23 2. ~~An~~ *In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the* agency
24 of ~~a county authorized by the court to receive and investigate reports of~~
25 ~~abuse or neglect,~~ *the county,*

26 which provides or arranges for necessary *child welfare* services.

27 **Sec. 89.** NRS 432B.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 432B.130 A person is responsible for a child's welfare under the
29 provisions of this chapter if he is the child's parent, guardian, ~~or foster~~
30 ~~parent,~~ a stepparent with whom the child lives, an adult person continually
31 or regularly found in the same household as the child, or a person directly
32 responsible or serving as a volunteer for or employed in a public or private
33 home, institution or facility where the child actually resides or is receiving
34 child care outside of his home for a portion of the day.

35 **Sec. 90.** NRS 432B.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 432B.160 1. Immunity from civil or criminal liability extends to
37 every person who in good faith:

38 (a) Makes a report pursuant to NRS 432B.220;

39 (b) Conducts an interview or allows an interview to be taken pursuant to
40 NRS 432B.270;

41 (c) Allows or takes photographs or X-rays pursuant to NRS 432B.270;

42 (d) Causes a medical test to be performed pursuant to NRS 432B.270;

43 (e) Provides a record, or a copy thereof, of a medical test performed
44 pursuant to NRS 432B.270 to an agency ~~that provides protective~~ *which*
45 *provides child welfare* services to the child, a law enforcement agency that
46 participated in the investigation of the report of abuse or neglect of the
47 child or the prosecuting attorney's office;

48 (f) Holds a child pursuant to NRS 432B.400 or places a child in
49 protective custody;



1 (g) Refers a case or recommends the filing of a petition pursuant to
2 NRS 432B.380; or

3 (h) Participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from a referral or
4 recommendation.

5 2. In any proceeding to impose liability against a person for:

6 (a) Making a report pursuant to NRS 432B.220; or

7 (b) Any of the acts set forth in paragraphs (b) to (h), inclusive, of
8 subsection 1,

9 there is a presumption that the person acted in good faith.

10 **Sec. 91.** NRS 432B.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 432B.170 Nothing in the provisions of NRS 432.100 to 432.130,
12 inclusive, or this chapter prohibits an agency which provides ~~protective~~
13 *child welfare* services from sharing information with other state or local
14 agencies if:

15 1. The purpose for sharing the information is for the development of a
16 plan for the care, treatment or supervision of a child who has been abused
17 or neglected or of a person responsible for the child's welfare;

18 2. The other agency has standards for confidentiality equivalent to
19 those of the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services; and

20 3. Proper safeguards are taken to ensure the confidentiality of the
21 information.

22 **Sec. 92.** NRS 432B.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 432B.180 The division of child and family services shall:

24 1. Administer any money granted to the state by the Federal
25 Government. ~~under 42 U.S.C. § 5103;~~

26 ~~— 2. Plan and coordinate all protective~~

27 *2. Plan, coordinate and monitor the delivery of child welfare* services
28 provided throughout the state. ~~;~~

29 3. Provide ~~directly or arrange for other persons or governmental~~
30 ~~organizations to provide protective services;~~ *child welfare services*
31 *directly or arrange for the provision of those services in a county whose*
32 *population is less than 100,000.*

33 4. Coordinate its activities with and assist the efforts of any law
34 enforcement agency, a court of competent jurisdiction, *an agency which*
35 *provides child welfare services* and any public or private organization
36 which provides social services for the prevention, identification and
37 treatment of abuse or neglect of children ~~;~~ *and for permanent placement*
38 *of children.*

39 5. Involve communities in the improvement of ~~protective service;~~
40 *child welfare services.*

41 6. Evaluate all ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services provided throughout
42 the state and withhold money from ~~for revoke the license of~~ any agency
43 providing ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services which is not complying with
44 the regulations adopted by the division of child and family services. ~~;~~ *and*

45 7. Evaluate the plans submitted for approval pursuant to NRS
46 432B.395.

47 *8. In consultation with each agency which provides child welfare*
48 *services, request sufficient money for the provision of child welfare*
49 *services throughout this state.*



1 **Sec. 93.** NRS 432B.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 432B.190 The division of child and family services shall , *in*
3 *consultation with each agency which provides child welfare services,*
4 adopt regulations establishing reasonable and uniform standards for:
5 1. ~~{Protective}~~ *Child welfare* services provided in this state;
6 2. Programs for the prevention of abuse or neglect of a *child and the*
7 *achievement of the permanent placement of a* child;
8 3. The development of local councils involving public and private
9 organizations;
10 4. Reports of abuse or neglect, records of these reports and the
11 response to these reports;
12 5. The management and assessment of reported cases of abuse or
13 neglect;
14 6. The protection of the legal rights of parents and children;
15 7. Emergency shelter for a child;
16 8. The prevention, identification and correction of abuse or neglect of
17 a child in residential institutions;
18 9. Evaluating the development and contents of a plan submitted for
19 approval pursuant to NRS 432B.395;
20 10. Developing and distributing to persons who are responsible for a
21 child's welfare a pamphlet that sets forth the procedures for taking a child
22 for placement in protective custody and the legal rights of persons who are
23 parties to a proceeding held pursuant to NRS 432B.410 to 432B.590,
24 inclusive, during all stages of the proceeding; and
25 11. Making the necessary inquiries required pursuant to NRS
26 432B.397 to determine whether a child is an Indian child.

27 **Sec. 94.** NRS 432B.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:
28 432B.200 The division of child and family services shall establish and
29 maintain a center with a toll-free telephone number to receive reports of
30 abuse or neglect of a child in this state 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Any
31 reports made to this center must be promptly transmitted to the agency
32 ~~{providing protective}~~ *which provides child welfare* services in the
33 community where the child is located.

34 **Sec. 95.** NRS 432B.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:
35 432B.210 An agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare*
36 services must receive from the state, any of its political subdivisions or any
37 agency of either, any cooperation, assistance and information it requests in
38 order to fulfill its responsibilities under NRS 432.100 to 432.130,
39 inclusive, and this chapter.

40 **Sec. 96.** NRS 432B.215 is hereby amended to read as follows:
41 432B.215 1. An agency which provides ~~{protective services and the~~
42 ~~division of child and family}~~ *child welfare* services may request the
43 division of parole and probation of the department of motor vehicles and
44 public safety for information concerning a probationer or parolee that may
45 assist the agency ~~{for the division of child and family services}~~ in carrying
46 out the provisions of this chapter. The division of parole and probation
47 shall provide such information upon request.

48 2. The agency which provides ~~{protective services or the division of~~
49 ~~child and family}~~ *child welfare* services may use the information obtained



1 pursuant to subsection 1 only for the limited purpose of carrying out the
2 provisions of this chapter.

3 **Sec. 97.** NRS 432B.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 432B.220 1. Any person who is described in subsection 3 and who,
5 in his professional or occupational capacity, knows or has reasonable cause
6 to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall:

7 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, report the abuse or
8 neglect of the child to an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
9 services or to a law enforcement agency; and

10 (b) Make such a report as soon as reasonably practicable but not later
11 than 24 hours after the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe
12 that the child has been abused or neglected.

13 2. If a person who is required to make a report pursuant to subsection 1
14 knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the abuse or neglect of the
15 child involves an act or omission of:

16 (a) A person directly responsible or serving as a volunteer for or an
17 employee of a public or private home, institution or facility where the child
18 is receiving child care outside of his home for a portion of the day, the
19 person shall make the report to a law enforcement agency.

20 (b) An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services or a
21 law enforcement agency, the person shall make the report to an agency
22 other than the one alleged to have committed the act or omission, and the
23 investigation of the abuse or neglect of the child must be made by an
24 agency other than the one alleged to have committed the act or omission.

