

2025 Regular Session

LSLI Disposition Sheet for the Children's Code

Effective date is August 1, 2025 unless otherwise noted

| <u>LSA-R.S.</u> | <u>Effect</u> | <u>Act No.</u> | <u>Section</u> | <u>Sp. Eff. Dt.</u> |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Art. 116(2.1) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 116(2.2) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 412(M) | Amend | 364 | 1 | |
| ✓ Art. 412(P) | Enact | 364 | 1 | |
| ✓ Art. 502(3) | Amend | 261 | 6 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 502(4)(l) | Amend | 261 | 6 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 509(B)(1) | Amend | 477 | 1 | 10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 512(B)(1) | Amend | 477 | 1 | 10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 522(A)(2) | Amend | 477 | 1 | 10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(4)(a) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(8) | Amend | 261 | 6 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(12)(l) | Amend | 261 | 6 | ✓ |
| MERGE ✓ Art. 603(17)(d) ^{NOTE} | Amend | 195 | 1 | |
| MERGE ✓ Art. 603(17)(d) ^{PRINT} | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(17)(e) | Amend | 195 | 1 | |
| ✓ Art. 603(17)(l) | Enact | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(17)(m) | Enact | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(17)(n) | Enact | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603(17)(o) | Enact | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 603.1(B) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| MERGE ✓ Art. 610(A) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| MERGE ✓ Art. 610(A) ⁽⁵⁾ (3) | Amend | 195 | 1 | |
| MERGE ✓ Art. 610(A) ⁽⁶⁾ (4) | Amend | 195 | 1 | |
| MERGE ✓ Art. 610(A) ⁽⁷⁾ (5) | Enact | 195 | 1 | |
| ✓ Art. 610(E)(1) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 610(E)(2) | Amend | 409 | 7 | ✓ |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|
| ✓ Art. 610(F) | -----Amend----- | 261 | -----6 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 610(H) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 610(I) | -----Enact----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 612(A)(3) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(B)(2) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(B)(3) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(B)(5) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(E)(Intro.Par.) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(E)(1) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(E)(4)(a) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 615(F) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 616(B) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 616(D)(Intro.Par.) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 616(E) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 616(H) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 616.1.1(A) | -----Amend----- | 409 | -----7 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1269.3(F) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1270(B) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1270(E) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1270(F) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1271(A) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1273 | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1283.2(H) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1285.2(H) | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |
| ✓ Art. 1519 | -----Amend----- | 477 | -----1-----10/01/2027 ✓ |

Approved by JMB on 7-24-25
(Attorney)
WJ on 7/25/2025
(Revisor)

ACT 409
2025 Regular Session
Edit Sheet

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Edits To: CC Pgs. 31

Note: - NOTE §§ 9(A) & (C) + 10
- COPY PGS. 1-2, 31-32

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Edits To: CHC Pgs. 24, 25, 27-30

Note: - MERGE w/ACT 195
- NOTE §§ 9(A), (C), & (D) + 10
- COPY PGS 1-2, 20-32

ACT 409

2025 Regular Session

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 41

BY SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MIZELL, PRICE, SELDERS, STINE AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, BAYHAM, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOYD, BRYANT, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, ECHOLS, FISHER, HILFERTY, HUGHES, ILLG, JACKSON, KNOX, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MCMAHEN, MENA, NEWELL, PHELPS, SPELL, TAYLOR AND WALTERS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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Edits To: ALL Pgs. _____
Note: SEE ATTACHED EDIT SHEET

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. ~~14:91.3(A)~~, the introductory paragraph of R.S. ~~15:587.1(C)~~, 587.1(C)(1), and 1110.3(H), the introductory paragraph of R.S. ~~17:8.7(B)~~ and 8.7(B)(1), 15(A)(1)(a), (b)(i)(bb) and (cc), and (b)(ii) and (2)(a)(j) through (v), (D), and (E), 16(A), 24.8(A) and (B)(2), 407.33(5), 407.35(A), 407.42(A)(2) and (B)(1)(b), 407.46(A)(1), 407.71(A), 443(B)(1), 493(C)(1), and 3996(B)(28), R.S. ~~24:525(D)~~, R.S. ~~40:2008.10(A)(3)~~ and 2019(F)(3)(b), R.S. ~~46:51.2(A)(1)(b)~~, 56(F)(1), (4)(c), (10)(b)(i), and (11), and 1414.1(A), ~~Children's Code~~ Art. 116(2.1) and (2.2), 603(4)(a) and (17)(d), 603.1(B), 610(A), (E)(1) and (2), and (H), 612(A)(3), 615(B)(2), (3), and (5), the introductory paragraph of 615(E) and 615(E)(1) and (4)(a) and (F), 616(B), the introductory paragraph of 616(D), 616(E) and (H), and 616.1.1(A) and to enact R.S. 17:15(A)(1)(b)(i)(dd) and (2)(a)(vi), 407.41, and 3996(B)(82), ~~Children's Code~~ Art. 603(17)(l) through (o) and 610(I) and ~~Civil Code~~ Art. 2315.12, relative to child welfare; to provide for review of the state central registry for school employees; to provide for reporting recordation on the state central registry; to provide for the licensure of early learning centers; to provide for child welfare and safety minimum standards for prekindergarten programs; to

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provide for child abuse and neglect determinations; to provide for definitions in the Children's Code; to provide for mandatory reporting training; to provide for procedures for reporting child abuse and neglect; to provide for the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services to respond to reports; to provide for investigations of child sexual abuse in a school setting; to provide for liability for damages caused by sexual abuse in a school setting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:91.3(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§91.3. Unlawful participation in a child-related business

A. No person who has been convicted of, or who has pled guilty or nolo contendere to, an offense listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C) or whose name is recorded on the Department of Children and Family Services' state central registry on or after August 1, 2018, shall own, operate, or in any way participate in the governance of any early learning center as defined by R.S. 17:407.33, residential home as defined by R.S. 46:1403, or residence in which child care services are provided by a family child care provider or in-home provider who is registered pursuant to R.S. 17:407.61 et seq.

