

House Engrossed Senate Bill

DCS; policies; procedures

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# **CHAPTER 181**

## **SENATE BILL 1496**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 8-221, 8-468, 8-514.07, 8-529 AND 8-810, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING SECTION 8-811, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2024, CHAPTER 47, SECTION 5; REPEALING SECTION 8-811, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2024, CHAPTER 127, SECTION 5; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 8-221, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 8-221. Counsel right of juvenile, parent or guardian;  
5 appointment; guardian ad litem

6 A. The court shall appoint an attorney for a child in all  
7 delinquency proceedings that commence with a petition or that may involve  
8 ~~detention, dependency proceedings or termination of parental rights~~  
9 ~~proceedings that are conducted pursuant to this title.~~ The court shall  
10 appoint the CHILD'S attorney before the first hearing. The CHILD'S  
11 attorney shall represent the child at all stages of the proceedings ~~and,~~  
12 ~~in a dependency proceeding, through dismissal.~~

13 B. THE COURT SHALL APPOINT AN ATTORNEY FOR A CHILD IN ALL  
14 PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING DEPENDENCY OR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS BEFORE  
15 THE FIRST HEARING. THE APPOINTED ATTORNEY SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE  
16 CHILD HAS DIMINISHED CAPACITY THAT WOULD IMPACT THE CHILD'S ABILITY TO  
17 EXPRESS THE CHILD'S OWN OPINION OR TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE CHILD. IN  
18 MAKING THIS DETERMINATION, THE APPOINTED ATTORNEY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE  
19 CHILD, OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO KNOW THE CHILD OR WHO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT  
20 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S FAMILY OR AN AUTHORIZED  
21 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILD'S FAMILY.

22 C. IF AN ATTORNEY WHO IS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS  
23 SECTION DETERMINES THAT A NORMAL ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP IS NOT  
24 REASONABLY POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN AND THAT THE CHILD IS NOT ABLE TO DIRECT  
25 THE LEGAL REPRESENTATION DUE TO DIMINISHED CAPACITY OR THE CHILD'S  
26 INABILITY TO EXPRESS THE CHILD'S OWN OPINION, THE APPOINTED ATTORNEY SHALL  
27 USE SUBSTITUTED JUDGMENT TO DETERMINE WHAT THE CHILD WOULD DECIDE IF THE  
28 CHILD WAS CAPABLE OF MAKING AN ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED DECISION WHEN  
29 CONSIDERING WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD. THE APPOINTED  
30 ATTORNEY SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

31 1. MAKE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO DETERMINE THE CHILD'S NEEDS AND  
32 WISHES.

33 2. CONSULT WITH THE CHILD, OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO KNOW THE CHILD OR  
34 WHO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S FAMILY  
35 OR AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILD'S FAMILY.

36 3. REPRESENT THE CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE  
37 CHILD'S NEEDS AND WISHES.

38 D. IF IN THE COURSE OF REPRESENTING THE CHILD AN ATTORNEY WHO IS  
39 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION REASONABLY BELIEVES  
40 THAT A CHILD IS AT RISK OF SUBSTANTIAL PHYSICAL, FINANCIAL OR OTHER HARM  
41 AND THAT THE CHILD DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ADEQUATELY ACT IN THE  
42 CHILD'S OWN INTEREST, THE APPOINTED ATTORNEY SHALL DO EITHER OF THE  
43 FOLLOWING:

1           1. INFORM THE COURT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF HARM, TAKING INTO  
2 ACCOUNT THE WISHES AND VALUES OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS  
3 AND RESPECTING THE CHILD'S FAMILY AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS.

4           2. REQUEST THAT THE COURT APPOINT A GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR THE  
5 CHILD.

6           ~~B.~~ E. If a parent or guardian is found to be indigent and entitled  
7 to counsel, the juvenile court shall appoint an attorney to represent the  
8 person or persons unless the person knowingly, intelligently and  
9 voluntarily waives counsel.

10          ~~C.~~ F. Before any court appearance that may result in  
11 institutionalization or mental health hospitalization of a juvenile, the  
12 court shall appoint counsel for the juvenile if counsel has not been  
13 previously appointed or retained by or for the juvenile.

14          ~~D.~~ G. The county board of supervisors may fix a reasonable sum to  
15 be paid by the county for the services of an appointed attorney.

16          ~~E.~~ H. In a county where there is a public defender, the public  
17 defender may act as attorney in either:

18           1. A delinquency or incorrigibility proceeding when requested by  
19 the juvenile court.