25 3. A report must be made pursuant to subsection 1 by the following
26 persons:

27 (a) A physician, dentist, dental hygienist, chiropractor, optometrist,
28 podiatric physician, medical examiner, resident, intern, professional or
29 practical nurse, physician's assistant, psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage
30 and family therapist, alcohol or drug abuse counselor, advanced emergency
31 medical technician or other person providing medical services licensed or
32 certified in this state;

33 (b) Any personnel of a hospital or similar institution engaged in the
34 admission, examination, care or treatment of persons or an administrator,
35 manager or other person in charge of a hospital or similar institution upon
36 notification of suspected abuse or neglect of a child by a member of the
37 staff of the hospital;

38 (c) A coroner;

39 (d) A clergyman, practitioner of Christian Science or religious healer,
40 unless he has acquired the knowledge of the abuse or neglect from the
41 offender during a confession;

42 (e) A social worker and an administrator, teacher, librarian or counselor
43 of a school;

44 (f) Any person who maintains or is employed by a facility or
45 establishment that provides care for children, children's camp or other
46 public or private facility, institution or agency furnishing care to a child;

47 (g) Any person licensed to conduct a foster home;

48 (h) Any officer or employee of a law enforcement agency or an adult or
49 juvenile probation officer;



1 (i) An attorney, unless he has acquired the knowledge of the abuse or
2 neglect from a client who is or may be accused of the abuse or neglect; and

3 (j) Any person who maintains, is employed by or serves as a volunteer
4 for an agency or service which advises persons regarding abuse or neglect
5 of a child and refers them to persons and agencies where their requests and
6 needs can be met.

7 4. A report may be made by any other person.

8 5. If a person who is required to make a report pursuant to subsection 1
9 knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child has died as a result of
10 abuse or neglect, the person shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, report
11 this belief to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner, who shall
12 investigate the report and submit to an agency which provides ~~protective~~
13 *child welfare* services his written findings. The written findings must
14 include, if obtainable, the information required pursuant to the provisions
15 of subsection 2 of NRS 432B.230.

16 **Sec. 98.** NRS 432B.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 432B.230 1. A person may make a report pursuant to NRS 432B.220
18 by telephone or, in light of all the surrounding facts and circumstances
19 which are known or which reasonably should be known to the person at the
20 time, by any other means of oral, written or electronic communication that
21 a reasonable person would believe, under those facts and circumstances, is
22 a reliable and swift means of communicating information to the person
23 who receives the report. If the report is made orally, the person who
24 receives the report must reduce it to writing as soon as reasonably
25 practicable.

26 2. The report must contain the following information, if obtainable:

27 (a) The name, address, age and sex of the child;

28 (b) The name and address of the child's parents or other person
29 responsible for his care;

30 (c) The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child;

31 (d) Any evidence of previously known or suspected abuse or neglect of
32 the child or the child's siblings;

33 (e) The name, address and relationship, if known, of the person who is
34 alleged to have abused or neglected the child; and

35 (f) Any other information known to the person making the report that
36 the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services considers
37 necessary.

38 **Sec. 99.** NRS 432B.250 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 432B.250 Any person who is required to make a report pursuant to
40 NRS 432B.220 may not invoke any of the privileges set forth in chapter 49
41 of NRS:

42 1. For his failure to make a report pursuant to NRS 432B.220;

43 2. In cooperating with an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child*
44 *welfare* services or a guardian ad litem for a child; or

45 3. In any proceeding held pursuant to NRS 432B.410 to 432B.590,
46 inclusive.

47 **Sec. 100.** NRS 432B.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

48 432B.260 1. Upon receipt of a report concerning the possible abuse
49 or neglect of a child, an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*



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1 services or a law enforcement agency shall promptly notify the appropriate
2 licensing authority, if any, and, within 3 working days, initiate an
3 investigation. A law enforcement agency shall promptly notify an agency
4 which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services of any report it receives.

5 2. An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services and a
6 law enforcement agency shall cooperate in the investigation, if any, of a
7 report of abuse or neglect of a child.

8 3. If an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services or a
9 law enforcement agency determines pursuant to an investigation initiated
10 pursuant to this section that the:

11 (a) Alleged abuse or neglect was the result of the reasonable exercise of
12 discipline by a parent or guardian of the child involving the use of corporal
13 punishment, including, without limitation, spanking or paddling; and

14 (b) Corporal punishment so administered was not so excessive as to
15 constitute abuse or neglect as described in NRS 432B.150,
16 the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services or the law
17 enforcement agency shall take no further action in regard to the matter and
18 shall expunge all references to the matter from its records.

19 **Sec. 101.** NRS 432B.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 432B.270 1. A designee of an agency investigating a report of abuse
21 or neglect of a child may, without the consent of and outside the presence
22 of any person responsible for the child's welfare, interview a child
23 concerning any possible abuse or neglect. The child may be interviewed at
24 any place where he is found. The designee shall, immediately after the
25 conclusion of the interview, if reasonably possible, notify a person
26 responsible for the child's welfare that the child was interviewed, unless
27 the designee determines that such notification would endanger the child.

28 2. A designee of an agency investigating a report of abuse or neglect of
29 a child may, without the consent of the person responsible for a child's
30 welfare:

31 (a) Take or cause to be taken photographs of the child's body, including
32 the areas of trauma; and

33 (b) If indicated after consultation with a physician, cause X-rays or
34 medical tests to be performed on a child.

35 3. Upon the taking of any photographs or X-rays or the performance of
36 any medical tests pursuant to subsection 2, the person responsible for the
37 child's welfare must be notified immediately, if reasonably possible, unless
38 the designee determines that the notification would endanger the child. The
39 reasonable cost of these photographs, X-rays or medical tests must be paid
40 by the agency providing protective services if money is not otherwise
41 available.

42 4. Any photographs or X-rays taken or records of any medical tests
43 performed pursuant to subsection 2, or any medical records relating to the
44 examination or treatment of a child pursuant to this section, or copies
45 thereof, must be sent to the agency ~~providing protective~~ *which provides*
46 *child welfare* services, the law enforcement agency participating in the
47 investigation of the report and the prosecuting attorney's office. Each
48 photograph, X-ray, result of a medical test or other medical record:



- 1 (a) Must be accompanied by a statement or certificate signed by the
2 custodian of medical records of the health care facility where the
3 photograph or X-ray was taken or the treatment, examination or medical
4 test was performed, indicating:
5 (1) The name of the child;
6 (2) The name and address of the person who took the photograph or
7 X-ray, performed the medical test, or examined or treated the child; and
8 (3) The date on which the photograph or X-ray was taken or the
9 treatment, examination or medical test was performed;
10 (b) Is admissible in any proceeding relating to the abuse or neglect of
11 the child; and
12 (c) May be given to the child's parent or guardian if he pays the cost of
13 duplicating them.
14 5. As used in this section, "medical test" means any test performed by
15 or caused to be performed by a provider of health care, including, without
16 limitation, a computerized axial tomography scan and magnetic resonance
17 imaging.
18 **Sec. 102.** NRS 432B.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:
19 432B.290 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3,
20 data or information concerning reports and investigations thereof made
21 pursuant to this chapter may be made available only to:
22 (a) A physician, if the physician has before him a child who he has
23 reasonable cause to believe has been abused or neglected;
24 (b) A person authorized to place a child in protective custody, if the
25 person has before him a child who he has reasonable cause to believe has
26 been abused or neglected and the person requires the information to
27 determine whether to place the child in protective custody;
28 (c) An agency, including, without limitation, an agency in another
29 jurisdiction, responsible for or authorized to undertake the care, treatment
30 or supervision of:
31 (1) The child; or
32 (2) The person responsible for the welfare of the child;
33 (d) A district attorney or other law enforcement officer who requires the
34 information in connection with an investigation or prosecution of the abuse
35 or neglect of a child;
36 (e) A court, for in camera inspection only, unless the court determines
37 that public disclosure of the information is necessary for the determination
38 of an issue before it;
39 (f) A person engaged in bona fide research or an audit, but information
40 identifying the subjects of a report must not be made available to him;
41 (g) The attorney and the guardian ad litem of the child;
42 (h) A grand jury upon its determination that access to these records is
43 necessary in the conduct of its official business;
44 (i) A federal, state or local governmental entity, or an agency of such an
45 entity, that needs access to the information to carry out its legal
46 responsibilities to protect children from abuse and neglect;
47 (j) A team organized pursuant to NRS 432B.350 for the protection of a
48 child;