* * *

Section 2. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 15:587.1(C), 587.1(C)(1), and 1110.3(H) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§587.1. Provision of information to protect children

* * *

C. The provisions of R.S. 15:825.3, R.S. 17:8.9, 15, 407.42, and 407.71, R.S. 46:51.2 ~~and 1441.13~~, and Children's Code Article 424.1 shall govern the employment of persons who have been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, any of the following crimes:

(1) R.S. 14:30, R.S. 14:30.1, R.S. 14:31, R.S. 14:32.6 through R.S. 14:32.8, R.S. 14:41 through R.S. 14:45, **R.S. 14:46.2 through** R.S. 14:46.4, R.S. 14:74, ~~R.S. 14:78, R.S. 14:78.1~~, R.S. 14:79.1, R.S. 14:80 through R.S. 14:86, R.S. 14:89, R.S.

1 authority over that employer's minor children or other dependent person as part of
 2 that person's employment as a caregiver. The information disclosed pursuant to this
 3 Paragraph shall be limited to cases in which the department has determined that the
 4 allegations from which such information has been developed are justified
 5 substantiated pursuant to Children's Code Article 615. The provisions of this
 6 Paragraph shall not be interpreted to authorize the release of or access to any
 7 information protected under federal law.

8 * * *

9 §1414.1. State central registry

10 A. Any owner, operator, current or prospective employee, or volunteer of a
 11 specialized provider requesting licensure or licensed by the Department of Children
 12 and Family Services is prohibited from being employed by the specialized provider
 13 if that individual's name is recorded on the state central registry as a perpetrator for
 14 a justified substantiated finding of abuse or neglect of a child.

15 * * *

16 Section 7. Children's Code Art. 116(2.1) and (2.2), 603(4)(a) and (17)(d), ~~603.1(B),~~
 17 ~~610(A), (E)(1) and (2), and (H), 612(A)(3), 615(B)(2), (3), and (5),~~ the introductory
 18 paragraph of 615(E) and 615(E)(1) and (4)(a) and (F), ~~616(B),~~ the introductory paragraph
 19 of 616(D), 616(E) and (H), and ~~616.1.1(A)~~ are hereby amended and reenacted and Children's
 20 Code Art. ~~603(17)(l)~~ through (o) and 610(I) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

21 Art. 116. Definitions

22 Except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, these definitions apply
 23 for the following terms used throughout this Code.

24 * * *

25 (2.1) "CASA program" means a court-appointed special advocate program
 26 established in compliance with ~~National~~ Louisiana CASA Association standards.

27 (2.2) "CASA volunteer" means a court-appointed special advocate who has
 28 been trained in accordance with ~~National~~ Louisiana CASA Association standards
 29 and is under the supervision of a CASA program.

30 * * *

ACT 409

SB NO. 41

ENROLLED

Art. 603. Definitions

As used in this Title:

* * *

(4)(a) "Caretaker" means any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster home parent, ~~an employee or an operator of an early learning center as defined in R.S. 17:407.33, an operator or employee of a registered family child day care home,~~ an operator or employee of a **residential or treatment facility licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Louisiana Department of Health** restrictive care facility, or other person providing a residence for the child. ~~"Caretaker" also means an adult who occupies a residence of a child and has a consistent and continuing responsibility for the care of a child. "Caretaker" shall not include an operator or employee of a correctional facility, detention facility, or nonresidential school, or unlicensed residential or child care provider.~~

* * *

(17) "Mandatory reporter" is any of the following individuals:

* * *

(d) "Teaching or child care provider" is any person who provides or assists in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, ~~school resource officer,~~ bus driver, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university administrator, college or university staff member, social worker, ~~probation officer,~~ ~~foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member,~~ ~~personnel of residential home facilities,~~ **an employee or an operator of an early learning center as defined in R.S. 17:407.33, an operator or employee of a registered family child day care home,** a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides these services to a child in a voluntary or professional capacity.

[MERGE w/ ACT 195]

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(l) A foster parent.

(m) A group home or other institutional child care staff member or personnel of residential home facilities.

(n) A probation officer.

(o) Any employee of the office of juvenile justice or the Department of Children and Family Services, whose duties include supervisory or disciplinary authority over children.

* * *

Art. 603.1. Required education; reporting child abuse

* * *

B. Teaching or child care providers as defined by Article 603 shall complete an online training course provided by the Department of Children and Family Services between June first and August thirty-first annually. A record of completion of the course by the teaching or child care provider shall be provided to ~~and retained~~ by each entity at which the teaching or child care provider is employed. ~~The entity at which the teaching or child care provider is employed shall retain a list of all teaching or child care providers who have not complied with the training requirements provided in this Article.~~ **No later than September thirtieth of each year and in a manner prescribed by the state Department of Education each entity at which a teaching or child care provider is employed shall submit a list to the state Department of Education of all teaching and child care providers employed by the entity and identify the employees that have complied with the training requirements and those employees that have not complied. The state Department of Education shall publish the completion rates for each entity on its website.**

* * *

Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States

Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

A.(†) A reporter shall immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect or that child abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death in the

1 following ways:

2 (a)(1) To the Department of Children and Family Services if the reporter has
3 reason to believe that the perpetrator is a any of the following:

4 (a) A parent or caretaker as defined in Article 603,[✓]~~a~~

5 (b) A person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement
6 relationship with the parent or caretaker, ~~or a~~

7 (c) A person living in the same residence with as the parent or caretaker, ~~as~~
8 a spouse whether married or not.

9 (d) A person living in the same residence as the child, or any residence
10 of the child, if the child has more than one residence.

11 (e) An employee or an operator of an early learning center as defined in
12 R.S. 17:407.33,[✓]

13 (f) An operator or employee of a registered family child day care home.

14 (g) Another child residing in the same residence for cases of suspected
15 sexual abuse.

16 (h) Indeterminable by the mandatory reporter, but the reporter suspects
17 that the abuse occurred at the child's residence.

18 (b)(2) To a local or state law enforcement agency if the reporter has reason
19 to believe that the perpetrator is any of the following: ~~abuse or neglect is being~~
20 ~~perpetrated by someone other than the individuals provided for in Subsubparagraph~~
21 ~~(a) of this Subparagraph. Abuse or neglect perpetrated on a student by a teaching or~~
22 ~~child care provider, as defined by Article 603, shall be immediately reported to local~~
23 ~~or state law enforcement;~~

24 (a) A person other than a person provided for in Subparagraph (1) of[✓]
25 this Paragraph.

26 (b) A teacher, instructor, administrator, staff person, school bus driver,
27 teacher aide, paraprofessional, food service worker, or employee of any public
28 or private elementary, secondary, vocational-technical training, special, or
29 postsecondary school, city, parish, or other local public school board, if the
30 abuse or neglect is perpetrated on a student.

