SECOND REGULAR SESSION HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 873

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5908H.03C D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 21.771, 37.710, 210.027, 210.117, 210.145, 210.152, 210.160, 210.183, 210.211, 210.482, 210.487, 211.038, and 334.950, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof thirteen new sections relating to children, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 21.771, 37.710, 210.027, 210.117, 210.145, 210.152, 210.160,

- 2 210.183, 210.211, 210.482, 210.487, 211.038, and 334.950, RSMo, are repealed and thirteen
- 3 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 21.771, 37.710, 210.027, 210.117,
- 4 210.145, 210.152, 210.160, 210.183, 210.211, 210.482, 210.487, 211.038, and 334.950, to read
- 5 as follows:
 - 21.771. 1. There is established a joint committee of the general assembly to be known
- as the "Joint Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect" to be composed of seven members of the
- senate and seven members of the house of representatives. The senate members of the joint
- 4 committee shall be appointed by the president pro tem and minority floor leader of the senate and
- 5 the house members shall be appointed by the speaker and minority floor leader of the house of
- 6 representatives. The appointment of each member shall continue during the member's term of
- 7 office as a member of the general assembly or until a successor has been appointed to fill the
- 8 member's place. No party shall be represented by more than four members from the house of
- 9 representatives nor more than four members from the senate. A majority of the committee shall
- 10 constitute a quorum, but the concurrence of a majority of the members shall be required for the
- 11 determination of any matter within the committee's duties.
- 12 2. The joint committee shall:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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13 (1) Make a continuing study and analysis of the state child abuse and neglect reporting and investigation system;

- 15 (2) Devise a plan for improving the structured decision making regarding the removal of a child from a home;
 - (3) Determine the additional personnel and resources necessary to adequately protect the children of this state and improve their welfare and the welfare of families;
- 19 (4) Address the need for additional foster care homes and to improve the quality of care 20 provided to abused and neglected children in the custody of the state;
 - (5) Determine from its study and analysis the need for changes in statutory law; [and]
- 22 (6) Make any other recommendation to the general assembly necessary to provide 23 adequate protections for the children of our state; and
 - (7) Make recommendations on how to improve abuse and neglect proceedings including examining the role of the judge, children's division, the juvenile officer, the guardian ad litem, and the foster parents.
 - 3. The joint committee shall meet within thirty days after its creation and organize by selecting a chairperson and a vice chairperson, one of whom shall be a member of the senate and the other a member of the house of representatives. The chairperson shall alternate between members of the house and senate every two years after the committee's organization.
- 4. The committee shall meet at least quarterly. The committee may meet at locations other than Jefferson City when the committee deems it necessary.
 - 5. The committee shall be staffed by legislative personnel as is deemed necessary to assist the committee in the performance of its duties.
 - 6. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.
 - 7. It shall be the duty of the committee to compile a full report of its activities for submission to the general assembly. The report shall be submitted not later than the fifteenth of January of each year in which the general assembly convenes in regular session and shall include any recommendations which the committee may have for legislative action as well as any recommendations for administrative or procedural changes in the internal management or organization of state or local government agencies and departments. Copies of the report containing such recommendations shall be sent to the appropriate directors of state or local government agencies or departments included in the report.
 - 8. The provisions of this section shall expire on January 15, 2018.
 - 37.710. 1. The office shall have access to the following information:

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- 2 (1) The names and physical location of all children in protective services, treatment, or 3 other programs under the jurisdiction of the children's division, the department of mental health, 4 and the juvenile court;
 - (2) All written reports of child abuse and neglect; and
 - (3) All current records required to be maintained pursuant to chapters 210 and 211.
 - 2. The office shall have the authority:
- (1) To communicate privately by any means possible with any child under protective 9 services and anyone working with the child, including the family, relatives, courts, employees 10 of the department of social services and the department of mental health, and other persons or entities providing treatment and services;
 - (2) To have access, including the right to inspect, copy and subpoena records held by the clerk of the juvenile or family court, juvenile officers, law enforcement agencies, institutions, public or private, and other agencies, or persons with whom a particular child has been either voluntarily or otherwise placed for care, or has received treatment within this state or in another state;
 - (3) To work in conjunction with juvenile officers and guardians ad litem;
 - (4) To file any findings or reports of the child advocate regarding the parent or child with the court, and issue recommendations regarding the disposition of an investigation, which may be provided to the court and to the investigating agency;
 - (5) To file amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the interests of the parent or child, or to file such pleadings necessary to intervene on behalf of the child at the appropriate judicial level using the resources of the office of the attorney general;
 - (6) To initiate meetings with the department of social services, the department of mental health, the juvenile court, and juvenile officers;
 - (7) To take whatever steps are appropriate to see that persons are made aware of the services of the child advocate's office, its purpose, and how it can be contacted;
 - (8) To apply for and accept grants, gifts, and bequests of funds from other states, federal, and interstate agencies, and independent authorities, private firms, individuals, and foundations to carry out his or her duties and responsibilities. The funds shall be deposited in a dedicated account established within the office to permit moneys to be expended in accordance with the provisions of the grant or bequest;
 - (9) Subject to appropriation, to establish as needed local panels on a regional or county basis to adequately and efficiently carry out the functions and duties of the office, and address complaints in a timely manner; and
 - (10) To mediate between alleged victims of sexual misconduct and school districts or charter schools as provided in subsection 1 of section 160.262.