- 1 (k) A team organized pursuant to NRS 432B.405 to review the death of
2 a child;
- 3 (l) A parent or legal guardian of the child, if the identity of the person
4 responsible for reporting the alleged abuse or neglect of the child to a
5 public agency is kept confidential;
- 6 (m) The persons who are the subject of a report;
- 7 (n) An agency that is authorized by law to license foster homes or
8 facilities for children or to investigate persons applying for approval to
9 adopt a child, if the agency has before it an application for that license or is
10 investigating an applicant to adopt a child;
- 11 (o) Upon written consent of the parent, any officer of this state or a city
12 or county thereof or legislator authorized, by the agency or department
13 having jurisdiction or by the legislature, acting within its jurisdiction, to
14 investigate the activities or programs of an agency ~~that provides~~
15 ~~protective~~ *which provides child welfare* services if:
- 16 (1) The identity of the person making the report is kept confidential;
17 and
- 18 (2) The officer, legislator or a member of his family is not the person
19 alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect;
- 20 (p) The division of parole and probation of the department of motor
21 vehicles and public safety for use pursuant to NRS 176.135 in making a
22 presentence investigation and report to the district court or pursuant to
23 NRS 176.151 in making a general investigation and report;
- 24 (q) The rural advisory board to expedite proceedings for the placement
25 of children created pursuant to NRS 432B.602 or a local advisory board to
26 expedite proceedings for the placement of children created pursuant to
27 NRS 432B.604; or
- 28 (r) The panel established pursuant to NRS 432B.396 to evaluate
29 agencies which provide ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services.
- 30 2. An agency investigating a report of the abuse or neglect of a child
31 shall, upon request, provide to a person named in the report as allegedly
32 causing the abuse or neglect of the child:
- 33 (a) A copy of:
- 34 (1) Any statement made in writing to an investigator for the agency
35 by the person named in the report as allegedly causing the abuse or neglect
36 of the child; or
- 37 (2) Any recording made by the agency of any statement made orally
38 to an investigator for the agency by the person named in the report as
39 allegedly causing the abuse or neglect of the child; or
- 40 (b) A written summary of the allegations made against the person who
41 is named in the report as allegedly causing the abuse or neglect of the
42 child. The summary must not identify the person responsible for reporting
43 the alleged abuse or neglect.
- 44 3. An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services shall
45 disclose the identity of a person who makes a report or otherwise initiates
46 an investigation pursuant to this chapter if a court, after reviewing the
47 record in camera and determining that there is reason to believe that the
48 person knowingly made a false report, orders the disclosure.
- 49 4. Any person, except for:



- 1 (a) The subject of a report;
- 2 (b) A district attorney or other law enforcement officer initiating legal
- 3 proceedings; or
- 4 (c) An employee of the division of parole and probation of the
- 5 department of motor vehicles and public safety making a presentence
- 6 investigation and report to the district court pursuant to NRS 176.135 or
- 7 making a general investigation and report pursuant to NRS 176.151,
- 8 who is given access, pursuant to subsection 1, to information identifying
- 9 the subjects of a report and who makes this information public is guilty of a
- 10 misdemeanor.

11 5. The division of child and family services shall adopt regulations to

12 carry out the provisions of this section.

13 **Sec. 103.** NRS 432B.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 432B.300 Each agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*

15 services shall investigate each report of abuse or neglect received or

16 referred to it to determine:

17 1. The composition of the family, household or facility, including the

18 name, address, age, sex and race of each child named in the report, any

19 siblings or other children in the same place or under the care of the same

20 person, the persons responsible for the children's welfare and any other

21 adult living or working in the same household or facility;

22 2. Whether there is reasonable cause to believe any child is abused or

23 neglected or threatened with abuse or neglect, the nature and extent of

24 existing or previous injuries, abuse or neglect and any evidence thereof,

25 and the person apparently responsible;

26 3. If there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused or

27 neglected, the immediate and long-term risk to the child if he remains in

28 the same environment; and

29 4. The treatment and services which appear necessary to help prevent

30 further abuse or neglect and to improve his environment and the ability of

31 the person responsible for the child's welfare to care adequately for him.

32 **Sec. 104.** NRS 432B.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 432B.320 1. An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*

34 services may waive a full investigation of a report of abuse or neglect of a

35 child made by another agency or a person if, after assessing the

36 circumstances, it is satisfied that:

37 (a) The person or other agency who made the report can provide

38 services to meet the needs of the child and the family, and this person or

39 agency agrees to do so; and

40 (b) The person or other agency agrees in writing to report periodically

41 on the child and to report immediately any threat or harm to the child's

42 welfare.

43 2. The agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services shall

44 supervise for a reasonable period the services provided by the person or

45 other agency pursuant to subsection 1.

46 **Sec. 105.** NRS 432B.340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

47 432B.340 1. If the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*

48 services determines that a child needs protection, but is not in imminent

49 danger from abuse or neglect, it may:



1 (a) Offer to the parents or guardian a plan for services and inform him
2 that the agency has no legal authority to compel him to accept the plan but
3 that it has the authority to petition the court pursuant to NRS 432B.490 or
4 to refer the case to the district attorney or a law enforcement agency; or

5 (b) File a petition pursuant to NRS 432B.490 and, if a child is
6 adjudicated in need of protection, request that the child be removed from
7 the custody of his parents or guardian or that he remain at home with or
8 without the supervision of the court or of any person or agency designated
9 by the court.

10 2. If the parent or guardian accepts the conditions of the plan offered
11 by the agency pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, the agency may
12 elect not to file a petition and may arrange for appropriate services,
13 including medical care, care of the child during the day, management of the
14 home or supervision of the child, his parents or guardian.

15 **Sec. 106.** NRS 432B.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 432B.350 An agency which provides ~~protective service~~ *child welfare*
17 *services* may organize one or more teams for protection of a child to assist
18 the agency in the evaluation and investigation of reports of abuse or neglect
19 of a child, diagnosis and treatment of abuse or neglect and the coordination
20 of responsibilities. Members of the team serve at the invitation of the
21 agency and must include representatives of other organizations concerned
22 with education, law enforcement or physical or mental health.

23 **Sec. 107.** NRS 432B.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 432B.360 1. A parent or guardian of a child who is in need of
25 protection may place the child with a public agency authorized to care for
26 children or a private institution or agency licensed by the department of
27 human resources *or a county whose population is 100,000 or more* to care
28 for such children if:

29 (a) Efforts to keep the child in his own home have failed; and

30 (b) The parents or guardian and the agency or institution voluntarily
31 sign a written agreement for placement of the child which sets forth the
32 rights and responsibilities of each of the parties to the agreement.

