

## Amendment No. 276

Assembly Amendment to Assembly Bill No. 364

(BDR 38-1092)

**Proposed by:** Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services**Amends:** Summary: No Title: Yes Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: Yes

ASSEMBLY ACTION				Initial and Date	SENATE ACTION				Initial and Date
Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) *green bold italic underlining* is new language proposed in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be retained in this amendment; and (6) *green bold dashed underlining* is newly added transitory language.

RBL



Date: 4/13/2009

A.B. No. 364—Makes various changes concerning the protection of children.  
(BDR 38-1092)



ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 364—ASSEMBLYMEN MASTROLUCA,  
BUCKLEY, LESLIE, SMITH; DENIS AND PIERCE

MARCH 16, 2009

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning the protection of children.  
(BDR 38-1092)FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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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; making various changes to provisions governing the court-ordered admission of a child to a locked facility; requiring a court to provide ~~for a hearing to determine whether to include rights to~~ visitation of siblings ~~who are separated after the parental rights of their parents are terminated;~~ in a decree of adoption; requiring the development of policies concerning certain medication given to children with emotional disturbances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law sets forth the procedure for petitioning a court to order the admission of certain children with emotional disturbances to a locked facility for treatment. (NRS 432B.607-432B.6085) ~~Section 1.3~~ Section 1.3 of this bill clarifies that as used in those provisions, "court-ordered admission of a child" includes a child for whom a petition is filed to continue placement after an emergency admission. Section 1.5 of this bill requires each agency which provides child welfare services to establish appropriate policies concerning the monitoring, use and distribution of psychotropic medication to children who are in the custody of the agency. Section 1.1 of this bill requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt consistent policies with respect to the distribution of such medication to children in division facilities.

~~Section 3~~ Section 3 of this bill requires a petition for the court-ordered admission of a child with an emotional disturbance into a locked facility to be filed within 5 days after an emergency admission. ~~or the child must be released.~~ (NRS 432B.6075) Section 4 of this bill clarifies that the court proceeding for the court-ordered admission of a child who is alleged to be a child with an emotional disturbance must include an evidentiary hearing. (NRS 432B.6076) Section 5 of this bill expands the manner in which a person is allowed to oppose a petition for the court-ordered admission of a child into a locked facility to include an opposition stated verbally in court. Section 6 of this bill provides that if a court authorizes a second evaluation team to examine a child who is subject to a court-ordered admission to a locked facility, the second examination must be conducted within 5 business days by a team that is not affiliated with, employed by or otherwise connected to the facility where the child has been admitted. (NRS 432B.6078) Section 7 of this bill requires a court to apply the same standards in considering a petition to renew a court-ordered admission of a child as were applied to the original petition. Section 8 of this bill extends the time for developing a plan for the care,

25 treatment and training of a child subject to a court-ordered admission to a locked facility from  
26 5 to 10 days after the child is admitted to the facility, and removes the requirement that the  
27 plan include certain criteria which the child must satisfy before discharge.

28 ~~Section 9 of this bill requires the court to include in an order terminating the parental~~  
29 ~~rights of a child a plan for the child to have reasonable visitation with any sibling of the child~~  
30 ~~if they are not placed together and provides that refusal to comply with any such order will be~~  
31 ~~treated as contempt of court.~~

32 ~~Section 10 of this bill requires the Administrator of the Division of Child and Family~~  
33 ~~Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that appropriate policies~~  
34 ~~are established concerning the prescribing, use and distribution of psychotropic medication to~~  
35 ~~children in division facilities.]~~

36 Section 10 of this bill requires a court to conduct a hearing to determine whether to  
37 grant visitation rights to a sibling as part of an adoption decree when the adoption is of a  
38 child in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services. Section 10  
39 further requires the agency which provides child welfare services to provide the court  
40 that is conducting the adoption proceedings with a copy of any existing order for  
41 visitation with a sibling of the child and allows certain interested parties to petition to  
42 participate in the determination as to whether to include visitation rights in the adoption  
43 decree.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 432B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto ~~the~~  
2 ~~new section to read as follows:~~ the provisions set forth as sections 1.3 and 1.5 of  
3 this act.