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- 38 3. For any information obtained from a state agency or entity under sections 37.700 to 39 37.730, the office of child advocate shall be subject to the same disclosure restrictions and 40 confidentiality requirements that apply to the state agency or entity providing such information to the office of child advocate. For information obtained directly by the office of child advocate 41 42 under sections 37.700 to 37.730, the office of child advocate shall be subject to the same 43 disclosure restrictions and confidentiality requirements that apply to the children's division 44 regarding information obtained during a child abuse and neglect investigation resulting in an 45 unsubstantiated report.
 - 210.027. For child-care providers who receive state or federal funds for providing child-care [services in the home] **fee assistance**, either by direct payment or through reimbursement to a child-care beneficiary, the department of social services shall:
 - (1) Establish publicly available website access to provider-specific information about any health and safety licensing or regulatory requirements for the providers, and including dates of inspections, history of violations, and compliance actions taken, as well as the consumer education information required under subdivision (12) of this section;
 - (2) Establish or designate one hotline for parents to submit complaints about child care providers;
 - (3) Be authorized to revoke the registration of a registered provider for due cause;
 - [(2)] (4) Require providers to be at least eighteen years of age;
- [(3)] (5) Establish minimum requirements for building and physical premises to include:
 - (a) Compliance with state and local fire, health, and building codes, which shall include the ability to evacuate children in the case of an emergency; and
 - **(b)** Emergency preparedness and response planning. Child care providers shall meet these minimum requirements prior to receiving federal assistance. Where there are no local ordinances or regulations regarding smoke detectors, the department shall require providers, by rule, to install and maintain an adequate number of smoke detectors in the residence or other building where child care is provided;
 - [(4)] (6) Require providers to be tested for tuberculosis on the schedule required for employees in licensed facilities;
- [(5)] (7) Require providers to notify parents if the provider does not have immediate access to a telephone;
- 25 [(6)] **(8)** Make providers aware of local opportunities for training in first aid and child 26 care;

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- 27 (9) Promulgate rules and regulations to define pre-service training requirements 28 for child care providers and employees pursuant to applicable federal laws and 29 regulations;
 - (10) Establish procedures for conducting unscheduled onsite monitoring of child care providers prior to receiving state or federal funds for providing child care services either by direct payment or through reimbursement to a child care beneficiary, and annually thereafter;
 - (11) Require child care providers who receive assistance under applicable federal laws and regulations to report to the department any serious injuries or deaths of children occurring in child care;
 - (12) With input from statewide stakeholders such as parents, child care providers or administrators, and system advocate groups, establish a transparent system of quality indicators appropriate to the provider setting that shall provide parents with a way to differentiate between child care providers available in their communities as required by federal rules. The system shall describe the standards used to assess the quality of child care providers and the measurement approaches for such assessment. The system shall indicate whether the provider meets Missouri's registration or licensing standards, is in compliance with applicable health and safety requirements, and the nature of any violations related to registration or licensing requirements. The system shall also indicate if the provider utilizes nationally-recognized curricula and if the provider is in compliance with staff educational requirements. Such system of quality indicators established under this subdivision with the input from stakeholders shall be promulgated by rules. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rule making authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2014, shall be invalid and void. This subdivision shall not be construed as authorizing the operation, establishment, maintenance, or mandating or offering of incentives to participate in a quality rating system under section 167.216.
 - 210.117. 1. A child taken into the custody of the state shall not be reunited with a parent or placed in a home in which the parent or any person residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any of the following offenses when a child was the victim:

- 4 (1) A felony violation of section 566.030, 566.032, 566.040, 566.060, 566.062, 566.064,
- 5 566.067, 566.068, 566.070, 566.083, 566.090, 566.100, 566.111, 566.151, 566.203, 566.206,
- 6 566.209, 566.212, or 566.215;
- 7 (2) A violation of section 568.020;
- 8 (3) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 568.060;
- 9 (4) A violation of section 568.065;
- 10 (5) A violation of section 568.080;
- 11 (6) A violation of section 568.090; [or]
- 12 (7) A violation of section 568.175; **or**
- **(8)** A violation of section 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or a felony violation of section 573.040.
 - 2. For all other violations of offenses in chapters 566 [and], 568, and 573 not specifically listed in subsection 1 of this section or for a violation of an offense committed in another state when a child is the victim that would be a violation of chapter 566 [or], 568, or 573, if committed in Missouri, the division may exercise its discretion regarding the placement of a child taken into the custody of the state in which a parent or any person residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any such offense.
 - 3. In any case where the children's division determines based on a substantiated report of child abuse that a child has abused another child, the abusing child shall be prohibited from returning to or residing in any residence, facility, or school within one thousand feet of the residence of the abused child or any child care facility or school that the abused child attends, unless and until a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the alleged abuse did not occur or the abused child reaches the age of eighteen, whichever earlier occurs. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply when the abusing child and the abused child are siblings or children living in the same home.
 - 4. When the division is otherwise unable to obtain the information necessary for child placement under this section, the division may obtain fingerprints for any person over the age of seventeen in the household and for any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the home who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime in the same manner set forth in sections 43.543 and 210.487. The fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository and shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files. The highway patrol shall assist the division and provide the criminal fingerprint background information, upon request.