20           2. Any other juvenile proceeding that is conducted pursuant to this  
21 title if the board of supervisors authorizes the appointment of the public  
22 defender.

23          ~~F.~~ I. In all juvenile court proceedings in which the dependency  
24 petition includes an allegation that the juvenile is abused or neglected,  
25 the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the juvenile's best  
26 interests. This guardian ad litem shall be an attorney. The guardian ad  
27 litem is not the child's attorney.

28          ~~G.~~ J. Any guardian ad litem or attorney appointed for a juvenile  
29 shall meet with the juvenile before the preliminary protective hearing, if  
30 possible, or within fourteen days after the preliminary protective  
31 hearing. The guardian ad litem or THE CHILD'S attorney ~~appointed for the~~  
32 ~~juvenile~~ also shall meet with the juvenile before all substantive  
33 hearings. On a showing of extraordinary circumstances, the judge may  
34 modify this requirement for any substantive hearing.

35          Sec. 2. Section 8-468, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
36 read:

37          8-468. Federal benefits; dependent children; application;  
38 prohibition; accounting; notice; annual review

39          A. For all children in the care of the department of child safety,  
40 the department ~~of child safety~~ shall determine whether each child is  
41 receiving or eligible for benefits administered by the social security  
42 administration or the veterans administration within sixty days after the  
43 child enters the department's care. If the department ~~of child safety~~  
44 determines that a child is eligible or may be eligible for federal

1 benefits, the department ~~of child safety~~ shall apply for the benefits on  
2 behalf of the child.

3 B. If a child is already receiving benefits before entering the  
4 department's care or if the department applies for benefits on behalf of  
5 the child, the department shall ~~identify, in consultation with the child  
6 and the child's attorney, a representative payee in accordance with 20  
7 Code of Federal Regulations sections 404.2021 and 416.621 and shall apply  
8 to become the representative payee only if no other suitable candidate is  
9 available~~ APPLY TO SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE UNTIL SOMEONE OTHER

10 THAN THE DEPARTMENT IS APPOINTED TO SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE. If  
11 the department ~~of child safety~~ is appointed to serve as the representative  
12 payee, the department:

13 1. May not use the child's federal benefits, other benefits,  
14 savings or assets to pay for or to reimburse the department ~~of child  
15 safety~~ or this state for any of the costs of the child's care.

16 2. May use the child's federal benefits for the child's unmet needs  
17 beyond what the department ~~of child safety~~ is obligated, IS required or  
18 agrees to pay.

19 3. Shall establish an appropriate account to use and conserve the  
20 child's benefits in the child's best interest for current unmet needs and  
21 future needs in a manner consistent with federal and state asset and  
22 resource limits. The account may include any of the following:

23 (a) A special needs trust.

24 (b) A pooled special needs trust.

25 (c) An achieving a better life experience account established  
26 pursuant to section 529a of the internal revenue code.

27 (d) Any other trust account determined not to interfere with social  
28 security or asset limitations for any other benefit program.

29 4. In addition to the requirements ~~of~~ PRESCRIBED IN section  
30 14-9115, shall provide an annual accounting as to the use, application or  
31 conservation of the child's federal benefits to the child, the child's  
32 attorney and the child's parents or guardians.

33 ~~5. Shall periodically review if someone other than the department  
34 is available to apply to assume the role of representative payee and could  
35 better serve in that role in the child's best interests.~~

36 5. FOLLOWING THE INITIAL APPLICATION TO SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE  
37 PAYEE, SHALL REMAIN THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE ONLY IF NO OTHER APPROPRIATE  
38 PERSON IS AVAILABLE TO SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE. WITHIN THIRTY  
39 DAYS AFTER THE APPLICATION TO SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE IS  
40 APPROVED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND AT EACH SUBSEQUENT  
41 REPORT AND REVIEW HEARING OR PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING, THE DEPARTMENT  
42 SHALL FILE WITH THE COURT DOCUMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO  
43 IDENTIFY AN APPROPRIATE PERSON WHO IS OUTSIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND WHO  
44 COULD BETTER SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE.