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(c) Another child who does not reside in the same residence for cases of suspected sexual abuse.

~~(c)~~(3) Dual reporting to both the department and the local or state law enforcement agency is permitted. However, the agency who receives a report pursuant to Subparagraph (1) or (2) of this Paragraph shall be the agency responsible for accepting and acting on the report and shall ensure referral to other agencies as necessary.

~~(2)~~(4) Reports to the department shall be made as follows:

(a) A mandatory reporter shall make a report of suspected abuse or neglect requiring immediate assistance via the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number. A report of suspected abuse or neglect which is of a nonemergency nature may be reported via the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services Mandated Reporter Portal online. Reports may also be made in person at any child welfare office.

(b) If a report involves alleged sex trafficking, all mandatory reporters shall report via the hotline telephone number to the department regardless of whether there is alleged parental or caretaker culpability.

(c) A permitted reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number or in person at any child welfare office. [INSERT (5) FROM ACT 195]

~~(b)~~ ~~(3)~~(5) If a mandatory reporter is prohibited from immediately making the report required by this Chapter to the department or local or state law enforcement because of an employer's policies or employee manual, the mandatory reporter shall file a complaint with local or state law enforcement. Local or state law enforcement shall investigate the complaint, and an employer violating this Chapter shall be subject to the penalties provided for in R.S. 14:131.1 and 403. An employer shall not discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a mandatory reporter for complying with this Article. If an employer is found discriminating or retaliating against an employee for complying with this Article, the employer shall be subject to double the fines provided for in R.S. 14:131.1 and 403.

[MERGE w/ ACT 195]

[IDENTICAL TO ACT 195]

ACT 409

SB NO. 41

ENROLLED

1 (1)(4)(6) In an investigation of a report of abuse or neglect allegedly committed
 2 by a parent or caretaker, the department shall determine whether the person is an
 3 active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member
 4 on active duty. If the department determines that the person is an active duty member
 5 of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member on active duty, the
 6 department shall notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy
 7 Program at the closest active duty military installation of the investigation.

* * *

9 E.(1) All reports made to any local or state law enforcement agency involving
 10 abuse or neglect in which ~~the child's parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an~~
 11 ~~interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a~~
 12 ~~person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether~~
 13 ~~married or not, an individual provided for in Subparagraph (A)(1) of this Article~~
 14 is believed responsible shall be promptly communicated reported to the department
 15 within twenty-four hours in accordance with Paragraph A of this Article.
 16 ~~through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number in~~
 17 ~~accordance with a written working agreement developed between the local law~~
 18 ~~enforcement agency and the department.~~

19 (2) ~~The department shall promptly communicate~~ All reports made to the
 20 department involving abuse or neglect cases not involving a parent, caretaker, or
 21 occupant of the household in which someone other than an individual provided
 22 for in Subparagraph (A)(1) of this Article is believed to be responsible shall be
 23 reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours by
 24 telephone ~~in accordance with a written working agreement developed between the~~
 25 ~~department and law enforcement agency.~~ The department also shall report all cases
 26 of child death which involve a suspicion of abuse or neglect as a contributing factor
 27 in the child's death to the local and state law enforcement agencies, the office of the
 28 district attorney, and the coroner.

* * *

H.(1) All instances of alleged child abuse that occur in a school setting

1 shall be immediately reported to the child's parent or legal guardian and to
2 local or state law enforcement, regardless of the alleged perpetrator.

3 (2) If more than one child is involved in the allegations, the school shall
4 immediately report to the parent or legal guardian of all involved children.

5 (3) Law enforcement shall begin an investigation of the allegations within
6 forty-eight hours of receiving the report.

7 (4) If more than one child is involved in the allegations, law enforcement
8 shall interview the parent or legal guardian of all children involved.

9 (5) Any sexual abuse cases in which the alleged perpetrator is a child
10 shall be referred to the Department of Children and Family Services. The
11 department shall assess the family of the child victim and the alleged child
12 perpetrator to ensure child safety and well-being in accordance with Children's
13 Code Article 612(A)(3).

14 (6) For purposes of this Article, the following definitions shall apply:

15 (a) "School setting" means in a school building, on school grounds, in
16 school vehicles, or at any activities sponsored by a school.

17 (b) "Sexual abuse" means the perpetration or attempted perpetration of
18 R.S. 14:41, 42, 42.1, 43, 43.1, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4, 80, 81, 81.1, 81.2, 86, 89, or 89.1.

19 H.L.(1) The provisions of this Paragraph shall be known and may be cited as
20 The Alfred C. Williams Child Protection Act.

21 (2) Beginning May 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department shall
22 provide to the legislature the following child-specific information regarding reports
23 of child abuse or neglect reported to the department pursuant to the provisions of this
24 Article:

25 (a) The actual or estimated age, the sex, and the race of each child at the time
26 the latest report was received.

27 (b) The parish location of primary case name of the latest report accepted for
28 investigation received.

29 (c) The categories, levels, and final findings assigned to each allegation
30 contained in reports received for each child.

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(d) The number of cases accepted for investigation in which the child was an alleged ~~or valid~~ victim during the report year.

(e) The number of cases accepted for investigation in which the child was a ~~valid~~ **substantiated** victim during the report year.

(f) The number of reports accepted for investigation prior to report year in which the child was an alleged or ~~valid~~ **substantiated** victim.

(g) The number of other alleged victims in reports accepted for investigation in each child's cases prior to report year.

(h) The number of reports accepted for investigation prior to the report year in which the child was a ~~valid~~ **substantiated** victim.

(i) The number of other ~~validated~~ **substantiated** victims in reports accepted for investigation in each child's cases prior to report year.

(j) The number of distinct reporter names for all investigations in which the child is an alleged or ~~valid~~ **substantiated** victim.

(3) For purposes of this Paragraph, the following words shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Alleged victim" includes a child who is the subject of an investigation and for whom there is an allegation of abuse or neglect.

(b) "~~Valid~~ **Substantiated** victim" or "~~validated~~ victim" includes an alleged victim for whom one or more allegations of abuse or neglect have been ~~determined to be justified~~ **substantiated** pursuant to Article 615.

*(4) The information provided...
(5) If the department fails...*

Art. 612. Assignment of reports for investigation and assessment

A.