- 5. Subject to appropriation, the total cost of fingerprinting required by this section may be paid by the state, including reimbursement of persons incurring fingerprinting costs under this section.
 - 6. The division may make arrangements with other executive branch agencies to obtain any investigative background information.
 - 7. The division may promulgate rules that are necessary to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2014, shall be invalid and void.
 - 210.145. 1. The division shall develop protocols which give priority to:
- 2 (1) Ensuring the well-being and safety of the child in instances where child abuse or 3 neglect has been alleged;
- 4 (2) Promoting the preservation and reunification of children and families consistent with 5 state and federal law;
 - (3) Providing due process for those accused of child abuse or neglect; and
 - (4) Maintaining an information system operating at all times, capable of receiving and maintaining reports. This information system shall have the ability to receive reports over a single, statewide toll-free number. Such information system shall maintain the results of all investigations, family assessments and services, and other relevant information.
 - 2. The division shall utilize structured decision-making protocols for classification purposes of all child abuse and neglect reports. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child. All child abuse and neglect reports shall be initiated within twenty-four hours and shall be classified based upon the reported risk and injury to the child. The division shall promulgate rules regarding the structured decision-making protocols to be utilized for all child abuse and neglect reports.
 - 3. Upon receipt of a report, the division shall determine if the report merits investigation, including reports which if true would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following: section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, or 565.050 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crimes under chapter 566 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050 if the victim is a child less than

- eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or 568.090, section 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or 573.040, or an attempt to commit any such The division shall immediately communicate all reports that merit investigation to its appropriate local office and any relevant information as may be contained in the information system. The local division staff shall determine, through the use of protocols developed by the division, whether an investigation or the family assessment and services approach should be used to respond to the allegation. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child.
 - 4. When the child abuse and neglect hotline receives three or more calls, within a seventy-two hour period, from one or more individuals concerning the same child, the division shall conduct a review to determine whether the calls meet the criteria and statutory definition for a child abuse and neglect report to be accepted. In conducting the review, the division shall contact the hotline caller or callers in order to collect information to determine whether the calls meet the criteria for harassment.
 - 5. The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of a report which division personnel determine merits an investigation and provide such agency with a detailed description of the report received. In such cases the local division office shall request the assistance of the local law enforcement agency in all aspects of the investigation of the complaint. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall either assist the division in the investigation or provide the division, within twenty-four hours, an explanation in writing detailing the reasons why it is unable to assist.
 - 6. The local office of the division shall cause an investigation or family assessment and services approach to be initiated in accordance with the protocols established in subsection 2 of this section, except in cases where the sole basis for the report is educational neglect. If the report indicates that educational neglect is the only complaint and there is no suspicion of other neglect or abuse, the investigation shall be initiated within seventy-two hours of receipt of the report. If the report indicates the child is in danger of serious physical harm or threat to life, an investigation shall include direct observation of the subject child within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the report. Local law enforcement shall take all necessary steps to facilitate such direct observation. Callers to the child abuse and neglect hotline shall be instructed by the division's hotline to call 911 in instances where the child may be in immediate danger. If the parents of the child are not the alleged [abusers] perpetrators, a parent of the child must be notified prior to the child being interviewed by the division. No person responding to or investigating a child abuse and neglect report shall call prior to a home visit or leave any documentation of any attempted visit, such as business cards, pamphlets, or other similar identifying information if he or she has a reasonable basis to believe the following factors are present:

- 59 (1) (a) No person is present in the home at the time of the home visit; and
- 60 (b) The alleged perpetrator resides in the home or the physical safety of the child may 61 be compromised if the alleged perpetrator becomes aware of the attempted visit;
 - (2) The alleged perpetrator will be alerted regarding the attempted visit; or
 - (3) The family has a history of domestic violence or fleeing the community.

If the alleged perpetrator is present during a visit by the person responding to or investigating the report, such person shall provide written material to the alleged perpetrator informing him or her of his or her rights regarding such visit, including but not limited to the right to contact an attorney. The alleged perpetrator shall be given a reasonable amount of time to read such written material or have such material read to him or her by the case worker before the visit commences, but in no event shall such time exceed five minutes; except that, such requirement to provide written material and reasonable time to read such material shall not apply in cases where the child faces an immediate threat or danger, or the person responding to investigating the report is or feels threatened or in danger of physical harm. If the abuse is alleged to have occurred in a school or child care facility the division shall not meet with the child in any school building or child-care facility building where abuse of such child is alleged to have occurred. When the child is reported absent from the residence, the location and the well-being of the child shall be verified. For purposes of this subsection, child care facility shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in section 210.201.

- 7. The director of the division shall name at least one chief investigator for each local division office, who shall direct the division response on any case involving a second or subsequent incident regarding the same subject child or perpetrator. The duties of a chief investigator shall include verification of direct observation of the subject child by the division and shall ensure information regarding the status of an investigation is provided to the public school district liaison. The public school district liaison shall develop protocol in conjunction with the chief investigator to ensure information regarding an investigation is shared with appropriate school personnel. The superintendent of each school district shall designate a specific person or persons to act as the public school district liaison. Should the subject child attend a nonpublic school the chief investigator shall notify the school principal of the investigation. Upon notification of an investigation, all information received by the public school district liaison or the school shall be subject to the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C., Section 1232g, and federal rule 34 C.F.R., Part 99.
- 8. The investigation shall include but not be limited to the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse or neglect; the identity and age of the person responsible for the abuse or neglect; the names and conditions of other children in the home, if any; the home environment and the