1           6. NOT LATER THAN AN ANNUAL SCREENING OR ON THE REQUEST OF THE  
2 CHILD OR THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY, SHALL CONSULT WITH THE PARTIES TO THE CASE  
3 TO DETERMINE IF AN APPROPRIATE PERSON WHO IS OUTSIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT,  
4 AND ON APPROVAL BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, COULD BETTER SERVE  
5 AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO CONSULT WITH THE  
6 PARTIES WHENEVER A CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES OCCURS THAT MIGHT MAKE AN  
7 APPROPRIATE PERSON WHO IS OUTSIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT AVAILABLE TO SERVE AS  
8 THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE.

9           C. The department ~~of child safety~~ shall notify the child, the  
10 child's parents, unless parental rights have been terminated, the child's  
11 guardian, the child's current placement and the child's attorney of any  
12 application, decision or appeal related to a child's federal benefits. In  
13 providing notice of any denial of benefits, the department shall consult  
14 with the child's attorney and appeal the denial if it is in the child's  
15 best interests.

16           D. The department shall annually review cases of children in the  
17 department's care to determine whether a child may have become eligible  
18 for benefits after the department's initial assessment.

19           E. Notwithstanding any other law, on termination of the  
20 department's responsibility for the child, the department shall release  
21 any monies remaining to the child's credit pursuant to the requirements of  
22 the funding source or, in the absence of any requirements, shall release  
23 the remaining monies to:

24           1. The child, if the child is at least eighteen years of age or is  
25 emancipated.

26           2. The person who is responsible for the child if the child is a  
27 minor and IS not emancipated.

28           Sec. 3. Section 8-514.07, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
29 read:

30           8-514.07. Kinship foster care; relative identification and  
31           notification; due diligence search

32           A. If a child is taken into temporary custody, as part of the  
33 ongoing search, the department shall use due diligence in an initial  
34 search to identify and notify adult relatives of the child and persons  
35 with a significant relationship with the child within thirty days after  
36 the child is taken into temporary custody.

37           B. The search to identify adult relatives of the child or persons  
38 with a significant relationship with the child must include:

39           1. An interview with the child's parent.

40           2. An interview with the child.

41           3. Interviews with identified adult relatives.

42           4. Interviews with other persons who are likely to have information  
43 regarding the location of adult relatives of the child or persons with a  
44 significant relationship with the child.

1           5. A comprehensive search of available records that are likely to  
2 help identify and locate a person being sought, including:

- 3           (a) Employment records.
- 4           (b) Vehicle registration records.
- 5           (c) Child support enforcement records.
- 6           (d) Utility accounts.
- 7           (e) Previous residential addresses.
- 8           (f) Law enforcement records.
- 9           (g) State department of corrections records.

10          6. Thorough inquiries by the court of the parties during case  
11 hearings.

12          7. Any other means the department deems likely to identify adult  
13 relatives of the child or persons with a significant relationship with the  
14 child.

15          C. Within thirty days after the child is taken into temporary  
16 custody and at each subsequent review and report hearing or permanency  
17 planning hearing, the department shall file with the court ~~documentation~~  
18 AN INITIAL REPORT regarding attempts made pursuant to this section or as  
19 otherwise required by the court to identify and notify adult relatives of  
20 the child and persons with a significant relationship with the child. This  
21 ~~documentation~~ INITIAL REPORT shall include a detailed narrative explaining  
22 the department's efforts to consider each potential placement and the  
23 specific outcome. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL UPDATE THE INITIAL REPORT THAT IS  
24 FILED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION AT EACH SUBSEQUENT REPORT AND REVIEW  
25 HEARING OR PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING WITH ANY NEW INFORMATION THAT HAS  
26 BEEN OBTAINED SINCE THE FILING OF THE LAST REPORT.

27          D. The department shall provide notice to adult relatives of the  
28 child and persons with a significant relationship with the child who are  
29 identified through the search requirements of this section. The notice  
30 shall do the following:

31           1. Specify that the child has been or is being removed from the  
32 child's parental custody.

33           2. Explain the options an adult relative of the child or a person  
34 with a significant relationship with the child has to participate in the  
35 care or placement of the child.

36           3. Explain that financial assistance and other forms of support are  
37 available to adult relatives of the child and persons with a significant  
38 relationship with the child with whom the child is placed.

39           4. Describe the process for becoming a licensed foster parent and  
40 the additional services and support that are available for children placed  
41 in approved foster homes.

42           5. Require an adult relative of the child or a person with a  
43 significant relationship with the child to respond within thirty days  
44 after receiving notice that the child has been removed from the home.