* * *

(3) In lieu of an investigation, reports of low levels of risk **and reports from law enforcement of child sexual abuse as provided for in Children's Code Article 610** may be assessed promptly through interviews with the family to identify needs and available match to community resources. If during this assessment, it is determined that a child is at immediate substantial risk of harm, the local child

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protection unit shall promptly conduct or participate in an intensive investigation.

* * *

Art. 615. Disposition of reports

* * *

B. After investigation, the local child protection unit shall make one of the following determinations:

* * *

(2) The report ~~appears to be justified~~ **is substantiated**, in that there is evidence of child abuse, or neglect, and a protective order or instanter safety plan order would eliminate the need for removal of the child in order to protect him from further abuse, in which case it may apply for a temporary restraining order or protective order authorized by ~~Article~~ ^{Articles} 617 and ~~Article~~ ^{Articles} 618, or an instanter safety plan order authorized by Article 619 or ~~Article~~ ^{Articles} 620.

(3) The report ~~appears to be justified~~ **is substantiated**, in that there is evidence of child abuse or neglect, in which case it shall report all pertinent information to the district attorney, as soon as possible but in no case more than thirty days after such determination, for evaluation of whether a child in need of care petition should be filed in the court with juvenile jurisdiction.

* * *

(5) The report ~~does not appear justified~~ **is unsubstantiated** as the evidence does not support a finding of child abuse or neglect.

* * *

E. When after the investigation of a report, the determination is made that the report is inconclusive or ~~not justified~~ **unsubstantiated**, as provided in Subparagraphs (B)(4) and (5) of this Article, the files, records, and pertinent information regarding the report and investigation shall be strictly confidential, shall not become part of the central registry except as otherwise provided in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph or in Article 616(F), shall not be disclosed or ordered to be produced in conjunction with any legal proceeding or other matter except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, and shall be maintained only for the following purposes:

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(1) The files, records, and information shall remain unsealed and shall be maintained for the exclusive use of child protective services, to assist in future risk and safety assessments. The Department of Children and Family Services shall maintain all files and records for seven years from the date of the determination, unless a subsequent inconclusive or ~~not justified~~ **unsubstantiated** report is received during that period. In that case, information from all such reports will be maintained until the youngest child in the alleged victim's family attains the age of eighteen years or seven years from the date of the latest determination, whichever is longer. If information from an inconclusive or ~~not justified~~ **unsubstantiated** report is used as a part of the basis for a later, related, and **justified substantiated** report, the earlier report shall become part of the file of the **justified substantiated** report and shall cease to be a separate report.

* * *

(4)(a) All files, records, and information regarding a report that has been determined to be inconclusive or ~~not justified~~ **unsubstantiated** shall be released to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, military authorities, prosecuting authorities, and coroners upon request when such entity is in the course of investigations or legal proceedings and the requesting entity has good cause to believe that the files, records, or information contain information which may be constitutionally required to be disclosed pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and its progeny. The requesting agency shall request the information in writing and state the purpose for which the information is being requested.

* * *

F. The department shall promulgate rules to provide for the disposition, handling, maintenance, and storage of inconclusive and ~~not justified~~ **unsubstantiated** reports in keeping with this ^{Article} Article. **Nothing in this Section shall be construed to modify or abrogate the provisions of R.S. 44:411.**

* * *

Art. 616. Registry; screening of CASA volunteers, staff, and board members; confidentiality

1 * * *

2 B. Within the state repository, the department shall maintain a state central
3 registry of certain ~~justified~~ **substantiated** reports of abuse and neglect as set forth
4 in rules promulgated by the department. The name of an individual who was placed
5 on the state central registry as a perpetrator of abuse or neglect prior to the effective
6 date of ~~Children's Code~~ Article 616.1.1 shall not be released outside of the
7 department until that individual's administrative appeals are exhausted. After the
8 effective date of ~~Children's Code~~ Article 616.1.1, the name of an individual who is
9 determined to be a perpetrator of abuse or neglect shall not be placed on the state
10 central registry until that individual's administrative appeals are exhausted. All
11 decisions rendered by an administrative law judge are final, and the decisions shall
12 exhaust the individual's administrative remedy. However, notwithstanding any other
13 provision of law, the department shall provide information involving an investigation
14 from either the repository or the state central registry immediately to the local district
15 attorney's office, or its designee, or to the court, when taking court action is
16 necessary to protect the child from abuse or neglect. The department shall provide
17 information involving an open investigation or a completed investigation determined
18 to be ~~justified~~ **substantiated** from either the repository or the state central registry
19 to another state's child welfare agency upon written request when the request is made
20 pursuant to an ongoing child protective services investigation in the other state.

21 * * *

22 D. Upon the written request of the court during its evaluation of any of the
23 following individuals who will have contact with children served by the court-
24 appointed special advocate program, and with the consent of the individual, the
25 department shall search the central registry and report to the court any ~~justified~~
26 **substantiated** report of abuse or neglect alleging that the individual is a perpetrator:

27 * * *

28 E. When, after an investigation, the determination is made by the department
29 that the report does appear to be ~~justified~~ **substantiated**, any subsequent adjudication
30 by a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction which dismisses the child in need of care

petition involving this report shall be added to the central registry.

* * *

H. The department may charge a fee, that shall not exceed twenty-five dollars, to conduct a search of the state central registry of justified substantiated abuse or neglect reports to determine whether an individual's name is recorded therein. A search shall be allowed only when specifically authorized. The fee shall not apply to searches for school employees conducted pursuant to R.S. 17:15.

* * *

Art. 616.1.1. Appeal and review; correction of central registry entries; procedure

A. When a report alleging abuse or neglect is ~~determined to be justified~~ substantiated by the department, the individual who is or was the subject of the determination may make a formal written request to the division of administrative law for an administrative appeal of the justified substantiated determination, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Title ⁶⁷ of the Louisiana Administrative Code.

* * *

Section 8. Civil Code Art. 2315.12 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 2315.¹³ Liability for damages caused by child sexual abuse in a school setting

Any parent or guardian of a child who is the victim of sexual abuse in a school setting as defined in Children's Code Article 610 may be awarded damages including but not limited to medical expenses incurred as a result of the sexual abuse, behavioral health expenses incurred as a result of the sexual abuse, reimbursement of any tuition paid for attendance at the school if the child is removed from the school, and any other damages allowed by law.

Section 9.(A) The state central registry checks for all school employee applicants required by this Act ^[ACTS 2025, No. 409] shall apply to any person hired on or after August 1, 2025.