33 2. If a child is placed with an agency or institution pursuant to
34 subsection 1, the parent or guardian shall:

35 (a) If able, contribute to the support of the child during his temporary
36 placement;

37 (b) Inform the agency or institution of any change in his address or
38 circumstances; and

39 (c) Meet with a representative of the agency or institution and
40 participate in developing and carrying out a plan for the possible return of
41 the child to his custody, the placement of the child with a relative or the
42 eventual adoption of the child.

43 3. A parent or guardian who voluntarily agrees to place a child with an
44 agency or institution pursuant to subsection 1 is entitled to have the child
45 returned to his physical custody within 48 hours of a written request to that
46 agency or institution. If that agency or institution determines that it would
47 be detrimental to the best interests of the child to return him to the custody
48 of his parent or guardian, it shall cause a petition to be filed pursuant to
49 NRS 432B.490.



1 4. If the child has remained in temporary placement for 6 consecutive
2 months, the agency or institution shall:

3 (a) Immediately return the child to the physical custody of his parent or
4 guardian; or

5 (b) Cause a petition to be filed pursuant to NRS 432B.490.

6 5. The division of child and family services shall adopt regulations to
7 carry out the provisions of this section.

8 **Sec. 108.** NRS 432B.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 432B.370 If an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
10 services determines that there is no reasonable cause to believe that a child
11 is in need of protection, it shall proceed no further in that matter.

12 **Sec. 109.** NRS 432B.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 432B.380 If the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
14 services determines that further action is necessary to protect a child who is
15 in need of protection, as well as any other child under the same care who
16 may be in need of protection, it may refer the case to the district attorney
17 for criminal prosecution and may recommend the filing of a petition
18 pursuant to NRS 432B.490.

19 **Sec. 110.** NRS 432B.390 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 432B.390 1. An agent or officer of a law enforcement agency, an
21 officer of the local juvenile probation department or the local department
22 of juvenile services or a designee of an agency which provides ~~protective~~
23 *child welfare* services:

24 (a) May place a child in protective custody without the consent of the
25 person responsible for the child's welfare if he has reasonable cause to
26 believe that immediate action is necessary to protect the child from injury,
27 abuse or neglect.

28 (b) Shall place a child in protective custody upon the death of a parent
29 of the child, without the consent of the person responsible for the welfare
30 of the child, if the agent, officer or designee has reasonable cause to
31 believe that the death of the parent of the child is or may be the result of an
32 act by the other parent that constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS
33 33.018.

34 2. If there is reasonable cause to believe that the death of a parent of
35 the child is or may be the result of an act by the other parent that
36 constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018, a protective custody
37 hearing must be held pursuant to NRS 432B.470, whether the child was
38 placed in protective custody or with a relative. If an agency other than an
39 agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services becomes aware
40 that there is reasonable cause to believe that the death of a parent of the
41 child is or may be the result of an act by the other parent that constitutes
42 domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018, that agency shall immediately
43 notify the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services and a
44 protective custody hearing must be scheduled.

45 3. An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services shall
46 request the assistance of a law enforcement agency in the removal of the
47 child if it has reasonable cause to believe that the child or the person
48 placing the child in protective custody may be threatened with harm.



1 4. Before taking a child for placement in protective custody, the person
2 taking the child shall show his identification to any person who is
3 responsible for the child and is present at the time the child is taken. If a
4 person who is responsible for the child is not present at the time the child is
5 taken, the person taking the child shall show his identification to any other
6 person upon request. The identification required by this subsection must be
7 a single card that contains a photograph of the person taking the child and
8 identifies him as a person authorized pursuant to subsection 1 to place a
9 child in protective custody.

10 5. A child placed in protective custody pending an investigation and a
11 hearing held pursuant to NRS 432B.470 must be placed in a hospital, if the
12 child needs hospitalization, or in a shelter, which may include a foster
13 home or other home or facility which provides care for those children, but
14 the child must not be placed in a jail or other place for detention,
15 incarceration or residential care of persons convicted of a crime or children
16 charged with delinquent acts.

17 6. A person placing a child in protective custody shall:

18 (a) Immediately take steps to protect all other children remaining in the
19 home or facility, if necessary;

20 (b) Immediately make a reasonable effort to inform the person
21 responsible for the child's welfare that the child has been placed in
22 protective custody;

23 (c) Give preference in placement of the child to any person related
24 within the third degree of consanguinity to the child who is suitable and
25 able to provide proper care and guidance for the child, regardless of
26 whether the relative resides within this state; and

27 (d) As soon as practicable, inform the agency which provides
28 ~~protective~~ child welfare services and the appropriate law enforcement
29 agency.

30 7. If a child is placed with any person who resides outside this state,
31 the placement must be in accordance with NRS 127.330.

32 **Sec. 111.** NRS 432B.393 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 432B.393 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, an agency
34 which provides ~~protective~~ child welfare services shall make reasonable
35 efforts to preserve and reunify the family of a child to prevent or eliminate
36 the need for his removal from his home and to make it possible for his safe
37 return to his home.

38 2. In determining the reasonable efforts required by subsection 1, the
39 health and safety of the child must be the paramount concern. The agency
40 which provides ~~protective~~ child welfare services may make reasonable
41 efforts to place the child for adoption or with a legal guardian concurrently
42 with making the reasonable efforts required pursuant to subsection 1. If the
43 court determines that continuation of the reasonable efforts required by
44 subsection 1 is inconsistent with the plan for the permanent placement of
45 the child, the agency which provides ~~protective~~ child welfare services
46 shall make reasonable efforts to place the child in a timely manner in
47 accordance with that plan and to complete whatever actions are necessary
48 to finalize the permanent placement of the child.



1 3. An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services is not
2 required to make the reasonable efforts required by subsection 1 if the
3 court finds that:

4 (a) A parent or other primary caretaker of the child has:

5 (1) Committed, aided or abetted in the commission of, or attempted,
6 conspired or solicited to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter;

7 (2) Caused the abuse or neglect of the child, or of another child of the
8 parent or primary caretaker, which resulted in substantial bodily harm to
9 the abused or neglected child;

10 (3) Caused the abuse or neglect of the child, a sibling of the child or
11 another child in the household, and the abuse or neglect was so extreme or
12 repetitious as to indicate that any plan to return the child to his home would
13 result in an unacceptable risk to the health or welfare of the child; or

14 (4) Abandoned the child for 60 or more days, and the identity of the
15 parent of the child is unknown and cannot be ascertained through
16 reasonable efforts;

17 (b) A parent of the child has, for the previous 6 months, had the ability
18 to contact or communicate with the child and made no more than token
19 efforts to do so;

20 (c) The parental rights of a parent to a sibling of the child have been
21 terminated by a court order upon any basis other than the execution of a
22 voluntary relinquishment of those rights by a natural parent, and the court
23 order is not currently being appealed;

24 (d) The child or a sibling of the child was previously removed from his
25 home, adjudicated to have been abused or neglected, returned to his home
26 and subsequently removed from his home as a result of additional abuse or
27 neglect; or

28 (e) The child is less than 1 year of age, the father of the child is not
29 married to the mother of the child and the father of the child:

30 (1) Has failed within 60 days after learning of the birth of the child,
31 to visit the child, to commence proceedings to establish his paternity of the
32 child or to provide financial support for the child; or

33 (2) Is entitled to seek custody of the child but fails to do so within 60
34 days after learning that the child was placed in foster care.

35 **Sec. 112.** NRS 432B.395 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 432B.395 An agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
37 services shall submit annually to the division of child and family services
38 for its approval a plan to ensure that the reasonable efforts required by
39 subsection 1 of NRS 432B.393 are made by that agency.