1 E. If the child is not placed with an adult relative of the child  
2 or person with a significant relationship with the child or the child is  
3 placed with an adult relative or person with a significant relationship  
4 with the child who is unable or unwilling to provide permanent placement  
5 for the child, the department shall continue to conduct an ongoing search  
6 for adult relatives of the child or persons with a significant  
7 relationship with the child. ~~The department shall engage in search~~  
8 ~~efforts~~

9 F. If, AFTER THE PERMANENCY HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-862,  
10 THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COURT DETERMINE THAT A CHILD IS PLACED WITH A  
11 PROSPECTIVE PERMANENT PLACEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY STOP SEARCH EFFORTS  
12 UNLESS ordered by the court, a change in the child's placement occurs or a  
13 party shows that the search is in the best interest of the child.

14 ~~F.~~ G. The department shall file with the court documentation of  
15 both of the following:

16 1. The completed due diligence search efforts. This documentation  
17 shall include:

18 (a) The names of and relevant information about adult relatives of  
19 the child or persons with a significant relationship with the child.

20 (b) The steps taken by the department to locate and contact adult  
21 relatives of the child or persons with a significant relationship with the  
22 child.

23 (c) The responses received from adult relatives of the child or  
24 persons with a significant relationship with the child.

25 (d) The dates of each attempted or completed contact with an adult  
26 relative of the child or a person with a significant relationship with the  
27 child.

28 (e) The reasons why an adult relative of the child or a person with  
29 a significant relationship with the child was not considered for temporary  
30 or permanent placement of the child.

31 2. All efforts for placement of the child through an interstate  
32 compact agreement pursuant to section 8-548. This documentation shall  
33 include:

34 (a) The names of adult relatives of the child or persons with a  
35 significant relationship with the child who were considered for an  
36 interstate placement.

37 (b) Any pending placement of the child through an interstate  
38 compact agreement.

39 (c) All potential out-of-state placements outside of an interstate  
40 compact agreement and the reasons such placements have not been initiated.

41 ~~G.~~ H. If an out-of-state placement option exists and the  
42 department has failed to file a request with the receiving state pursuant  
43 to the requirements of an interstate compact agreement pursuant to section  
44 8-548, the court shall enter a finding that the department has not made a  
45 due diligence search and shall order the department to file a request with

1 the receiving state pursuant to the terms of the interstate compact  
2 agreement.

3 Sec. 4. Section 8-529, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
4 read:

5 8-529. Children in foster care and kinship foster care;  
6 rights

7 A. A child in foster care ~~and~~ OR kinship foster care has the  
8 following rights:

9 1. To appropriate care and treatment in the least restrictive  
10 setting available that can meet the child's needs according to the best  
11 judgment of the foster parent.

12 2. To live in a safe, healthy and comfortable placement where the  
13 child can receive reasonable protection from harm and appropriate privacy  
14 for personal needs and where the child is treated with respect.

15 3. To be placed with a relative when such placement is in the best  
16 interest of the child.

17 4. To be placed with or in close proximity to the child's siblings  
18 when possible and to visit and have contact with siblings and family  
19 members when ~~it~~ THE PLACEMENT, VISITATION OR CONTACT is in the best  
20 interest of the child.

21 5. To know why the child is in foster care and what will happen to  
22 the child and to the child's family, including siblings, and case plans.

23 6. Whenever possible, to be placed with a foster family that can  
24 accommodate the child's communication needs.

25 7. To be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to the child's  
26 level of maturity and not be subjected to physical discipline methods.

27 8. To attend community, school, extracurricular and religious  
28 services and activities of the child's choice to the extent that it is  
29 appropriate for the child, as planned and discussed with the child's  
30 placement worker and caseworker and based on caregiver ability if  
31 transportation is available through a responsible party.

32 9. To go to school and receive an education that fits the child's  
33 age and individual needs. If remaining in the child's current school is  
34 not in the child's best interest, the child has the right to be enrolled  
35 in the least restrictive school available.

36 10. To training in personal care, hygiene and grooming.

37 11. To clothing that fits comfortably and is adequate to protect the  
38 child against natural elements such as rain, snow, wind, cold and sun.

39 12. To have personal possessions at home and to acquire additional  
40 possessions within reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the  
41 child's foster parent, placement worker and caseworker, and based on  
42 caregiver ability.

43 13. To personal space, preferably in the child's foster home bedroom  
44 for storing clothing and belongings.

1 14. To healthy foods in healthy portions that are appropriate for  
2 the child's age.