(B) All early learning centers and prekindergarten programs shall be in compliance with the child safety and welfare minimum standards provided for in R.S. 17:407.41 no later than October 1, 2025.

[NOTE - ALL PROVISIONS IN THIS ACT] RS 17:407.41

SB NO. 41

ENROLLED

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(C) All prekindergarten programs requiring licensure as an early learning center pursuant to this Act shall apply for licensure no later than January 1, 2026.

✓ [Acts 2025, No. 409]

(D) The mandatory reporter training report provided for in Children's Code Article 603.1 shall be submitted to the Department of Education beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

✓ [Acts 2025, No. 409]

Section 10. This Act shall be known and may be cited as "Charlie's Law".

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED:

June 20, 2025

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

[NOTE 2 ALL PROVISIONS [NOTE 2 ALL IN THIS ACT] CHC ART. 603.1] PROVS. IN THIS ACT]

ACT 195

ENROLLED

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 451

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

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Edits To: CHC Pgs. 1-3

Note: - MERGE w/ACT 409

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact ~~Children's Code~~ Articles 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A)(3) and (4) and to enact Children's Code Article 610(A)(5), relative to mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect; to provide for police officers or law enforcement officials who work as school resource officers; to provide for definitions; to provide for mandatory reporting requirements for school resource officers; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Articles 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A)(3) and (4) are hereby amended and reenacted and Children's Code Article 610(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 603. Definitions

As used in this Title:

* * *

(17) "Mandatory reporter" is any of the following individuals:

* * *

(d) "Teaching or child care provider" is any person who provides or assists in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, ~~school resource officer~~, bus driver, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university administrator, college or university staff member, social worker, probation officer,

[MERGE; SEE ACT 409]

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

ACT 195

HB NO. 451

ENROLLED

1 foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member,
2 personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider,
3 or any individual who provides these services to a child in a voluntary or
4 professional capacity.

* * *

6 (e) Police officers or law enforcement officials. Any police officer or law
7 enforcement official who works as a school resource officer shall be considered a
8 mandatory reporter. ~~A school resource officer shall not receive information from
9 another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the
10 report.~~

* * *

12 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States

13 Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

14 A.

* * *

16 (5) (3) If a school resource officer suspects child abuse or neglect of a student or
17 if a mandatory reporter reports suspected child abuse or neglect to a school resource
18 officer, the school resource officer shall immediately notify the officer's employing
19 law enforcement agency or the Department of Children and Family Services in
20 accordance with the provisions of this Article. The school resource officer's
21 employer shall assign investigation of the matter to the most appropriate law
22 enforcement officer, who may be the school resource officer.

23 (6) (3) (4) If a mandatory reporter is prohibited from immediately making the
24 report required by this Chapter to the department or local or state law enforcement
25 because of an employer's policies or employee manual, the mandatory reporter shall
26 file a complaint with local or state law enforcement. Local or state law enforcement
27 shall investigate the complaint, and an employer violating this Chapter shall be
28 subject to the penalties provided for in R.S. 14:131.1 and 403. An employer shall
29 not discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a mandatory reporter for
30 complying with this Article. If an employer is found discriminating or retaliating

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MERGE w/ ACT 401
IDENTICAL TO ACT 401

ACT 195

HB NO. 451

ENROLLED

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against an employee for complying with this Article, the employer shall be subject to double the fines provided for in R.S. 14:131.1 and 403.

(1)~~(4)~~(5) In an investigation of a report of abuse or neglect allegedly committed by a parent or caretaker, the department shall determine whether the person is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member on active duty. If the department determines that the person is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member on active duty, the department shall notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program at the closest active duty military installation of the investigation.

* * *


SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED:  June 8, 2025

ACT 364

ENROLLED

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 445

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

L.a. State Law Institute
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Edits To: CAC Pgs. 1

Note:

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact ~~Children's Code Article 412(M)~~ and R.S. ~~15:576(2)~~ and 579 and to enact Children's Code Article 412(P) and R.S. 15:589.1, relative to juvenile records; to provide for applicability; to provide relative to what constitutes information or record of criminal history; to provide relative to duties of the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Article 412(M) is hereby amended and reenacted and Children's Code Article 412(P) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 412. Confidentiality of records; disclosure exceptions; sanctions

* * *

M. Records of juvenile criminal conduct shall not be ~~made a part of any state or local~~ disseminated as a criminal background check to anyone outside of the criminal justice system as defined in R.S. 15:576(5).

* * *

P. This Article shall not prohibit the creation of an interoperable set of criminal justice information systems at the state and local levels pursuant to R.S. 15:575 et seq., or preclude the dissemination of criminal history record information as defined in R.S. 15:576(2) in and to the criminal justice system as defined in R.S. 15:576(5).

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Section 2. R.S. 15:576(2) and 579 are hereby amended and reenacted ~~and R.S. 15:589.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:~~

§576. Definitions

As used in this Chapter:

* * *

(2) The terms "criminal history record" or "criminal history record information" mean information collected by criminal justice agencies on individuals consisting of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, bills of information, or any formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising therefrom, including sentencing, correctional supervision, and release. The terms do not include intelligence or investigatory purposes, nor ~~does it do they~~ include any identification information which does not indicate involvement of the individual in the criminal justice system. ~~The terms do not include records of juvenile criminal conduct.~~

* * *

§579. Rules and regulations

The bureau shall issue rules and regulations, consistent with United States Department of Justice requirements, the Constitution of Louisiana, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Children's Code, and the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, governing the maintenance of privacy and security of criminal history records and records of juvenile criminal conduct; governing access to and use of records maintained by the central repository; governing restrictions to access and use by authorized agencies or individuals of any state owned or operated system of communications utilized for transmitting criminal history record information to or from the bureau; and governing the purging of any information maintained by the bureau as permitted by law. Records of juvenile criminal conduct shall not be made ~~a part of any state or local~~ disseminated as a criminal background check to anyone outside of the criminal justice system as defined in R.S. 15:576(5).

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§589.1. Handling of information: juvenile criminal conduct

Any information on juvenile criminal conduct obtained by the bureau under this Title shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of Children's Code Articles 412, 414, and 917 through 926 and shall be made available pursuant to such provisions. Such access and use shall include an audit trail to maintain the integrity of the records and ensure accountability. Such trail shall include all of the following:


- (1) Who accessed the system.
- (2) When the system was accessed.
- (3) What actions were performed during access.