4 **Sec. 1.3.** *“Court-ordered admission of a child” includes, without limitation:*

5 *1. A child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare*  
6 *services and who is not in a facility whom the court orders to be admitted to a*  
7 *facility; and*

8 *2. A child who has been placed in a facility under an emergency admission*  
9 *and whom the court orders to be admitted for the purpose of continuing the*  
10 *placement.*

11 **Sec. 1.5.** Each agency which provides child welfare services shall establish  
12 appropriate policies concerning the monitoring, use and distribution of  
13 psychotropic medication to children who are in the custody of the agency.

14 **Sec. 2.** NRS 432B.607 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 432B.607 As used in NRS 432B.607 to 432B.6085, inclusive, ~~and section 1.3~~  
16 ~~of this act~~, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined  
17 in NRS 432B.6071 to 432B.6074, inclusive, ~~and section 1.3~~ of this act have the  
18 meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

19 **Sec. 3.** NRS 432B.6075 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 432B.6075 **1.** A proceeding for a court-ordered admission of a child alleged  
21 to be a child with an emotional disturbance who is in the custody of an agency  
22 which provides child welfare services to a facility may be commenced by the filing  
23 of a petition with the clerk of the court which has jurisdiction in proceedings  
24 concerning the child. The petition may be filed by the agency which provides child  
25 welfare services without the consent of a parent of the child. The petition must be  
26 accompanied:

27 ~~[(a)]~~ **(a)** By a certificate of a physician, psychiatrist or licensed psychologist  
28 stating that he has examined the child alleged to be a child with an emotional  
29 disturbance and has concluded that the child has an emotional disturbance and,

because of that condition, is likely to harm himself or others if allowed his liberty;  
or

~~(2)~~ (b) By a sworn written statement by the petitioner that:

~~(1)~~ (1) The petitioner has, based upon his personal observation of the child alleged to be a child with an emotional disturbance, probable cause to believe that the child has an emotional disturbance and, because of that condition, is likely to harm himself or others if allowed his liberty; and

~~(2)~~ (2) The child alleged to be a child with an emotional disturbance has refused to submit to examination or treatment by a physician, psychiatrist or licensed psychologist.

*2. If a petition filed pursuant to this section is to continue the placement of the child after an emergency admission, the petition must be filed not later than 5 days after the emergency admission ~~or~~ or the child must be released.*

**Sec. 4.** NRS 432B.6076 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.6076 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 432B.6077, if the court finds, after proceedings for the court-ordered admission of a child alleged to be a child with an emotional disturbance who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services to a facility ~~or~~, *including, without limitation, an evidentiary hearing:*

(a) That there is not clear and convincing evidence that the child with respect to whom the hearing was held exhibits observable behavior such that he is likely to harm himself or others if allowed his liberty, the court shall enter its finding to that effect and the child must not be admitted to a facility.

(b) That there is clear and convincing evidence that the child with respect to whom the hearing was held is in need of treatment in a facility and is likely to harm himself or others if allowed his liberty, the court may order the admission of the child for the most appropriate course of treatment. The order of the court must be interlocutory and must not become final if, within 30 days after the admission, the child is unconditionally released from the facility pursuant to NRS 432B.6084.

2. Before issuing an order for admission or a renewal thereof, the court shall explore other alternative courses of treatment within the least restrictive appropriate environment as suggested by the evaluation team who evaluated the child, or other persons professionally qualified in the field of psychiatric mental health, which the court believes may be in the best interests of the child.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 432B.6077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.6077 1. An agency which provides child welfare services shall not place a child who is in the custody of the agency in a facility, other than under an emergency admission, unless the agency has petitioned the court for the court-ordered admission of the child to a facility pursuant to NRS 432B.6075.