40 **Sec. 113.** NRS 432B.396 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 432B.396 The division of child and family services shall:

42 1. Establish a panel comprised of volunteer members to evaluate the
43 extent to which agencies which provide ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services
44 are effectively discharging their responsibilities for the protection of
45 children.

46 2. Adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsection 1 which
47 must include, without limitation, the imposition of appropriate restrictions
48 on the disclosure of information obtained by the panel and civil sanctions
49 for the violation of those restrictions.



1 **Sec. 114.** NRS 432B.397 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 432B.397 1. The agency ~~{providing protective}~~ *which provides child*
3 *welfare* services for a child that is taken into custody pursuant to this
4 chapter shall make all necessary inquiries to determine whether the child is
5 an Indian child. The agency shall report that determination to the court.

6 2. An agency ~~{that provides protective}~~ *which provides child welfare*
7 services pursuant to this chapter shall provide training for its personnel
8 regarding the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

9 **Sec. 115.** NRS 432B.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 432B.400 A physician treating a child or a person in charge of a
11 hospital or similar institution may hold a child for no more than 24 hours if
12 there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been abused or
13 neglected and that he is in danger of further harm if released. The physician
14 or other person shall immediately notify a law enforcement agency or an
15 agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare* services that he is
16 holding the child.

17 **Sec. 116.** NRS 432B.405 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 432B.405 1. An agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare*
19 services:

20 (a) May organize one or more multidisciplinary teams to review the
21 death of a child; and

22 (b) Shall organize one or more multidisciplinary teams to review the
23 death of a child upon receiving a written request from an adult related to
24 the child within the third degree of consanguinity, if the request is received
25 by the agency within 1 year after the date of death of the child.

26 2. Members of a team organized pursuant to subsection 1 serve at the
27 invitation of the agency and must include representatives of other
28 organizations concerned with education, law enforcement or physical or
29 mental health.

30 3. Each organization represented on such a team may share with other
31 members of the team information in its possession concerning the child
32 who is the subject of the review, siblings of the child, any person who was
33 responsible for the welfare of the child and any other information deemed
34 by the organization to be pertinent to the review.

35 4. Before establishing any child death review team, an agency shall
36 adopt a written protocol describing its objectives and the structure of such a
37 team.

38 **Sec. 117.** NRS 432B.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 432B.440 The agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare*
40 services shall assist the court during all stages of any proceeding in
41 accordance with NRS 432B.410 to 432B.590, inclusive.

42 **Sec. 118.** NRS 432B.490 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 432B.490 1. An agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare*
44 services:

45 (a) In cases where the death of a parent of the child is or may be the
46 result of an act by the other parent that constitutes domestic violence
47 pursuant to NRS 33.018, shall within 10 days after the hearing on
48 protective custody initiate a proceeding in court by filing a petition which
49 meets the requirements set forth in NRS 432B.510;



1 (b) In other cases where a hearing on protective custody is held, shall
2 within 10 days after the hearing on protective custody, unless good cause
3 exists, initiate a proceeding in court by filing a petition which meets the
4 requirements set forth in NRS 432B.510 or recommend against any further
5 action in court; or

6 (c) If a child is not placed in protective custody, may, after an
7 investigation is made under NRS 432B.010 to 432B.400, inclusive, file a
8 petition which meets the requirements set forth in NRS 432B.510.

9 2. If the agency recommends against further action, the court may, on
10 its own motion, initiate proceedings when it finds that it is in the best
11 interests of the child.

12 3. If a child has been placed in protective custody and if further action
13 in court is taken, an agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
14 services shall make recommendations to the court concerning whether the
15 child should be returned to the person responsible for his welfare pending
16 further action in court.

17 **Sec. 119.** NRS 432B.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 432B.500 1. After a petition is filed that a child is in need of
19 protection pursuant to NRS 432B.490, the court shall appoint a guardian ad
20 litem for the child. The person so appointed:

21 (a) Must meet the requirements of NRS 432B.505 or, if such a person is
22 not available, a representative of an agency which provides ~~protective~~
23 *child welfare* services, a juvenile probation officer, an officer of the court
24 or another volunteer.

25 (b) Must not be a parent or other person responsible for the child's
26 welfare.

27 2. No compensation may be allowed a person serving as a guardian ad
28 litem pursuant to this section.

29 3. A guardian ad litem appointed pursuant to this section shall:

30 (a) Represent and protect the best interests of the child until excused by
31 the court;

32 (b) Thoroughly research and ascertain the relevant facts of each case for
33 which he is appointed, and ensure that the court receives an independent,
34 objective account of those facts;

35 (c) Meet with the child wherever the child is placed as often as is
36 necessary to determine that the child is safe and to ascertain the best
37 interests of the child;

38 (d) Explain to the child the role of the guardian ad litem and, when
39 appropriate, the nature and purpose of each proceeding in his case;

40 (e) Participate in the development and negotiation of any plans for and
41 orders regarding the child, and monitor the implementation of those plans
42 and orders to determine whether services are being provided in an
43 appropriate and timely manner;

44 (f) Appear at all proceedings regarding the child;

45 (g) Inform the court of the desires of the child, but exercise his
46 independent judgment regarding the best interests of the child;

47 (h) Present recommendations to the court and provide reasons in
48 support of those recommendations;



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- (i) Request the court to enter orders that are clear, specific and, when appropriate, include periods for compliance;
- (j) Review the progress of each case for which he is appointed, and advocate for the expedient completion of the case; and
- (k) Perform such other duties as the court orders.

Sec. 120. NRS 432B.510 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.510 1. A petition alleging that a child is in need of protection may be signed only by:

- (a) A representative of an agency which provides ~~protective~~ **child welfare** services;
- (b) A law enforcement officer or probation officer; or
- (c) The district attorney.

2. The district attorney shall countersign every petition alleging need of protection, and shall represent the petitioner in all proceedings. If the district attorney fails or refuses to countersign the petition, the petitioner may seek a review by the attorney general. If the attorney general determines that a petition should be filed, he shall countersign the petition and shall represent the petitioner in all subsequent proceedings.

3. Every petition must be entitled, "In the Matter of, a child," and must be verified by the person who signs it.

4. Every petition must set forth specifically:

(a) The facts which bring the child within the jurisdiction of the court as indicated in NRS 432B.410.

(b) The name, date of birth and address of the residence of the child.

(c) The names and addresses of the residences of his parents and any other person responsible for the child's welfare, and spouse if any. If his parents or other person responsible for his welfare do not reside in this state or cannot be found within the state, or if their addresses are unknown, the petition must state the name of any known adult relative residing within the state, or if there is none, the known adult relative residing nearest to the court.

(d) Whether the child is in protective custody, and if so, the agency responsible for placing the child in protective custody and the reasons therefor.

5. When any of the facts required by subsection 4 are not known, the petition must so state.

Sec. 121. NRS 432B.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.520 1. After a petition has been filed, the court shall direct the clerk to issue a summons requiring the person who has custody or control of the child to appear personally and bring the child before the court at a time and place stated in the summons. If the person so summoned is other than a parent or guardian of the child, then the parent or guardian, or both, must also be notified by a similar summons of the pendency of the hearing and of the time and place appointed.

2. Summons may be issued requiring the appearance of any other person whose presence, in the opinion of the court, is necessary.

3. Each summons must include notice of the right of parties to counsel at the adjudicatory hearing. A copy of the petition must be attached to each summons.



1 4. If the person summoned resides in this state, the summons must be
2 served personally. If the person summoned cannot be found within this
3 state or does not reside in this state, the summons must be mailed by
4 registered or certified mail to his last known address.