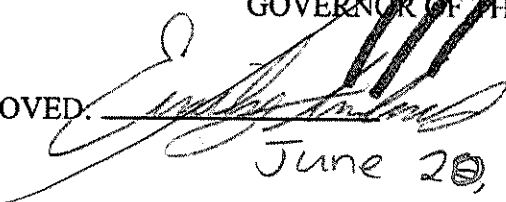
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: 
June 20, 2025

ACT 261
2025 Regular Session
Edit Sheet

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- NOTE §§ 819
- COPY PGS. 1, 15-16

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- NOTE §§ 819
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ACT 261

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2025 Regular Session

Edits To: ALL Pgs. _____
Note: SEE ATTACHED EDIT SHEET

HOUSE BILL NO. 268

BY REPRESENTATIVES LAFLEUR, ADAMS, BACALA, BAYHAM, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOYD, BOYER, BRASS, BRYANT, CARLSON, CARRIER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, DEVILLIER, DEWITT, DICKERSON, EDMONSTON, EGAN, FISHER, HORTON, HUGHES, JACKSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LACOMBE, JACOB LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MOORE, NEWELL, OWEN, ROMERO, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WALTERS, WYBLE, AND YOUNG

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. ~~14:73.8~~ (A), (C), and (D), 81.1(A), (B)(8) and (9), (E)(1) through (4) and (5)(a) and (b), (F)(2), (3)(b) and (c), (4), and (5)(introductory paragraph) and (d), 89.1(A)(2)(b)(i), 91.2(B), and 91.5(A)(1), R.S. ~~15:537~~(A), 539.1(F)(introductory paragraph), 541(24)(a) and (25)(d), 543.1(18), 545.1(C), and 1352(A)(45), R.S. ~~17:100.7~~(A)(1), R.S. ~~46:51.2~~(C)(1)(a), Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 648(B)(3)(i) and 718.1(A) and (B), Children's Code Articles 502(3) and (4)(l), 603(8) and (12)(l), and 610(F), and Civil Code Article 2315.3 and to enact R.S. 14:81.1(I) and R.S. 15:541(24)(c), relative to pornography involving juveniles; to change all references of "pornography involving juveniles" to "child sexual abuse materials"; to provide relative to the effects of these changes; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. ~~14:73.8~~(A), (C), and (D), 81.1(A), (B)(8) and (9), (E)(1) through (4) and (5)(a) and (b), (F)(2), (3)(b) and (c), (4), and (5)(introductory paragraph) and (d), 89.1(A)(2)(b)(i), 91.2(B), and 91.5(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:81.1(I) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§73.8. Unauthorized use of a wireless router system; ~~pornography involving juveniles~~ child sexual abuse materials; penalty

A. Unauthorized use of a wireless router system is the accessing or causing to be accessed of any computer, computer system, computer network, or any part thereof via any wireless router system for the purposes of uploading, downloading,

1 publicity as defined in R.S. 14:107.4, provided that the district attorney makes the
2 property or material reasonably available to the defendant.

3 * * *

4 Section 6. Children's Code Articles 502(3) and (4)(1), 603(8) and (12)(1), and 610(F)
5 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

6 Art. 502. Definitions

7 For the purposes of this Title, the following terms have the following
8 meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 * * *

10 (3) "Child pornography" or "child sexual abuse materials" means visual
11 depiction of a child engaged in actual or simulated sexual intercourse, deviate sexual
12 intercourse, sexual bestiality, masturbation, sadomasochistic abuse, or lewd
13 exhibition of the genitals.

14 (4) "Crime against the child" shall include the commission of or the
15 attempted commission of any of the following crimes against the child as provided
16 by federal or state statutes:

17 * * *

18 (1) ~~Pornography involving juveniles~~ Child sexual abuse materials.

19 * * *

20 Art. 603. Definitions

21 As used in this Title:

22 * * *

23 (8) "Child pornography" or "child sexual abuse materials" means visual
24 depiction of a child engaged in actual or simulated sexual intercourse, deviate sexual
25 intercourse, sexual bestiality, masturbation, sadomasochistic abuse, or lewd
26 exhibition of the genitals.

27 * * *

(12) "Crime against the child" shall include the commission of or the attempted commission of any of the following crimes against the child as provided by federal or state statutes:

* * *

(l) ~~Pornography involving juveniles~~ Child sexual abuse materials.

* * *

Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

* * *

F. Any commercial film or photographic print processor who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of this professional capacity or employment, any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide depicting a child who he knows or should know is under the age of seventeen years, which constitutes child pornography or child sexual abuse materials as defined in Article 603, shall report immediately to the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case. The reporter shall provide a copy of the film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide to the agency receiving the report.

* * *

Section 7. Civil Code Article 2315.3 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 2315.3. Additional damages; child pornography; child sexual abuse materials

In addition to general and special damages, exemplary damages may be awarded upon proof that the injuries on which the action is based were caused by a wanton and reckless disregard for the rights and safety of the person through an act of pornography involving juveniles child sexual abuse materials, as defined by R.S. 14:81.1, regardless of whether the defendant was prosecuted for his acts.

Section 8. Nothing in this Act ^{√ [Acts 2025, No. 261]} alleviates any person arrested, convicted, or adjudicated delinquent for pornography involving juveniles prior to the effective date of this Act ^{√ [Acts 2025, No. 261, eff. 8/1/2025]} from any requirement, obligation, or consequence imposed by law as a result of that arrest, conviction, or adjudication including but not limited to any requirements regarding

NOTE: ALL PROVISIONS IN THIS ACT

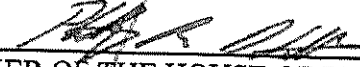
HB NO. 268

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the setting of bail, sex offender registration and notification, parental rights, probation, parole, sentencing, or any other requirement, obligation, or consequence imposed by law as a result of that arrest, conviction, or adjudication.

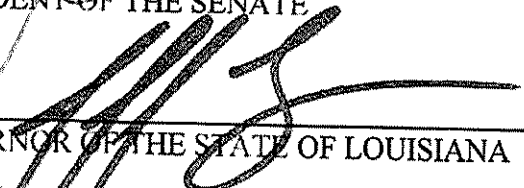
Section 9. This Act shall be cited and referred to as "The Audrey Wascome Act".