- relationship of the subject child to the parents or other persons responsible for the child's care; any indication of incidents of physical violence against any other household or family member; and other pertinent data.
 - 9. When a report has been made by a person required to report under section 210.115, the division shall contact the person who made such report within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the report in order to ensure that full information has been received and to obtain any additional information or medical records, or both, that may be pertinent.
 - 10. Upon completion of the investigation, if the division suspects that the report was made maliciously or for the purpose of harassment, the division shall refer the report and any evidence of malice or harassment to the local prosecuting or circuit attorney.
 - 11. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used whenever conducting the investigation as determined by the division in conjunction with local law enforcement. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used in providing protective or preventive social services, including the services of law enforcement, a liaison of the local public school, the juvenile officer, the juvenile court, and other agencies, both public and private.
 - 12. For all family support team meetings involving an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect, the parents, legal counsel for the parents, foster parents, the legal guardian or custodian of the child, the guardian ad litem for the child, and the volunteer advocate for the child shall be provided notice and be permitted to attend all such meetings. Family members, other than alleged perpetrators, or other community informal or formal service providers that provide significant support to the child and other individuals may also be invited at the discretion of the parents of the child. In addition, the parents, the legal counsel for the parents, the legal guardian or custodian and the foster parents may request that other individuals, other than alleged perpetrators, be permitted to attend such team meetings. Once a person is provided notice of or attends such team meetings, the division or the convenor of the meeting shall provide such persons with notice of all such subsequent meetings involving the child. Families may determine whether individuals invited at their discretion shall continue to be invited.
 - 13. If the appropriate local division personnel determine after an investigation has begun that completing an investigation is not appropriate, the division shall conduct a family assessment and services approach. The division shall provide written notification to local law enforcement prior to terminating any investigative process. The reason for the termination of the investigative process shall be documented in the record of the division and the written notification submitted to local law enforcement. Such notification shall not preclude nor prevent any investigation by law enforcement.
 - 14. If the appropriate local division personnel determines to use a family assessment and services approach, the division shall:

- 131 (1) Assess any service needs of the family. The assessment of risk and service needs 132 shall be based on information gathered from the family and other sources;
 - (2) Provide services which are voluntary and time-limited unless it is determined by the division based on the assessment of risk that there will be a high risk of abuse or neglect if the family refuses to accept the services. The division shall identify services for families where it is determined that the child is at high risk of future abuse or neglect. The division shall thoroughly document in the record its attempt to provide voluntary services and the reasons these services are important to reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect to the child. If the family continues to refuse voluntary services or the child needs to be protected, the division may commence an investigation;
 - (3) Commence an immediate investigation if at any time during the family assessment and services approach the division determines that an investigation, as delineated in sections 210.109 to 210.183, is required. The division staff who have conducted the assessment may remain involved in the provision of services to the child and family;
 - (4) Document at the time the case is closed, the outcome of the family assessment and services approach, any service provided and the removal of risk to the child, if it existed.
 - 15. (1) Within [thirty] forty-five days of an oral report of abuse or neglect, the local office shall update the information in the information system. The information system shall contain, at a minimum, the determination made by the division as a result of the investigation, identifying information on the subjects of the report, those responsible for the care of the subject child and other relevant dispositional information. The division shall complete all investigations within [thirty] forty-five days, unless good cause for the failure to complete the investigation is specifically documented in the information system. Good cause for failure to complete an investigation shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) The necessity to obtain relevant reports of medical providers, medical examiners, psychological testing, law enforcement agencies, forensic testing, and analysis of relevant evidence by third parties which has not been completed and provided to the division:
 - (b) The attorney general or the prosecuting or circuit attorney of the city or county in which a criminal investigation is pending certifies in writing to the division that there is a pending criminal investigation of the incident under investigation by the division and the issuing of a decision by the division will adversely impact the progress of the investigation; or
 - (c) The child victim, the subject of the investigation or another witness with information relevant to the investigation is unable or temporarily unwilling to provide

complete information within the specified time frames due to illness, injury, unavailability, mental capacity, age, developmental disability, or other cause.

- The division shall document any such reasons for failure to complete the investigation.
- (2) If [a child involved in a pending investigation dies] a child fatality or near-fatality is involved in a report of abuse or neglect, the investigation shall remain open until the division's investigation surrounding [the death] such death or near-fatal injury is completed.
- (3) If the investigation is not completed within [thirty] forty-five days, the information system shall be updated at regular intervals and upon the completion of the investigation, which shall be completed no later than ninety days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect, or one hundred and twenty days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect involving sexual abuse, or until the division's investigation is complete in cases involving a child fatality or near-fatality. The information in the information system shall be updated to reflect any subsequent findings, including any changes to the findings based on an administrative or judicial hearing on the matter.
- 16. A person required to report under section 210.115 to the division and any person making a report of child abuse or neglect made to the division which is not made anonymously shall be informed by the division of his or her right to obtain information concerning the disposition of his or her report. Such person shall receive, from the local office, if requested, information on the general disposition of his or her report. Such person may receive, if requested, findings and information concerning the case. Such release of information shall be at the discretion of the director based upon a review of the reporter's ability to assist in protecting the child or the potential harm to the child or other children within the family. The local office shall respond to the request within forty-five days. The findings shall be made available to the reporter within five days of the outcome of the investigation. If the report is determined to be unsubstantiated, the reporter may request that the report be referred by the division to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services established in sections 37.700 to 37.730. Upon request by a reporter under this subsection, the division shall refer an unsubstantiated report of child abuse or neglect to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services.
- 17. The division shall provide to any individual who is not satisfied with the results of an investigation information about the office of child advocate and the services it may provide under sections 37.700 to 37.730.
- 18. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child the fact that a report may 200 have been made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 shall not be admissible. However:

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- 201 (1) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the introduction of evidence from 202 independent sources to support the allegations that may have caused a report to have been made; 203 and
- 204 (2) The court may on its own motion, or shall if requested by a party to the proceeding, 205 make an inquiry not on the record with the children's division to determine if such a report has 206 been made.
- If a report has been made, the court may stay the custody proceeding until the children's division completes its investigation.
- 19. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child where the court determines that the child is in need of services under paragraph (d) of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 and has taken jurisdiction, the child's parent, guardian or custodian shall not be entered into the registry.
 - 20. The children's division is hereby granted the authority to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of section 207.021 and chapter 536 to carry out the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183.
- 21. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2000, shall be invalid and void.
 - 210.152. 1. All identifying information, including telephone reports reported pursuant to section 210.145, relating to reports of abuse or neglect received by the division shall be retained by the division and removed from the records of the division as follows:
 - (1) For investigation reports contained in the central registry, identifying information shall be retained by the division;
 - (2) (a) For investigation reports initiated against a person required to report pursuant to section 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division and where the division determines the allegation of abuse or neglect was made maliciously, for purposes of harassment or in retaliation for the filing of a report by a person required to report, identifying information shall be expunged by the division within forty-five days from the conclusion of the investigation;
 - (b) For investigation reports, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division and where the division determines the allegation of abuse or neglect was made maliciously, for purposes of harassment or in retaliation for the filing of a report, identifying

information shall be expunged by the division within forty-five days from the conclusion of the investigation;

- (c) For investigation reports initiated by a person required to report under section 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for five years from the conclusion of the investigation. For all other investigation reports where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for two years from the conclusion of the investigation. Such reports shall include any exculpatory evidence known by the division, including exculpatory evidence obtained after the closing of the case. At the end of such time period, the identifying information shall be removed from the records of the division and destroyed;
- (3) For reports where the division uses the family assessment and services approach, identifying information shall be retained by the division;
- (4) For reports in which the division is unable to locate the child alleged to have been abused or neglected, identifying information shall be retained for ten years from the date of the report and then shall be removed from the records of the division.
- 2. Within ninety days, or within one hundred twenty days in cases involving sexual abuse, or until the division's investigation is complete in cases involving a child fatality or near-fatality, after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect that is investigated, the alleged perpetrator named in the report and the parents of the child named in the report, if the alleged perpetrator is not a parent, shall be notified in writing of any determination made by the division based on the investigation. The notice shall advise either:
- (1) That the division has determined by a probable cause finding prior to August 28, 2004, or by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, that abuse or neglect exists and that the division shall retain all identifying information regarding the abuse or neglect; that such information shall remain confidential and will not be released except to law enforcement agencies, prosecuting or circuit attorneys, or as provided in section 210.150; that the alleged perpetrator has sixty days from the date of receipt of the notice to seek reversal of the division's determination through a review by the child abuse and neglect review board as provided in subsection 4 of this section; or
- (2) That the division has not made a probable cause finding or determined by a preponderance of the evidence that abuse or neglect exists.
- 3. The children's division may reopen a case for review at the request of the alleged perpetrator, the alleged victim, or the office of the child advocate if new, specific, and credible evidence is obtained that the division's decision was based on fraud or misrepresentation of material facts relevant to the division's decision and there is credible evidence that absent such fraud or misrepresentation the division's decision would have been different. If the alleged

- victim is under the age of eighteen, the request for review may be made by the alleged victim's parent, legal custodian, or legal guardian. All requests to reopen an investigation for review shall be made within a reasonable time and not more than one year after the children's division made its decision. The division shall not reopen a case for review based on any information which the person requesting the review knew, should have known, or could by the exercise of reasonable care have known before the date of the division's final decision in the case, unless the person requesting the review shows by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she could not have provided such information to the division before the date of the division's final decision in the case. Any person, other than the office of the child advocate, who makes a request to reopen a case for review based on facts which the person knows to be false or misleading or who acts in bad faith or with the intent to harass the alleged victim or perpetrator shall not have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, for providing the information and requesting that the division reopen the investigation. Any person who makes a request to reopen an investigation based on facts which the person knows to be false shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The children's division shall not reopen an investigation under any circumstances while the case is pending before a court of this state nor when a court has entered a final judgment after de novo judicial review pursuant to this section.
 - 4. Any person named in an investigation as a perpetrator who is aggrieved by a determination of abuse or neglect by the division as provided in this section may seek an administrative review by the child abuse and neglect review board pursuant to the provisions of section 210.153. Such request for review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the division's decision under this section. In those cases where criminal charges arising out of facts of the investigation are pending, the request for review shall be made within sixty days from the court's final disposition or dismissal of the charges.
 - 5. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board shall sustain the division's determination if such determination was supported by evidence of probable cause prior to August 28, 2004, or is supported by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, and is not against the weight of such evidence. The child abuse and neglect review board hearing shall be closed to all persons except the parties, their attorneys and those persons providing testimony on behalf of the parties.
 - 6. If the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board, the alleged perpetrator may seek de novo judicial review in the circuit court in the county in which the alleged perpetrator resides and in circuits with split venue, in the venue in which the alleged perpetrator resides, or in Cole County. If the alleged perpetrator is not a resident of the state, proper venue shall be in Cole County. The case may be assigned to the family court division where such a division has been established. The request for a judicial