3 15. To comply with any approved visitation plan, and to have any  
4 restrictions explained to the child in a manner and level of details  
5 deemed age appropriate by the foster parent in agreement with the  
6 caseworker and documented in the child's record.

7 16. If the child is six years of age or older, to receive contact  
8 information for the child's caseworker, attorney or advocate and to speak  
9 with them in private if necessary.

10 17. To be represented by an attorney in all proceedings initiated  
11 pursuant to this title.

12 18. To participate in age appropriate child's service planning and  
13 permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or summary of each  
14 service plan and service plan review. The child may request someone to  
15 participate on the child's behalf or to support the child in this  
16 participation.

17 19. To attend the child's court hearing and speak to the judge.

18 20. To have the child's records and personal information kept  
19 private and discussed only when it is about the child's care, except THAT  
20 the foster parent shall have full access to the records to determine ~~if~~  
21 ~~WHETHER~~ the child will be successful in the home. During the foster  
22 placement, if the foster parent requests to view the record on  
23 experiencing problems with the child's adjustment, the full record shall  
24 be made available for viewing by the foster parent.

25 21. To receive IMMEDIATE AND UNBIASED medical, dental, vision and  
26 mental health services and to be informed about diagnoses and treatment  
27 options as is developmentally appropriate.

28 22. To be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.

29 23. To receive emotional, mental health or chemical dependency  
30 treatment separately from adults who are receiving services, as planned  
31 and discussed with the child's placement worker and caseworker, as is  
32 financially reasonable for the foster parent.

33 24. To report a violation of personal rights specified in this  
34 section without fear of ~~punishment~~, interference, coercion, INTIMIDATION  
35 or retaliation. ~~, except that an appropriate level of punishment may be~~  
36 ~~applied if the child is proven to have maliciously or wrongfully accused~~  
37 ~~the foster parent.~~ A FOSTER PARENT, A KINSHIP CAREGIVER, A FOSTER HOME, A  
38 GROUP FOSTER HOME, A GROUP HOME OR AN EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR OR AGENT OF A  
39 HOME OR FACILITY WHERE A CHILD WHO IS IN THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT IS  
40 PLACED MAY NOT TAKE, THREATEN OR CAUSE RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST A CHILD  
41 BECAUSE THAT CHILD REPORTS A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS  
42 PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH OR PARTICIPATED IN AN INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION  
43 OF A VIOLATION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS AND THE CHILD MADE THE REPORT OF A  
44 VIOLATION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS OR PARTICIPATED IN AN INQUIRY OR  
45 INVESTIGATION OF A VIOLATION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS IN GOOD FAITH OR WITH A

1 REASONABLE BELIEF THAT THE REPORT OF A VIOLATION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS WAS  
2 TRUE. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "RETALIATORY ACTION":

3 (a) MEANS AN ACTION OR OMISSION THAT WOULD DETER A REASONABLE CHILD  
4 OF SIMILAR AGE AND CIRCUMSTANCES FROM MAKING A REPORT OF A VIOLATION OF  
5 PERSONAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH AND THAT MATERIALLY ADVERSELY  
6 AFFECTS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FOR A CHILD:

7 (i) PLACEMENT.

8 (ii) SERVICES.

9 (iii) EDUCATION.

10 (iv) MEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.

11 (v) PRIVILEGES.

12 (vi) VISITATION OR CONTACT.

13 (vii) ANY OTHER CONDITIONS OF PLACEMENT.

14 (b) INCLUDES:

15 (i) INITIATING, REQUESTING, RECOMMENDING OR CAUSING A DISRUPTION IN  
16 PLACEMENT, TRANSFER OR CHANGE IN LEVEL OF CARE OR SUPERVISION, INCLUDING A  
17 REFERRAL TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE, WITHOUT DOCUMENTED, NONRETALIATORY  
18 JUSTIFICATION.

19 (ii) DENYING, RESTRICTING, DELAYING OR CONDITIONING PRIVILEGES,  
20 NORMAL ACTIVITIES, VISITATION OR CONTACT, RECREATION, PARTICIPATION IN  
21 EDUCATION, SERVICES OR OPPORTUNITIES TO WHICH THE CHILD IS OTHERWISE  
22 ENTITLED.

23 (iii) IMPOSING DISCIPLINARY OR CORRECTIVE ACTION OR MORE RESTRICTIVE  
24 CONDITIONS NOT BASED ON CONTEMPORANEOUS DOCUMENTED CONDUCT THAT IS NOT  
25 RELATED TO A REPORT OF A VIOLATION OF A CHILD'S PERSONAL RIGHTS.