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED:  June 11, 2025

ACT 477
2025 Regular Session
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- NOTE §19
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Classification CAC
- NOTE §19
- COPY PGS. 1-7, 37

ACT 477

ENROLLED

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARVER, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAMBURG, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOYER, BRAUD, BRYANT, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, CREWS, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, FISHER, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, HEBERT, HENRY, HILFERTY, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, KERNER, LACOMBE, MACK, MCMAKIN, MELERINE, MOORE, NEWELL, OWEN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, STAGNI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WALTERS, WILDER, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE AND SENATORS BASS, BOUDREAUX, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, HENRY, MCMATH, MILLER, MIZELL, MYERS, REESE, SELDERS, AND WHEAT

La. State Law Institute
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Note: SEE ATTACHED EDIT SHEET

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact ~~Children's Code~~ Articles 509(B)(1), 512(B)(1), 522(A)(2), 1269.3(F),
3 1270(B), (E), and (F), 1271(A), 1273, 1283.2(H), 1285.2(H), and 1519, Code of
4 Evidence Article 902(10), R.S. 6:333(F)(14), R.S. 9:315.16(A), 315.40(1) and (3),
5 399.1(A) and (F)(3) and (4), and 406(B)(2) and (C)(2), R.S. 11:441.1(F), R.S. 13:998
6 (B) and (E)(1) ^(Intro. Par.) and (3), 1141(B) and (E)(1) ^(Intro. Par.) and (3), 1414(B) and (E)(1) ^(Intro. Par.) and (3),
7 4291(B)(1), and 5108.2, R.S. 15:587(A)(2)(a) and (b), 587.1(I), and 587.5(A)(4),
8 R.S. 17:192.1(A)(1)(a) and (3), R.S. 23:1605(A)(4), R.S. 36:3(7), 8(E)(2)(d), 9(C),
9 471(B) and (C)(1), 472(A), 475.1(B) and (C), 476, and 477, R.S. 40:34.5(E),
10 46.12(D) and (F), and 1061.14(B)(3)(b)(i), R.S. 43:111(A)(8), R.S. 44:38, R.S.
11 46:51(introductory paragraph), 51.3, 233.1(C)(introductory paragraph) and
12 (D)(introductory paragraph), 236.1.1(3), 236.1.4(E), 236.1.8(D), 236.3(A)(2),
13 236.10(A), 236.11(C), 236.12(B)(1), 236.14(D)(1)(introductory paragraph),
14 236.15(A)(1), 236.16, 238(B), (C), (D), (E)(introductory paragraph) and (7), and (F),
15 281, 1002(A), (B)(introductory paragraph), and (C), and 2136.2(F), R.S.
16 47:299.11(1), 299.41(B), 463.112(C), and 9027(C)(10)(introductory paragraph) and
17 (c), and R.S. 51:1442(4) and to repeal R.S. 36:474(A)(11) and (G) and 477(B)(2) and

1 R.S. 46:51(2) and (14) and 233.1(A) and (B), relative to the organization of the
2 Department of Children and Family Services; to create the office of child support
3 and the office of child welfare; to eliminate the office of children and family
4 services; to transfer the duties of certain offices within the Department of Children
5 and Family Services; to remove outdated provisions; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. ~~Children's Code Articles 509(B)(1), 512(B)(1), 522(A)(2), 1269.3(F),~~
9 ~~1270(B), (E), and (F), 1271(A), 1273, 1283.2(H), 1285.2(H), and 1519~~ are hereby amended
10 and reenacted to read as follows:

11 Art. 509. Development of interagency protocols; drafting committee membership;
12 meetings; compliance deadline

13 * * *

14 B. At a minimum, each committee shall include the following members:

15 (1) A representative of the office of ~~children and family services~~; child
16 welfare. Department of Children and Family Services.

17 * * *

18 Art. 512. Composition of the multidisciplinary investigative team

19 * * *

20 B. Governmental entities that have responsibilities imposed by law for the
21 investigation of child abuse include:

22 (1) The office of ~~children and family services~~; child welfare. Department of
23 Children and Family Services.

24 * * *

25 Art. 522. Applicability

26 A. A child advocacy center is established and becomes subject to the
27 provisions of this Chapter when all of the following have been accomplished:

28 * * *

29 (2) An agreement to use the services of a child advocacy center has been
30 executed by representatives of the district attorney, the office of ~~children and family~~

1 ~~services, child welfare,~~ Department of Children and Family Services, the coroner,
2 the sheriff, and any other law enforcement agency having responsibility in the
3 district for the investigation of child abuse.

4 * * *

5 Art. 1269.3. Continuing contact agreement; parties; required declarations

6 * * *

7 F. The continuing contact agreement shall contain the requirements in
8 substantially the following form:

9 STATE OF LOUISIANA

10 PARISH OF (NAME OF PARISH)

11 AGREEMENT FOR POST-ADOPTION CONTINUING CONTACT

12 We (NAME OF ADOPTIVE PARENT(S)) and (NAME OF ADULT
13 PERSON PERMITTED CONTACT BY ARTICLE 1269.2) agree to post-adoption
14 continuing contact between (NAME OF ADOPTED CHILD) and (NAME OF
15 PERSON PERMITTED CONTACT) in accordance with the provisions of this
16 Agreement. This Agreement reflects our commitment to an on-going, cooperative
17 relationship focused upon meeting (NAME OF CHILD)'s needs now and in the
18 future, fully recognizing that those needs may change as (HE/SHE) matures.

19 OR

20 We (NAME OF ADOPTIVE PARENT(S)) and (NAME OF ADULT
21 PARENT, GUARDIAN OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN OF MINOR SIBLING) agree
22 to post-adoption continuing contact between (NAME OF ADOPTED CHILD) and
23 (NAME OF MINOR SIBLING) in accordance with the provisions of this
24 Agreement. This Agreement reflects our recognition of the significance and
25 enduring nature of sibling relationships and our commitment to supporting and
26 preserving the on-going relationship between (NAME OF CHILD) and (MINOR
27 SIBLING).

28 We have each freely and voluntarily entered into this Agreement and intend
29 to be bound by its terms. We have been counseled and advised by the Department,
30 our attorney, or other appropriate professional of the meaning of these declarations,

1 the effects of a continuing contact agreement, and the opportunity to have our own
 2 respective counsel review this Agreement.

3 We recognize that any dispute or litigation regarding the terms of this
 4 Agreement shall not affect the validity of any surrender or termination of parental
 5 rights, adoption, or custody of (NAME OF CHILD).

6 We also recognize that upon approval of the court, this Agreement becomes
 7 legally binding and any party to it may seek enforcement of its terms.