- review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board decision. In reviewing such decisions, the circuit court shall provide the alleged perpetrator the opportunity to appear and present testimony. The alleged perpetrator may subpoena any witnesses except the alleged victim or the reporter. However, the circuit court shall have the discretion to allow the parties to submit the case upon a stipulated record.
- 7. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board shall notify the child or the parent, guardian or legal representative of the child that a review has been requested.
 - 210.160. 1. In every case involving an abused or neglected child which results in a judicial proceeding, the judge shall appoint a guardian ad litem to appear for and represent:
 - (1) A child who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to sections 210.110 to 210.165 **except proceedings under subsection 6 of section 210.152**, sections 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487, or sections 453.005 to 453.170, or proceedings to determine custody or visitation rights under sections 452.375 to 452.410; or
 - (2) A parent who is a minor, or who is a mentally ill person or otherwise incompetent, and whose child is the subject of proceedings under sections 210.110 to 210.165, sections 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487, or sections 453.005 to 453.170.
 - 2. The judge, either sua sponte or upon motion of a party, may appoint a guardian ad litem to appear for and represent an abused or neglected child involved in proceedings arising under subsection 6 of section 210.152.
 - [2.] 3. The guardian ad litem shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any agency or person, shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, and upon appointment by the court to a case, shall be informed of and have the right to attend any and all family support team meetings involving the child. Employees of the division, officers of the court, and employees of any agency involved shall fully inform the guardian ad litem of all aspects of the case of which they have knowledge or belief.
 - [3.] 4. The appointing judge shall require the guardian ad litem to faithfully discharge such guardian ad litem's duties, and upon failure to do so shall discharge such guardian ad litem and appoint another. The appointing judge shall have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons appointed as guardians ad litem, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are appointed to represent. The judge in making appointments pursuant to this section shall give preference to persons who served as guardian ad litem for the child in the earlier proceeding, unless there is a reason on the record for not giving such preference.

- [4.] **5.** The guardian ad litem may be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be set by the court. The court, in its discretion, may award such fees as a judgment to be paid by any party to the proceedings or from public funds. However, no fees as a judgment shall be taxed against a party or parties who have not been found to have abused or neglected a child or children. Such an award of guardian fees shall constitute a final judgment in favor of the guardian ad litem. Such final judgment shall be enforceable against the parties in accordance with chapter 513.
 - [5.] **6.** The court may designate volunteer advocates, who may or may not be attorneys licensed to practice law, to assist in the performance of the guardian ad litem duties for the court. Nonattorney volunteer advocates shall not provide legal representation. The court shall have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons designated as volunteer advocates, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are designated to represent. The volunteer advocate shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any agency or person, shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, and upon designation by the court to a case, shall be informed of and have the right to attend any and all family support team meetings involving the child. Any such designated person shall receive no compensation from public funds. This shall not preclude reimbursement for reasonable expenses.
 - [6.] 7. Any person appointed to perform guardian ad litem duties shall have completed a training program in permanency planning and shall advocate for timely court hearings whenever possible to attain permanency for a child as expeditiously as possible to reduce the effects that prolonged foster care may have on a child. A nonattorney volunteer advocate shall have access to a court appointed attorney guardian ad litem should the circumstances of the particular case so require.
 - 210.183. 1. At the time of the initial investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect, the division employee conducting the investigation shall provide the alleged perpetrator with a written description of the investigation process. Such written notice shall be given substantially in the following form:
- The investigation is being undertaken by the Children's Division pursuant to the requirements of chapter 210 of the Revised Missouri Statutes in response to a report of child abuse or neglect.
- 8 The identity of the person who reported the incident of abuse or neglect is confidential 9 and may not even be known to the Division since the report could have been made anonymously.

This investigation is required by law to be conducted in order to enable the Children's Division to identify incidents of abuse or neglect in order to provide protective or preventive social services to families who are in need of such services.

The division shall make every reasonable attempt to complete the investigation within [thirty days, except if a child involved in the pending investigation dies the investigation shall remain open until the division's investigation surrounding the death is completed.] forty-five days, except for good cause which shall be documented, otherwise, within ninety days, or one hundred and twenty days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect involving sexual abuse, or when the division's investigation is complete in cases involving a child fatality or near-fatality, you will receive a letter from the Division which will inform you of one of the following:

- (1) That the Division has found insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect; or
- (2) That there appears to be by a preponderance of the evidence reason to suspect the existence of child abuse or neglect in the judgment of the Division and that the Division will contact the family to offer social services.

If the Division finds by a preponderance of the evidence reason to believe child abuse or neglect has occurred or the case is substantiated by court adjudication, a record of the report and information gathered during the investigation will remain on file with the Division.

If you disagree with the determination of the Division and feel that there is insufficient reason to believe by a preponderance of the evidence that abuse or neglect has occurred, you have a right to request an administrative review at which time you may hire an attorney to represent you. If you request an administrative review on the issue, you will be notified of the date and time of your administrative review hearing by the child abuse and neglect review board. If the Division's decision is reversed by the child abuse and neglect review board, the Division records concerning the report and investigation will be updated to reflect such finding. If the child abuse and neglect review board upholds the Division's decision, an appeal may be filed in circuit court within sixty days of the child abuse and neglect review board's decision."

- 2. If the division uses the family assessment approach, the division shall at the time of the initial contact provide the parent of the child with the following information:
 - (1) The purpose of the contact with the family;
 - (2) The name of the person responding and his or her office telephone number;
- 41 (3) The assessment process to be followed during the division's intervention with the 42 family including the possible services available and expectations of the family.
- 210.211. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a childcare facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license