26 (iv) KNOWINGLY MAKING, CAUSING OR ENCOURAGING ANOTHER PERSON TO MAKE  
27 A FALSE, FRAUDULENT OR MATERIALLY MISLEADING STATEMENT, INCIDENT REPORT,  
28 ALLEGATION OR RECORD ABOUT THE CHILD TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.

29 (v) ALTERING, DESTROYING OR CONCEALING RECORDS OR EVIDENCE THAT IS  
30 RELATED TO A REPORT OF A VIOLATION OF A CHILD'S PERSONAL RIGHTS.

31 25. To be informed in writing of the name, address, telephone number  
32 and purpose of the Arizona protection and advocacy system for disability  
33 assistance.

34 26. TO VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE IN ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES.

35 27. TO BE FREE OF BULLYING OR DISCRIMINATION.

36 ~~26.~~ 28. To understand and have a copy of the rights listed in this  
37 section.

38 B. A child WHO IS in foster care or kinship foster care AND who is  
39 at least fourteen years of age has the following rights:

40 1. To attend preparation for adult living classes and activities as  
41 appropriate to the child's case plan, as is financially reasonable for the  
42 foster parent.

43 2. To a transition plan that includes career planning and  
44 assistance with enrolling in an educational or vocational job training  
45 program.

1           3. To be informed of educational opportunities, including  
2 information regarding assistance and funding for postsecondary and  
3 vocational education.

4           4. To assistance in obtaining an independent residency when the  
5 child is too old to remain in foster care from the child's caseworker,  
6 attorney or advocate.

7           5. To request a court hearing for a court to determine ~~if~~ **WHETHER**  
8 the child has the capacity to consent to medical care that is directly  
9 related to an illness, disease, deformity or other physical malady.

10          6. To receive help with obtaining a driver license, social security  
11 number, birth certificate or state identification card and credit reports  
12 with assistance in interpreting the reports and resolving inaccuracies in  
13 the report. The foster parent shall have discretion to determine ~~if~~  
14 **WHETHER** the child is responsible and mature enough to become a licensed  
15 driver.

16          7. To receive necessary personal information within thirty days  
17 after leaving foster care, including the child's birth certificate,  
18 immunization records and information contained in the child's education  
19 portfolio and health passport.

20          8. To participate in or reenter extended foster care when the child  
21 is at least eighteen and under twenty-one years of age pursuant to section  
22 8-521.02.

23          C. The department shall provide information regarding a child's  
24 rights pursuant to this section and assistance in understanding and  
25 enforcing these rights to each child who enters foster care or kinship  
26 foster care or when there is a change in the child's foster care plan. The  
27 information shall also include the telephone number and email address of  
28 the department, the child's assigned case manager, the department's office  
29 of the ombudsman and the ombudsman-citizens aide. A copy of these rights  
30 shall be posted in a conspicuous place in all foster ~~care~~ **HOMES** and group  
31 **FOSTER** homes.

32          D. If a child who is in foster care or kinship foster care believes  
33 that the child's rights under this section have been violated, the child  
34 or the child's representative may:

35           1. File a complaint with the department, the department's office of  
36 the ombudsman or the ombudsman-citizens aide pursuant to section 41-1376.  
37 A formal grievance may be initiated with the ombudsman at any time.

38           2. Notify the juvenile court in the child's ongoing dependency,  
39 severance or adoption proceeding, either orally or in writing, that the  
40 child's rights are being violated and request appropriate equitable  
41 relief. The court shall act on the notification as necessary within ~~its~~  
42 **THE COURT'S** discretion to promote the best interest of the child.

43          E. The rights provided in this section do not establish an  
44 independent cause of action.

1           Sec. 5. Section 8-810, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
2 read:

3           8-810. Missing; abducted; runaway children; notification;  
4           training; audit

5           A. Immediately or within twenty-four hours after receiving a report  
6 made pursuant to section 13-3620 or receiving information during the  
7 course of providing services that indicates a child who is a ward of the  
8 court or who is in the care of the department is missing, abducted or a  
9 runaway and the child's location is unknown, the department shall notify  
10 the appropriate law enforcement agency to make the record entry as  
11 follows:

12           1. For an abducted child, the Arizona criminal justice information  
13 system.

14           2. For an abducted, missing or runaway child, the national crime  
15 information center missing person database.