8 We also agree that (NAME OF DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE or
 9 NAME OF COUNSEL FOR ADOPTIVE PARENT) shall file this Agreement with
 10 the proper court of jurisdiction by (DATE NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS FROM
 11 EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT) requesting the court's approval of this
 12 Agreement in accordance with Louisiana Children's Code Article 1269.5.

13 We agree to the following enforceable post-adoption continuing contact:
 14 (INSERT PROVISIONS NEGOTIATED BY PARTIES.)

15 This Agreement reflects our minimum expectations regarding continuing
 16 contact for the duration of the minority of (NAME OF CHILD). We understand that
 17 we can agree upon other continuing contact arrangements in the future through
 18 informal or formal means. However, we recognize that these minimum expectations
 19 must be preserved until such time as we modify them by mutual written agreement
 20 or the court modifies or terminates this Agreement in accordance with Louisiana
 21 Children's Code Article 1269.8.

22 We certify that we enter this Agreement in good faith and intend that it
 23 always be interpreted to serve (NAME OF CHILD)'s best interest. We agree that we
 24 will always attempt to resolve any disagreement that may arise in (HIS/HER) best
 25 interest and acknowledge that court modification or enforcement is to be used only
 26 as a last resort when all informal means of resolution have been exhausted. We
 27 acknowledge that Louisiana Children's Code Article 1269.8 authorizes the court to
 28 hear a motion to enforce, modify, or terminate this Agreement only after we have
 29 attempted in good faith to mediate the issues underlying our disagreement. Should
 30 mediation fail to resolve our differences, the court may modify or terminate this

1 Agreement upon finding a change of circumstances and the Agreement no longer
2 serves the best interest of (NAME OF CHILD).

3 This instrument reflects the entire agreement between us regarding post-
4 adoption continuing contact. There are no promises, terms, conditions, or
5 obligations other than those stated in this written Agreement.

6 We acknowledge that unless it is the legal custodian of a minor sibling named
7 in this Agreement, the Department of Children and Family Services, office of
8 ~~children and family services~~; child welfare is not a party to this Agreement and has
9 no responsibility for enforcement of it.

10 This Agreement becomes effective upon approval of the court in accordance
11 with Louisiana Children's Code Article 1269.5.

12 THIS DONE, READ, AND SIGNED this day of _____
13 20 , Parish of (NAME OF PARISH), State of Louisiana.

14 _____
15 ADOPTING PARENT

16 _____
17 OTHER ADOPTING PARENT, IF ANY

18 _____
19 ADULT PERSON PERMITTED CONTACT

20 _____
21 ADULT PARENT, GUARDIAN OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN OF MINOR SIBLING

22 _____
23 WITNESS

24 _____
25 WITNESS

26 _____
27 NOTARY

28 * * *

29 Art. 1270. Legislative findings; purpose; release of information

30 * * *

1 B. There is hereby created within the office of ~~children and family services~~
 2 child welfare of the Department of Children and Family Services a voluntary
 3 registry for the matching of adopted persons, or an adoptive parent of a minor or
 4 deceased adopted person, or a descendant of a deceased adopted person, or his parent
 5 if a minor, and biological parents or siblings, or both, or a parent, sibling, or
 6 descendant, or his parent if a minor, of a deceased biological parent. The purpose
 7 of this registry shall be to facilitate voluntary contact between the adopted person,
 8 or an adoptive parent of a minor or deceased adopted person, or the descendant of
 9 a deceased adopted person, or his parent if a minor, and a biological parent or
 10 biological sibling, or both, or a parent, sibling, or descendant, or his parent if a
 11 minor, of a deceased biological parent.

12 * * *

13 E. The office of ~~children and family services~~ child welfare shall not release
 14 any registry information in violation of this Chapter.

15 F. The office of ~~children and family services~~ child welfare shall confirm for
 16 an adopted person the fact of his adoption and identify the court in which the
 17 adoption was finalized and the agency, firm, or lawyer facilitating the adoption when
 18 that information is known. To receive this information, the adopted person shall be
 19 eighteen years of age or older, provide proof of identity, and submit a written
 20 request.

21 Art. 1271. Registration

22 A. Registration shall be by affidavit filed with the office of ~~children and~~
 23 ~~family services:~~ child welfare. That office shall develop and furnish standardized
 24 affidavit forms appropriate for effecting the purpose of this Chapter.

25 * * *

26 Art. 1273. Confidentiality

27 Documents filed with the office of ~~children and family services;~~ child
 28 welfare, pursuant to this Chapter, shall be confidential and shall not be available for
 29 inspection, except under the procedures set forth in this Chapter.

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Art. 1283.2. Permissible reimbursement of expenses

* * *

H. A copy of the Adoption Disclosure Affidavit and all orders of the court pursuant to this Article shall be mailed to the office of ~~children and family services,~~ child welfare, Department of Children and Family Services.

* * *

Art. 1285.2. Permissible reimbursement of expenses

* * *

H. A copy of the Adoption Disclosure Affidavit and all orders of the court pursuant to this Article shall be mailed to the office of ~~children and family services,~~ child welfare, Department of Children and Family Services.

* * *

Art. 1519. Hearing

The petition shall be set for hearing on the record unless specifically waived by the court. If the Department of Children and Family Services, office of ~~children and family services,~~ child welfare, has recommended that the petition for voluntary transfer of custody be filed, a representative for the department shall testify at the hearing with particularity the reasons for the recommendation. Further, the department representative shall specify why a child in need of care petition should not be filed and shall testify regarding the preventative services offered by the department to the petitioner to prevent the transfer of custody.

Section 2. Code of Evidence Article 902(10) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 902. Self-authentication

Extrinsic evidence of authenticity as a condition precedent to admissibility is not required with respect to the following:

* * *

(10) Labor reports. A copy of a report from the ^g Louisiana ^{Works} Workforce Commission, or from any state or federal reporting agency, which is in the possession of a field officer of the ~~support enforcement services program,~~ office of

[SEE ACT 478 § 18]

HB NO. 617

ENROLLED

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Section 19. This Act shall become effective only if the Act which originated as House Bill No. 624 of this 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature is enacted. If House Bill No. 624 is enacted then:

(A) Sections 1 through 9 and 11 through 18 of this Act shall become effective on October 1, 2027.

(B) Section 10 of this Act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.

NOTE ALL PROVISIONS IN THIS ACT


SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED:  June 20, 2025

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.