2. If a petition for the court-ordered admission of a child filed pursuant to NRS 432B.6075 is accompanied by the information described in *paragraph (b) of subsection ~~(2)~~ 1* of NRS 432B.6075, the court shall order a psychological evaluation of the child.

3. If a court which receives a petition filed pursuant to NRS 432B.6075 for the court-ordered admission to a facility of a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services determines pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 432B.6076 that the child could be treated effectively in a less restrictive appropriate environment than a facility, the court must order the placement of the child in a less restrictive appropriate environment. In making such a determination, the court may consider any information provided to the court, including, without limitation:

(a) Any information provided pursuant to subsection 4;

(b) Any suggestions of psychologists, psychiatrists or other physicians who have evaluated the child concerning the appropriate environment for the child; and

(c) Any suggestions of licensed clinical social workers or other professionals or any adult caretakers who have interacted with the child and have information concerning the appropriate environment for the child.

4. If a petition for the court-ordered admission of a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services is filed pursuant to NRS 432B.6075:

(a) Any person, including, without limitation, the child, may oppose the petition for the court-ordered admission of the child by filing a written opposition with the court ~~or~~ *or stating the opposition in court*; and

(b) The agency which provides child welfare services must present information to the court concerning whether:

(1) A facility is the appropriate environment to provide treatment to the child; or

(2) A less restrictive appropriate environment would serve the needs of the child.

**Sec. 6.** NRS 432B.6078 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.6078 1. Not later than 5 days after a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services has been admitted to a facility pursuant to NRS 432B.6076, the agency which provides child welfare services shall inform the child of his legal rights and the provisions of NRS 432B.607 to 432B.6085, inclusive, *and section ~~1.3~~ 1.3 of this act*, 433.456 to 433.543, inclusive, and 433.545 to 433.551, inclusive, and chapters 433A and 433B of NRS and, if the child or the child's attorney desires, assist the child in requesting the court to authorize a second examination by an evaluation team that includes a physician, psychiatrist or licensed psychologist *who are not ~~affiliated with~~ employed by ~~for~~ otherwise ~~connected to or otherwise affiliated with the facility~~* other than a physician, psychiatrist or licensed psychologist who performed an original examination which authorized the court to order the admission of the child to the facility. *A second examination must be conducted not later than 5 business days after the court authorizes the examination.*

2. If the court authorizes a second examination of the child, the examination must:

(a) Include, without limitation, an evaluation concerning whether the child should remain in the facility and a recommendation concerning the appropriate placement of the child which must be provided to the facility; and

(b) Be paid for by the governmental entity that is responsible for the agency which provides child welfare services, if such payment is not otherwise provided by the State Plan for Medicaid.

**Sec. 7.** NRS 432B.608 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.608 1. If the court issues an order for the admission to a facility of a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services pursuant to NRS 432B.6076, the admission automatically expires at the end of 90 days if not terminated previously by the facility as provided for in subsection 2 of NRS 432B.6084.

2. At the end of the court-ordered period of treatment, the agency which provides child welfare services, the Division of Child and Family Services or any facility may petition to renew the admission of the child for additional periods not to exceed 60 days each.

3. For each renewal, the petition must set forth the specific reasons why further treatment in the facility would be in the best interests of the child ~~and~~ *and the court shall apply the same standards when considering a petition to renew the*

*admission of the child as were applied for the original petition for the court-ordered admission of the child.*

**Sec. 8.** NRS 432B.6081 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432B.6081 A facility which provides care, treatment or training to a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services and who is admitted to the facility pursuant to NRS 432B.6076 shall develop a plan, in consultation with the child, for the continued care, treatment and training of the child upon discharge from the facility. The plan must:

1. Be developed not later than ~~15~~ 10 days after the child is admitted to the facility;

2. Be submitted to the court after each period of admission ordered by the court pursuant to NRS 432B.6076 in the manner set forth in NRS 432B.608; and

3. Include, without limitation:

(a) The anticipated date of discharge of the child from the facility;

~~(b) [The criteria which must be satisfied before the child is discharged from the facility, as determined by the medical professional responsible for the care, treatment and training of the child in the facility;~~

~~—(c)—~~ The name of any psychiatrist or psychologist who will provide care, treatment or training to the child after the child is discharged from the facility, if appropriate;

~~(d)~~ (c) A plan for any appropriate care, treatment or training for the child for at least 30 days after the child is discharged from the facility; and

~~(e)~~ (d) The suggested placement of the child after the child is discharged from the facility.