16           B. Immediately or within twenty-four hours after receiving a report  
17 of a missing, abducted or runaway child, the department shall do the  
18 following:

19           1. Report information on the missing, abducted or runaway child to  
20 the national center for missing and exploited children.

21           2. Unless it is determined by the primary investigative agency that  
22 it will hinder investigation or location efforts: ~~;~~

23           (a) Contact the following persons to obtain information about the  
24 child's disappearance:

25           ~~(a)~~ (i) The child's parents.

26           ~~(b)~~ (ii) The child's known relatives.

27           ~~(c)~~ (iii) The child's out-of-home caregivers.

28           ~~(d)~~ (iv) The child's attorney.

29           ~~(e)~~ (v) The child's guardian or guardian ad litem.

30           ~~(f)~~ (vi) The child's court appointed special advocate.

31           ~~(g)~~ (vii) The child's school, friends or household members or  
32 other persons who may have relevant information about the circumstances  
33 surrounding the child's abduction or disappearance.

34           ~~(h)~~ (viii) Any other persons known to the department who may have  
35 relevant information regarding the child's location.

36           ~~3. Unless it is determined by the primary investigative agency that~~  
37 ~~it will hinder investigation or location efforts;~~

38           (b) Provide a notice of disappearance in writing ~~and~~ OR  
39 telephonically to the following persons:

40           ~~(a)~~ (i) The child's parents.

41           ~~(b)~~ (ii) The child's known relatives.

42           ~~(c)~~ (iii) The child's out-of-home caregivers.

43           ~~(d)~~ (iv) The child's attorney.

- 1           ~~(e)~~ (v) The child's guardian or guardian ad litem.
- 2           ~~(f)~~ (vi) The child's court appointed special advocate.
- 3           ~~(g)~~ (vii) A judicial officer in any judicial matter involving the
- 4 child.
- 5           ~~(h)~~ (viii) The duty assistant attorney general to initiate a
- 6 motion for a pickup.
- 7           ~~(i)~~ (ix) If the child is a member of an Indian tribe in this
- 8 state, the child's Indian tribe.

9           C. Immediately or within twenty-four hours after receiving a report  
10 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, the department shall request the appropriate law  
11 enforcement agency to determine if the situation meets amber alert  
12 criteria or ~~silver~~ SEEK AND FIND alert criteria pursuant to section  
13 41-1728. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall document its  
14 response regarding amber alert or ~~silver~~ SEEK AND FIND alert criteria.

15           D. Within forty-eight hours after receiving a report of a missing,  
16 abducted or runaway child, the department shall provide the local law  
17 enforcement agency with, and the local law enforcement agency shall  
18 provide to all local media outlets and post to social media platforms, all  
19 of the following information regarding the child and, if known, the  
20 child's abductor:

- 21           1. A complete physical description of the child and, if known, the
- 22 child's abductor.
- 23           2. The last known location of the child or, if known, the child's
- 24 abductor.
- 25           3. A description of the clothing the child or, if known, the
- 26 child's abductor was last known to be wearing.
- 27           4. A description of any vehicle that may be involved with the
- 28 child's disappearance.
- 29           5. Current photos of the child and, if available, the child's
- 30 abductor.
- 31           6. A law enforcement telephone number.
- 32           7. Information regarding any offered rewards.

33           E. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall update social media  
34 platforms with updated information regarding the missing, abducted or  
35 runaway child.

36           F. For a child who has been missing or abducted or who has been a  
37 runaway for two or more years, the appropriate law enforcement agency  
38 shall work, when possible, to create an age-appropriate progression image  
39 of the child.

40           G. The department shall do all of the following on an ongoing basis  
41 until a missing, abducted or runaway child is located or the child reaches  
42 the age of majority:

- 43           1. Document in writing every effort the department has made to
- 44 locate the missing, abducted or runaway child within ten days after the
- 45 effort to locate the child is taken. The written document shall specify

1 the notifications and documentation sent to individuals and departments  
2 pursuant to the requirements of this section.

3 2. Contact law enforcement every seven calendar days and document  
4 the information provided and received.

5 3. For a child who has been missing or abducted or who has been a  
6 runaway for two or more years, work with the national center for missing  
7 and exploited children to create an age-progression image of the child.