- 4 granted by the department of health and senior services; except that nothing in sections 210.203 to 210.245 shall apply to:
 - (1) Any person who is caring for four or fewer children. For purposes of this subdivision, children who are related by blood, marriage or adoption to such person within the third degree shall not be considered in the total number of children being cared for;
- 9 (2) Any person who has been duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction the guardian of the person of the child or children, or the person who has legal custody of the child or children;
 - (3) Any person who receives free of charge, and not as a business, for periods not exceeding ninety consecutive days, as bona fide, occasional and personal guests the child or children of personal friends of such person, and who receives custody of no other unrelated child or children;
 - (4) Any graded boarding school, summer camp, hospital, sanitarium or home which is conducted in good faith primarily to provide education, recreation, medical treatment, or nursing or convalescent care for children;
 - (5) Any child-care facility maintained or operated under the exclusive control of a religious organization. When a nonreligious organization, having as its principal purpose the provision of child-care services, enters into an arrangement with a religious organization for the maintenance or operation of a child-care facility, the facility is not under the exclusive control of the religious organization;
 - (6) Any residential facility or day program licensed by the department of mental health pursuant to sections 630.705 to 630.760 which provides care, treatment and habilitation exclusively to children who have a primary diagnosis of mental disorder, mental illness, mental retardation or developmental disability, as defined in section 630.005; and
 - (7) Any nursery school.
 - 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, no child-care facility shall be exempt from licensure if such facility receives any state or federal funds for providing care for children, except for federal funds for those programs which meet the requirements for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1766. Grants to parents for child care pursuant to sections 210.201 to 210.257 shall not be construed to be funds received by a person or facility listed in subdivisions (1) and (5) of subsection 1 of this section.
 - 3. Any child care facility not exempt from licensure shall disclose the licensure status of the facility to the parents or guardians of children for which the facility provides care. No child care facility exempt from licensure shall represent to any parent or guardian of children for which the facility provides care that the facility is licensed when such facility is in fact not licensed.

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- 4. Any in-home licensed child care facility that is organized as a corporation, association, firm, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company, or any other type of business entity in this state shall qualify for the exemption for related children for children who are related to the member of the corporation, association, firm, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company, or other type of business entity who is responsible for the daily operation of the child care facility and who meets the requirements of the child care provider. If more than one member of the corporation, association, firm, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company, or other type of business entity is responsible for the daily operation of the child care facility, the exemption for related children shall only be granted for children who are related to one of the members. All child care facilities under this subsection shall disclose the licensure status of the facility to the parents or guardians of children for which the facility provides care. A parent or guardian shall sign a written notice indicating he or she is aware of the licensure status of the facility. The facility shall keep a copy of this signed written notice on file. All child care facilities shall provide the parent or guardian enrolling a child in the facility with a written explanation of the disciplinary philosophy and policies of the child care facility.
- 210.482. 1. If the emergency placement of a child in a private home is necessary due to the unexpected absence of the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian, the juvenile court or children's division:
- (1) May request that a local or state law enforcement agency or juvenile officer, subject to any required federal authorization, immediately conduct a name-based criminal history record check to include full orders of protection and outstanding warrants of each person over the age of seventeen residing in the home by using the Missouri uniform law enforcement system (MULES) and the National Crime Information Center to access the Interstate Identification Index maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
- (2) Shall determine or, in the case of the juvenile court, shall request the division to determine whether any person over the age of seventeen years residing in the home is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry. For any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home, the children's division shall inquire of the person with whom an emergency placement of a child will be made whether any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home have ever been certified as an adult and convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime.
- 2. If a name-based search has been conducted pursuant to subsection 1 of this section, within fifteen calendar days after the emergency placement of the child in the private home, and if the private home has not previously been approved as a foster or adoptive home, all persons

- over the age of seventeen residing in the home and all children less than seventeen residing in the home who the division has determined have been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime shall report to a local law enforcement agency for the purpose of providing [three sets of fingerprints [each] and accompanying fees, pursuant to section 43.530. [One set of The fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository, Jone set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files, and [one set] shall be forwarded to and retained by the division. Results of the checks shall be provided to the juvenile court or children's division office requesting such information. Any child placed in emergency placement in a private home shall be removed immediately if any person residing in the home fails to provide fingerprints after being requested to do so, unless the person refusing to provide fingerprints ceases to reside in the private home.
 - 3. If the placement of a child is denied as a result of a name-based criminal history check and the denial is contested, all persons over the age of seventeen residing in the home and all children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home who the division has determined have been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime shall, within fifteen calendar days, submit to the juvenile court or the children's division [three sets of] fingerprints in the same manner described in subsection 2 of this section, accompanying fees, and written permission authorizing the juvenile court or the children's division to forward the fingerprints to the state criminal record repository for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [One set of] The fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository, [one set] shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files, and [one set] shall be retained by the division.
 - 4. No person who submits fingerprints under this section shall be required to submit additional fingerprints under this section or section 210.487 unless the original fingerprints retained by the division are lost or destroyed.
 - 5. Subject to appropriation, the total cost of fingerprinting required by this section may be paid by the state, including reimbursement of persons incurring fingerprinting costs under this section.
 - 6. For the purposes of this section, "emergency placement" refers to those limited instances when the juvenile court or children's division is placing a child in the home of private individuals, including neighbors, friends, or relatives, as a result of a sudden unavailability of the child's primary caretaker.
 - 210.487. 1. When conducting investigations of persons for the purpose of foster parent licensing, the division shall:
- 3 (1) Conduct a search for all persons over the age of seventeen in the applicant's 4 household and for any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home who

- 5 the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime for 6 evidence of full orders of protection. The office of state courts administrator shall allow access 7 to the automated court information system by the division. The clerk of each court contacted by 8 the division shall provide the division information within ten days of a request; and
 - (2) Obtain [three sets of] fingerprints for any person over the age of seventeen in the applicant's household and for any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime in the same manner set forth in subsection 2 of section 210.482. [One set of] The fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository, [one set] shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files, and [one set] shall be forwarded to and retained by the division. The highway patrol shall assist the division and provide the criminal fingerprint background information, upon request; and
 - (3) Determine whether any person over the age of seventeen residing in the home and any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry. For any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home, the children's division shall inquire of the applicant whether any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home have ever been certified as an adult and been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime.
 - 2. After the initial investigation is completed under subsection 1 of this section:
 - (1) No person who submits fingerprints under subsection 1 of this section or section 210.482 shall be required to submit additional fingerprints under this section or section 210.482 unless the original fingerprints retained by the division are lost or destroyed; and
 - (2) The children's division and the department of health and senior services may waive the requirement for a fingerprint background check for any subsequent recertification.
 - 3. Subject to appropriation, the total cost of fingerprinting required by this section may be paid by the state, including reimbursement of persons incurring fingerprinting costs under this section.
- 4. The division may make arrangements with other executive branch agencies to obtain any investigative background information.
 - 5. The division may promulgate rules that are necessary to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general