**Sec. 9.** ~~[NRS 128.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:~~

~~128.110 1. Whenever the procedure described in this chapter has been followed, and upon finding grounds for the termination of parental rights pursuant to NRS 128.105 at a hearing upon the petition, the court shall make a written order, signed by the judge presiding in the court, judicially depriving the parent or parents of the custody and control of, and terminating the parental rights of the parent or parents with respect to the child, and declaring the child to be free from such custody or control, and placing the custody and control of the child in some person or agency qualified by the laws of this State to provide services and care to children, or to receive any children for placement;~~

~~2. If the child is placed in the custody and control of a person or agency qualified by the laws of this State to receive children for placement, the person or agency, in seeking to place the child:~~

~~(a) May give preference to the placement of the child with any person related within the third degree of consanguinity to the child whom the person or agency finds suitable and able to provide proper care and guidance for the child, regardless of whether the relative resides within this State;~~

~~(b) Shall, if practicable, give preference to the placement of the child together with his siblings;~~

~~Any search for a relative with whom to place a child pursuant to this subsection must be completed within 1 year after the initial placement of the child outside of his home;~~

~~3. If a court terminates the parental rights of the parent or parents of a child and the child is placed separate from any sibling, the court shall include in the order a plan for the reasonable visitation of the child with any such sibling. If the child is subsequently moved or adopted and will remain or become separated from any sibling, the person or agency making the placement must request the court to issue an order requiring the visitation set forth in the earlier order issued pursuant to this subsection. If a person refuses to comply with or disobeys an~~

~~order issued pursuant to this subsection, he may be punished as for a contempt of court.~~ (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 10. Chapter 127 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. If a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services is placed for adoption, the agency must provide the court which is conducting the adoption proceedings with a copy of any order for visitation with a sibling of the child that was issued pursuant to NRS 432B.580 and the court must conduct a hearing to determine whether to include an order for visitation with a sibling in the decree of adoption.

2. Any interested party in the adoption, including, without limitation, the adoptive parent, the adoptive child, a sibling of the adoptive child, the agency which provides child welfare services or a licensed child-placing agency may petition the court to participate in the determination of whether to include an order of visitation with a sibling in the decree of adoption.

3. The sole consideration of the court in making a determination concerning visitation with a sibling pursuant to this section is the best interest of the child.

~~[Sec. 10.]~~ Sec. 11. NRS 433B.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

433B.130 1. The Administrator shall:

(a) Administer, in accordance with the policies established by the Commission, the programs of the Division for the mental health of children.

(b) Appoint the administrative personnel necessary to operate the programs of the Division for the mental health of children. The Commission must approve the credentials, training and experience of deputy administrators and administrative officers appointed for this purpose.

(c) Delegate to the administrative officers the power to appoint medical, technical, clerical and operational staff necessary for the operation of any division facilities.

(d) Ensure that appropriate policies are established concerning the prescribing, monitoring, use and distribution of psychotropic medication to children in division facilities ~~that are consistent with the policies established pursuant to section 1.5 of this act.~~

2. If the Administrator finds that it is necessary or desirable that any employee reside at a facility operated by the Division or receive meals at such a facility, perquisites granted or charges for services rendered to that person are at the discretion of the Governor.

3. The Administrator may accept children referred to the Division for treatment pursuant to the provisions of NRS 458.290 to 458.350, inclusive.

4. The Administrator may enter into agreements with the Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department for the care and treatment of clients of the Division of Child and Family Services at any facility operated by the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

~~[Sec. 11.]~~ Sec. 12. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.