5 5. If it appears that the child is in such condition or surroundings that
6 his welfare requires that his custody be immediately assumed by the court,
7 the court may order, by endorsement upon the summons, that the person
8 serving it shall at once deliver the child to an agency which provides
9 ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services in whose custody the child must remain
10 until the further order of the court.

11 6. If the summons cannot be served or the person who has custody or
12 control of the child fails to obey it, or:

13 (a) In the judge's opinion, the service will be ineffectual or the welfare
14 of the child requires that he be brought forthwith into the custody of the
15 court; or

16 (b) A person responsible for the child's welfare has absconded with him
17 or concealed him from a representative of an agency which provides
18 ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services,
19 the court may issue a writ for the attachment of the child's person,
20 commanding a law enforcement officer or a representative of an agency
21 which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services to place the child in
22 protective custody.

23 **Sec. 122.** NRS 432B.540 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 432B.540 1. If the court finds that the allegations of the petition are
25 true, it shall order that a report be made in writing by an agency which
26 provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services, concerning the conditions in
27 the child's place of residence, the child's record in school, the mental,
28 physical and social background of his family, its financial situation and
29 other matters relevant to the case.

30 2. If the agency believes that it is necessary to remove the child from
31 the physical custody of his parents, it must submit with the report a plan
32 designed to achieve a placement of the child in a safe setting as near to the
33 residence of his parent as is consistent with the best interests and special
34 needs of the child. The plan must include:

35 (a) A description of the type, safety and appropriateness of the home or
36 institution in which the child could be placed, a plan for ensuring that he
37 would receive safe and proper care and a description of his needs;

38 (b) A description of the services to be provided to the child and to a
39 parent to facilitate the return of the child to the custody of his parent or to
40 ensure his permanent placement;

41 (c) The appropriateness of the services to be provided under the plan;
42 and

43 (d) A description of how the order of the court will be carried out.

44 3. If the child is not residing in his home, the agency shall include as a
45 part of the plan for the permanent placement of the child, established
46 pursuant to NRS 432B.590, a recommendation to terminate parental rights
47 unless it determines that initiating a petition for the termination of parental
48 rights is not in the best interests of the child. If the agency conclusively
49 determines that initiating a petition for the termination of parental rights is



1 not in the best interests of the child, it shall include a full explanation of the
2 basis for the determination as part of the plan.

3 **Sec. 123.** NRS 432B.550 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 432B.550 1. If the court finds that a child is in need of protection, it
5 shall determine whether the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child*
6 *welfare* services has made the reasonable efforts required by subsection 1
7 of NRS 432B.393. The court may, by its order, after receipt and review of
8 the report from the agency which provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare*
9 services:

10 (a) Permit the child to remain in the temporary or permanent custody of
11 his parents or a guardian with or without supervision by the court or a
12 person or agency designated by the court, and with or without retaining
13 jurisdiction of the case, upon such conditions as the court may prescribe;

14 (b) Place him in the temporary or permanent custody of a relative or
15 other person who the court finds suitable to receive and care for him with
16 or without supervision, and with or without retaining jurisdiction of the
17 case, upon such conditions as the court may prescribe;

18 (c) Place him in the temporary custody of a public agency or institution
19 authorized to care for children, the local juvenile probation department, the
20 local department of juvenile services or a private agency or institution
21 licensed by the department of human resources *or a county whose*
22 *population is 100,000 or more* to care for such a child; or

23 (d) Commit him to the custody of the superintendent of the northern
24 Nevada children's home or the superintendent of the southern Nevada
25 children's home, in accordance with chapter 423 of NRS.

26 In carrying out this subsection, the court may, in its sole discretion,
27 consider an application pursuant to chapter 159 of NRS for the
28 guardianship of the child. If the court grants such an application, it may
29 retain jurisdiction of the case or transfer the case to another court of
30 competent jurisdiction.

31 2. If, pursuant to subsection 1, a child is placed other than with a
32 parent:

33 (a) The parent retains the right to consent to adoption, to determine the
34 child's religious affiliation and to reasonable visitation, unless restricted by
35 the court. If the custodian of the child interferes with these rights, the
36 parent may petition the court for enforcement of his rights.

37 (b) The court shall set forth good cause why the child was placed other
38 than with a parent.

39 3. If, pursuant to subsection 1, the child is to be placed with a relative,
40 the court may consider, among other factors, whether the child has resided
41 with a particular relative for 3 years or more before the incident which
42 brought the child to the court's attention.

43 4. A copy of the report prepared for the court by the agency which
44 provides ~~protective~~ *child welfare* services must be sent to the custodian
45 and the parent or legal guardian.

46 5. In determining the placement of a child pursuant to this section, if
47 the child is not permitted to remain in the custody of his parents or
48 guardian, preference must be given to placing the child:



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1 (a) With any person related within the third degree of consanguinity to
2 the child who is suitable and able to provide proper care and guidance for
3 the child, regardless of whether the relative resides within this state.

4 (b) If practicable, together with his siblings.
5 Any search for a relative with whom to place a child pursuant to this
6 section must be completed within 1 year after the initial placement of the
7 child outside of his home. If a child is placed with any person who resides
8 outside of this state, the placement must be in accordance with NRS
9 127.330.

10 **Sec. 124.** Chapter 433B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
11 the provisions set forth as sections 125 and 126 of this act.

12 **Sec. 125.** *1. A mental health consortium is hereby established in*
13 *each of the following jurisdictions:*

14 *(a) A county whose population is 100,000 or more; and*
15 *(b) The region consisting of all counties whose population are less*
16 *than 100,000.*

17 *2. In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, such a*
18 *consortium must consist of at least the following persons:*

19 *(a) A representative of the division;*

20 *(b) A representative of the agency which provides child welfare*
21 *services;*

22 *(c) A representative of the division of health care financing and policy*
23 *of the department;*

24 *(d) A representative of the board of trustees of the school district in*
25 *the county;*

26 *(e) A representative of the local juvenile probation department;*

27 *(f) A representative of the local chamber of commerce or business*
28 *community;*

29 *(g) A private provider of mental health care;*

30 *(h) A provider of foster care; and*

31 *(i) A parent of an emotionally disturbed child.*

32 *3. In the region consisting of counties whose population are less*
33 *than 100,000, such a consortium must consist of at least the following:*

34 *(a) A representative of the division of mental health and*
35 *developmental services of the department;*

36 *(b) A representative of the agency which provides child welfare*
37 *services in the region;*

38 *(c) A representative of the division of health care financing and policy*
39 *of the department;*

40 *(d) A representative of the boards of trustees of the school districts in*
41 *the region;*

42 *(e) A representative of the local juvenile probation departments;*

43 *(f) A representative of the chambers of commerce or business*
44 *community in the region;*