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- 41 assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and
- 42 annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and
- any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2004, shall be invalid and void.
- 211.038. 1. A child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court shall not be reunited with
- a parent or placed in a home in which the parent or any person residing in the home has been
- 3 found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any of the following offenses when a child was the victim:
- 4 (1) A felony violation of section 566.030, 566.032, 566.040, 566.060, 566.062, 566.064,
- 5 566.067, 566.068, 566.070, 566.083, 566.090, 566.100, 566.111, 566.151, 566.203, 566.206,
- 6 566.209, 566.212, or 566.215;
- 7 (2) A violation of section 568.020;
- 8 (3) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 568.060;
- 9 (4) A violation of section 568.065;
- 10 (5) A violation of section 568.080;
- 11 (6) A violation of section 568.090; [or]
- 12 (7) A violation of section 568.175; **or**
- 13 **(8)** A violation of section 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or a felony violation of section 573.040.
 - 2. For all other violations of offenses in chapters 566 [and], 568, and 573 not specifically listed in subsection 1 of this section or for a violation of an offense committed in another state when a child is the victim that would be a violation of chapter 566 [or], 568, or 573 if committed in Missouri, the juvenile court may exercise its discretion regarding the placement of a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in a home in which a parent or any person residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any such offense.
 - 3. If the juvenile court determines that a child has abused another child, such abusing child shall be prohibited from returning to or residing in any residence located within one thousand feet of the residence of the abused child, or any child care facility or school that the abused child attends, until the abused child reaches eighteen years of age. The prohibitions of this subsection shall not apply where the alleged abuse occurred between siblings or children living in the same home.
 - 4. When the division is otherwise unable to obtain the information necessary for child placement under this section, the division may obtain fingerprints for any person over the age of seventeen in the household and for any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the home who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime in the same manner set forth in sections 43.543 and 210.487. The fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository and shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the

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- federal criminal history files. The highway patrol shall assist the division and provide the criminal fingerprint background information, upon request.
 - 5. Subject to appropriation, the total cost of fingerprinting required by this section may be paid by the state, including reimbursement of persons incurring fingerprinting costs under this section.
 - 6. The division may make arrangements with other executive branch agencies to obtain any investigative background information.
- 41 The division may promulgate rules that are necessary to implement the 42 provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 43 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective 44 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if 45 applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of 46 the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the 47 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, 48 then the grant of rule making authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2014, shall be invalid and void. 49

334.950. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

- 2 (1) "Child abuse medical resource centers", medical institutions affiliated with accredited 3 children's hospitals or recognized institutions of higher education with accredited medical school 4 programs that provide training, support, mentoring, and peer review to SAFE CARE providers 5 in Missouri;
 - (2) "SAFE CARE provider", a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant licensed in this state who provides medical diagnosis and treatment to children suspected of being victims of abuse and who receives:
- 9 (a) Missouri-based initial intensive training regarding child maltreatment from the SAFE 10 CARE network;
 - (b) Ongoing update training on child maltreatment from the SAFE CARE network;
- 12 (c) Peer review and new provider mentoring regarding the forensic evaluation of children 13 suspected of being victims of abuse from the SAFE CARE network;
- 14 (3) "Sexual assault forensic examination child abuse resource education network" or
 15 "SAFE CARE network", a network of SAFE CARE providers and child abuse medical resource
 16 centers that collaborate to provide forensic evaluations, medical training, support, mentoring, and
 17 peer review for SAFE CARE providers for the medical evaluation of child abuse victims in this
 18 state to improve outcomes for children who are victims of or at risk for child maltreatment by
 19 enhancing the skills and role of the medical provider in a multidisciplinary context.

- 2. Child abuse medical resource centers may collaborate directly or through the use of technology with SAFE CARE providers to promote improved services to children who are suspected victims of abuse that will need to have a forensic medical evaluation conducted by providing specialized training for forensic medical evaluations for children conducted in a hospital, child advocacy center, or by a private health care professional without the need for a collaborative agreement between the child abuse medical resource center and a SAFE CARE provider.
 - 3. SAFE CARE providers who are a part of the SAFE CARE network in Missouri may collaborate directly or through the use of technology with other SAFE CARE providers and child abuse medical resource centers to promote improved services to children who are suspected victims of abuse that will need to have a forensic medical evaluation conducted by providing specialized training for forensic medical evaluations for children conducted in a hospital, child advocacy center, or by a private health care professional without the need for a collaborative agreement between the child abuse medical resource center and a SAFE CARE provider.
 - 4. The SAFE CARE network shall develop recommendations concerning medically based screening processes and forensic evidence collection for children who may be in need of an emergency examination following an alleged sexual assault. Such recommendations shall be provided to the SAFE CARE providers, child advocacy centers, hospitals and licensed practitioners that provide emergency examinations for children suspected of being victims of abuse.
 - 5. The department of public safety shall establish rules and make payments to SAFE CARE providers, out of appropriations made for that purpose, who provide forensic examinations of persons under eighteen years of age who are alleged victims of physical abuse.

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