

HB 568 -- Protection of Children

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding the protection of minors while in the custody of their parents. The bill:

(1) Prohibits a child under the care of the state or the jurisdiction of a juvenile court from being reunited with a parent or being placed back in the home with a parent who has been found guilty or plead guilty to specific crimes of sexual offenses or offenses against the family when the child was the victim;

(2) Allows the Children's Division to exercise discretion in awarding custody or visitation or the placing of a child back in the home of a parent, or any person residing in the home, who has been found guilty or plead guilty to any other offense;

(3) Removes when a parent has had a full order of protection entered against them from the list of conditions preventing a child from being returned to a parent;

(4) Allows the juvenile officer or division to file termination of parental rights when a noncustodial parent is delinquent in the payment of child support in excess of \$10,000;

(5) Prohibits the court from awarding custody or unsupervised visitation to a parent when that parent has been found guilty or plead guilty to specific crimes of sexual offenses or offenses against the family when the child was the victim; and

(6) Prohibits the court from granting visitation rights to the noncustodial parent if that parent or any person residing with the parent has been found guilty or plead guilty to specific crimes of sexual offenses or offenses against the family when the child was the victim.