45 *(g) A private provider of mental health care;*

46 *(h) A provider of foster care; and*

47 *(i) A parent of an emotionally disturbed child.*



- 1 **Sec. 126.** *1. On or before January 1 of each year, each mental*
2 *health consortium established pursuant to section 125 of this act shall*
3 *prepare a recommended plan for the provision of mental health services*
4 *to emotionally disturbed children in the jurisdiction of the consortium.*
5 *2. In preparing the recommended plan, each mental health*
6 *consortium must be guided by the following principles:*
7 *(a) The system of mental health services set forth in the plan must be*
8 *centered on emotionally disturbed children and their families, with the*
9 *needs and strengths of those children and their family dictating the types*
10 *and mix of services provided.*
11 *(b) The families of emotionally disturbed children, including, without*
12 *limitation, foster parents, should be active participants in all aspects of*
13 *planning, selecting and delivering mental health services at the local*
14 *level.*
15 *(c) The system of mental health services must be community-based*
16 *and flexible, with accountability and the focus of the services at the local*
17 *level.*
18 *(d) The system of mental health services should provide timely access*
19 *to a comprehensive array of cost-effective mental health services.*
20 *(e) Children and their families who are in need of mental health*
21 *services should be identified as early as possible through screening,*
22 *assessment processes, treatment and systems of support.*
23 *(f) Comprehensive mental health services should be made available in*
24 *the least restrictive but clinically appropriate environment.*
25 *(g) The family of an emotionally disturbed child should be eligible to*
26 *receive mental health services from the system.*
27 *(h) Mental health services must be provided to emotionally disturbed*
28 *children in a sensitive manner that is responsive to cultural and gender-*
29 *based differences and the special needs of the children.*
30 *3. The plan prepared pursuant to this section must include:*
31 *(a) An assessment of the need for mental health services in the*
32 *jurisdiction of the consortium;*
33 *(b) A description of the types of services to be offered to emotionally*
34 *disturbed children based on the amount of money available to pay the*
35 *costs of such mental health services within the jurisdiction of the*
36 *consortium;*
37 *(c) Criteria for eligibility for those services;*
38 *(d) A description of the manner in which those services may be*
39 *obtained by eligible children;*
40 *(e) The manner in which the costs for those services will be allocated;*
41 *(f) The mechanisms to manage the money provided for those services;*
42 *(g) Documentation of the number of emotionally disturbed children*
43 *who are not currently being provided services, the costs to provide*
44 *services to those children, the obstacles to providing services to those*
45 *children and recommendations for removing those obstacles;*
46 *(h) Methods for obtaining additional money and services for*
47 *emotionally disturbed children from private and public entities; and*
48 *(i) The manner in which family members of eligible children and*
49 *other persons may be involved in the treatment of the children.*



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1 4. *On or before January 15 of each year, each mental health*
2 *consortium shall submit the recommended plan prepared pursuant to this*
3 *section to the department. If the department disapproves the plan, the*
4 *department shall submit the plan to the consortium for revision and*
5 *resubmission to the department.*

6 5. *Each mental health consortium shall submit the plan prepared*
7 *pursuant to this section to the legislative committee on children, youth*
8 *and families established pursuant to section 37 of this act on or before*
9 *January 15 of each year and shall submit progress reports to that*
10 *committee regarding its activities at the end of each calendar quarter.*

11 **Sec. 127.** NRS 442.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 442.400 The ~~{division of child and family services of the department}~~
13 *agency which provides child welfare services* or a licensed child-placing
14 agency shall inquire, during its initial contact with a natural parent of a
15 child who is to be placed for adoption, about consumption of alcohol or
16 substance abuse by the mother of the child during pregnancy. The
17 information obtained from the inquiry must be:

18 1. Included in the report provided to the adopting parents of the child
19 pursuant to NRS 127.152; and

20 2. Reported to the health division on a form prescribed by the health
21 division. The report must not contain any identifying information and may
22 be used only for statistical purposes.

23 **Sec. 128.** NRS 442.405 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 442.405 1. The ~~{division of child and family services of the~~
25 ~~department}~~ *agency which provides child welfare services* shall inquire,
26 during its initial contact with a natural parent of a child who is to be placed
27 in a family foster home, about consumption of alcohol or substance abuse
28 by the mother of the child during pregnancy. The information obtained
29 from the inquiry must be:

30 (a) Provided to the provider of family foster care pursuant to NRS
31 424.038; and

32 (b) Reported to the health division on a form prescribed by the health
33 division. The report must not contain any identifying information and may
34 be used only for statistical purposes.

35 2. As used in this section, "family foster home" has the meaning
36 ascribed to it in NRS 424.013.

37 **Sec. 129.** NRS 442.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 442.410 An agency which provides ~~{protective}~~ *child welfare* services
39 shall inquire, during its initial contact with a natural parent of a child whom
40 a court has determined must be kept in temporary or permanent custody,
41 about consumption of alcohol or substance abuse by the mother of the child
42 during pregnancy. The information obtained from the inquiry must be:

43 1. Included in the report the agency is required to make pursuant to
44 NRS 432B.540; and

45 2. Reported to the health division on a form prescribed by the health
46 division. The report must not contain any identifying information and may
47 be used only for statistical purposes.



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1 **Sec. 130.** NRS 641B.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 641B.210 1. The board shall ~~not~~ grant a license to engage in social
3 work as an associate in social work to any ~~person on or after June 19,~~
4 ~~1995.~~ *applicant who:*

5 *(a) Possesses the preliminary qualifications set forth in NRS*
6 *641B.200; and*

7 *(b) Is employed as a social worker, supervisor of social work or*
8 *administrator of social work on September 1, 2002.*

9 2. The board shall renew the license of any person who was granted a
10 license to engage in social work as an associate in social work if he
11 complies with the provisions of NRS 641B.280.

12 3. A person who is granted a license to engage in social work as an
13 associate in social work *pursuant to subsection 1* may supervise another
14 person engaged in the practice of social work.

15 4. The provisions of this section do not prohibit a social worker,
16 supervisor of social work or administrator of social work who is employed
17 by a public employer on ~~July 1, 1988,~~ *September 1, 2002*, and who is
18 granted a license to engage in social work as an associate in social work ~~+~~
19 *pursuant to subsection 1*, from being promoted to any position for which
20 he would qualify but for the provisions of this chapter.

21 **Sec. 131.** Section 126 of this act is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 126. 1. On or before January 1 of each year, each mental
23 health consortium established pursuant to section 125 of this act shall
24 prepare a recommended plan for the provision of mental health
25 services to emotionally disturbed children in the jurisdiction of the
26 consortium.

27 2. In preparing the recommended plan, each mental health
28 consortium must be guided by the following principles:

29 (a) The system of mental health services set forth in the plan must
30 be centered on emotionally disturbed children and their families, with
31 the needs and strengths of those children and their family dictating the
32 types and mix of services provided.

33 (b) The families of emotionally disturbed children, including,
34 without limitation, foster parents, should be active participants in all
35 aspects of planning, selecting and delivering mental health services at
36 the local level.

37 (c) The system of mental health services must be community-based
38 and flexible, with accountability and the focus of the services at the
39 local level.

40 (d) The system of mental health services should provide timely
41 access to a comprehensive array of cost-effective mental health
42 services.

43 (e) Children and their families who are in need of mental health
44 services should be identified as early as possible through screening,
45 assessment processes, treatment and systems of support.



(f) Comprehensive mental health services should be made available in the least restrictive but clinically appropriate environment.

(g) The family of an emotionally disturbed child should be eligible to receive mental health services from the system.

(h) Mental health services must be provided to emotionally disturbed children in a sensitive manner that is responsive to cultural and gender-based differences and special needs of the children.

3. The plan prepared pursuant to this section must include:

(a) An assessment of the need for mental health services in the jurisdiction of the consortium;

(b) A description of the types of services to be offered to emotionally disturbed children based on the amount of money available to pay the costs of such mental health services within the jurisdiction of the consortium;

(c) Criteria for eligibility for those services;

(d) A description of the manner in which those services may be obtained by eligible children;

(e) The manner in which the costs for those services will be allocated;

(f) The mechanisms to manage the money provided for those services;

(g) Documentation of the number of emotionally disturbed children who are not currently being provided services, the costs to provide services to those children, the obstacles to providing services to those children and recommendations for removing those obstacles;

(h) Methods for obtaining additional money and services for emotionally disturbed children from private and public entities; and

(i) The manner in which family members of eligible children and other persons may be involved in the treatment of the children.

4. On or before January 15 of each year, each mental health consortium shall submit the recommended plan prepared pursuant to this section to the department. If the department disapproves the plan, the department shall submit the plan to the consortium for revision and resubmission to the department.

~~5. Each mental health consortium shall submit the plan prepared pursuant to this section to the legislative committee on children, youth and families established pursuant to section 37 of this act on or before January 15 of each year and shall submit progress reports to that committee regarding its activities at the end of each calendar quarter.~~

Sec. 132. NRS 424.035 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 133. The legislative committee on children, youth and families established pursuant to section 37 of this act shall monitor the transfer of duties relating to the provision of child welfare services from the division of child and family services of the department of human resources to each agency which provides child welfare services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, including, without limitation, the fiscal effects resulting from the transfer of such duties.



1 **Sec. 134.** 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 284 of NRS
2 and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto:

3 (a) The positions in the division of child and family services of the
4 department of human resources that are to be abolished must be determined
5 jointly by the division and each agency which provides child welfare
6 services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more based on the
7 necessity of the positions to carry out the provisions of this act.

8 (b) The abolishment of positions pursuant to paragraph (a) must not
9 affect employees of the division who are employed in positions that will
10 not be abolished.

11 2. An employee of the division of child and family services of the
12 department of human resources whose position is abolished may request
13 that his name be placed on the appropriate reemployment list and is entitled
14 to all other related rights and privileges.

15 3. The agency which provides child welfare services in a county in
16 which a position in the division of child and family services of the
17 department of human resources which is being abolished is located shall
18 make an offer of employment to the employee of the division who had
19 filled that position immediately preceding its abolishment.

20 4. An employee of the division of child and family services of the
21 department of human resources who accepts an offer of employment made
22 pursuant to subsection 3 from an agency which provides child welfare
23 services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more may:

24 (a) Transfer all of his accrued sick leave as of the effective date of the
25 abolishment of his position to his sick leave account with the agency with
26 which he accepted employment pursuant to subsection 3. If an employee of
27 the division transfers his sick leave pursuant to this paragraph, he may only
28 use that sick leave after he has exhausted the sick leave that he accrues at
29 the county agency. The employee may not receive any payment for that
30 sick leave after the sick leave has been transferred pursuant to this
31 paragraph.

32 (b) Notwithstanding subsection 1 of NRS 284.355, receive payment for
33 all of his unused sick leave accrued and carried forward as of the effective
34 date of the abolishment of his position according to his number of years of
35 public service, except service with a political subdivision of the state, as
36 follows:

37 (1) For less than 10 years of service, not more than \$1,500.

38 (2) For 10 years of service or more but less than 15 years, not more
39 than \$2,500.

40 (3) For 15 years of service or more but less than 20 years, not more
41 than \$4,000.

42 (4) For 20 years of service or more but less than 25 years, not more
43 than \$6,000.

44 (5) For 25 years of service or more, not more than \$8,000.

45 5. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, an employee of the
46 division of child and family services of the department of human resources
47 who accepted an offer of employment made pursuant to subsection 3 with
48 an agency which provides child welfare services in a county whose
49 population is 100,000 or more shall receive payment for all of the annual



1 leave that he had accrued as of the date of the abolishment of his position.
2 After his acceptance of employment with the county agency, the employee
3 must accrue annual leave at a rate that is based on his years of state service
4 and county service.

5 6. An employee of the division of child and family services of the
6 department of human resources who is licensed to engage in social
7 work pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS must be classified as a social
8 worker after accepting employment with the county agency pursuant to
9 subsection 3.

10 7. Notwithstanding any county ordinance or regulation to the contrary,
11 an employee of the division of child and family services of the department
12 of human resources who is a permanent employee of the division at the
13 time at which he accepts employment offered pursuant to subsection 3 with
14 an agency which provides child welfare services in a county whose
15 population is 100,000 or more must not be subject to any probationary
16 period otherwise applicable to his initial employment with the county
17 agency. An employee of the division of child and family services of the
18 department of human resources who is not a permanent employee of the
19 division at the time at which he accepts employment offered pursuant to
20 subsection 3 with an agency which provides child welfare services in a
21 county whose population is 100,000 or more may be subject to a
22 probationary period between 6 months and 2 years, as determined by the
23 county agency. If such an employee completes his probationary period
24 successfully, the employee must be given permanent status.

25 8. If an employee of the division of child and family services of the
26 department of human resources accepts an offer of employment made
27 pursuant to subsection 3 with an agency which provides child welfare
28 services in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the base salary
29 for the new position with the county agency:

30 (a) Must be based upon the same rate as for an employee of the same
31 step and grade whose retirement contributions are paid wholly by the
32 public employer of the employee.

33 (b) Must include any increases that had been provided to the employee
34 pursuant to NRS 284.177 before the abolishment of his position. After
35 acceptance of an offer of employment made pursuant to subsection 3 with
36 the county agency, any increase in the employee's salary based on
37 longevity must be based only on the employee's years of service with the
38 county agency.

39 (c) Must be increased by 5 percent more than the base salary of the
40 corresponding position that he occupied at the division which was
41 abolished if the employee is fluent in a language spoken by 10 percent or
42 more of the clients of the agency.

43 9. Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, an
44 employee of the division of child and family services of the department of
45 human resources who accepts an offer of employment made pursuant to
46 subsection 3 with an agency which provides child welfare services in a
47 county whose population is 100,000 or more remains eligible to participate
48 in the public employees' benefits program until the employee is eligible for
49 coverage by the agency which provides child welfare services.



1 10. An agency which provides child welfare services in a county
2 whose population is 100,000 or more shall recognize the results of any
3 background investigation or drug screening performed regarding an
4 employee of the division of child and family services of the department of
5 human resources who accepts an offer of employment made pursuant to
6 subsection 3 with that agency.

7 **Sec. 135.** Notwithstanding the amendatory provisions of this act, the
8 division of child and family services of the department of human resources
9 shall, except as otherwise provided in NRS 432B.325, provide child
10 welfare services in a county whose population is 400,000 or more as
11 necessary until the division and the board of county commissioners of the
12 county agree that an agency in the county is fully capable of providing
13 child welfare services. Any dispute regarding the capability of the agency
14 to provide child welfare services must be determined by the legislative
15 committee on children, youth and families established pursuant to section
16 37 of this act.

17 **Sec. 136.** 1. This section and sections 36 to 41, inclusive, and 126 of
18 this act become effective on July 1, 2001.

19 2. Sections 1 to 35, inclusive, 42 to 125, inclusive, 127, 128, 129, and
20 132 to 135, inclusive, of this act become effective on January 1, 2002.

21 3. Sections 36 to 41, inclusive, and 126 expire by limitation on
22 June 30, 2005.

23 4. Section 131 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

24 5. Section 130 of this act expires by limitation on January 1, 2008.

25 **Sec. 137.** The Legislative Counsel shall:

26 1. In preparing the reprint and supplements to the Nevada Revised
27 Statutes, appropriately change any references to "agency which provides
28 protective services" to "agency which provides child welfare services."

29 2. In preparing supplements to the Nevada Administrative Code,
30 appropriately change any references to "agency which provides protective
31 services" to "agency which provides child welfare services."

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

424.035 Delegation of authority to issue provisional licenses: Regulations.

1. The division may provide by regulation for the delegation of its
authority to issue provisional licenses to foster homes if the situation
requires the issuance of a provisional license immediately.

2. In the regulations adopted pursuant to this section, the division shall
specify:

- (a) The classes of persons to whom the authority will be delegated;
- (b) The procedure for applying for authority to issue provisional
licenses;



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- (c) The conditions under which a provisional license may be issued by a person to whom authority has been delegated pursuant to this section; and
- (d) Procedures which the person who has issued a provisional license must follow after doing so.

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