8 H. The department shall immediately develop, refine, implement and  
9 provide initial training to newly hired employees. A newly hired employee  
10 must receive this initial training before any children are assigned to the  
11 newly hired employee's caseload. The department shall conduct annual  
12 training for department employees who have direct oversight of children  
13 and the direct supervisors of those employees. The training shall include  
14 department policies for locating missing, abducted or runaway children and  
15 the requirements for ongoing efforts to locate a missing, abducted or  
16 runaway child, unless it is determined by the primary investigative agency  
17 that it will hinder investigation or location efforts. Monthly ongoing  
18 department efforts shall include all of the following:

19 1. Continued contact with law enforcement agencies.

20 2. Continued contact with the child's parents, guardian or  
21 custodian.

22 3. Continued contact with the child's known relatives.

23 4. Continued contact with current and former foster families of the  
24 child.

25 5. Continued contact with the child's school.

26 6. Continued contact with known acquaintances of the child.

27 7. Continued in-person searching of locations and places where the  
28 child may be found.

29 8. Continued review of any social media accounts that may be  
30 associated with the child or the child's known acquaintances.

31 9. Continued efforts with law enforcement agencies in searching for  
32 the child.

33 10. Continued search efforts with department field staff who have  
34 access to databases that may help in the search for information or leads  
35 regarding the missing, abducted or runaway child.

36 11. Referral to the department's office of child welfare  
37 investigations for assistance if exigent circumstances exist.

38 12. Requesting that the appropriate law enforcement agency conduct  
39 welfare checks at any location where the child may be.

40 I. Within twenty-four hours after a missing, abducted or runaway  
41 child is located, the department shall do all of the following:

42 1. Inform all of the following:

43 (a) All law enforcement agencies involved in the child's case.

44 (b) The attorney general's office.

45 (c) The national center for missing and exploited children.

1 (d) Any individuals who have received notice pursuant to subsection  
2 B, paragraph 3 of this section.

3 2. Have in-person contact with the child.

4 3. Obtain a medical exam for the child.

5 4. Assess the child's experiences while absent from care, including  
6 screening to determine if the child is a sex trafficking victim, and  
7 report to the appropriate law enforcement agency if it is determined that  
8 the child is a sex trafficking victim.

9 5. Assess the appropriateness of the child returning to the child's  
10 current placement.

11 6. Assess factors that contributed to the child's absence.

12 7. Determine the need for additional behavioral health services and  
13 support.

14 8. Review the case to assess the primary factors that contributed  
15 to the child being missing or abducted or a runaway and to the extent  
16 possible and appropriate respond to those factors in current and  
17 subsequent case decisions.

18 J. Within sixty days after September 14, 2024, the department shall  
19 develop a checklist for department specialists. The checklist shall be  
20 distributed to each caseworker to assist department specialists in  
21 fulfilling the department's duties prescribed by this section. The  
22 checklist shall have a mechanism to mark department duties as completed  
23 within the timelines specified by this section.

24 K. Beginning ninety days after September 14, 2024, the department  
25 shall provide a monthly report to the governor, the president of the  
26 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The report shall  
27 include all of the following:

28 1. The names of all current missing, abducted or runaway children.  
29 The names of missing, abducted or runaway children shall be kept  
30 confidential and may not be distributed outside of the monthly report.

31 2. An acknowledgement that the department made the notifications  
32 prescribed by this section within the prescribed time frames. If the  
33 department failed to make the notifications ~~with~~ WITHIN the prescribed  
34 time frames, the department shall include a detailed explanation of the  
35 reason why the notifications were not made within the prescribed time  
36 frames.

37 3. The department's compliance with ongoing search efforts made to  
38 locate missing, abducted or runaway children.

39 4. The department's compliance with subsection I of this section.

40 5. On the return of a runaway child to the department's care, the  
41 reason why the child ran away.

42 L. Within one hundred fifty days after September 14, 2024 and on a  
43 monthly basis thereafter, the department shall submit to the joint  
44 legislative budget committee, the senate health and human services  
45 committee and the house of representatives health and human services

1 committee, or their successor committees, a report that includes all of  
2 the following:

3 1. The department's compliance with all of the requirements of this  
4 section.

5 2. The number of missing, abducted and runaway children.

6 3. The number of missing, abducted and runaway children who have  
7 been found.

8 4. The percentage of times the department was in compliance with  
9 the requirements prescribed in subsections A, B, C and D of this section.

10 M. If the report submitted pursuant to subsection L of this section  
11 shows a less than ninety-five percent compliance rate with the  
12 requirements prescribed in subsection L, paragraph 4 of this section for  
13 more than four consecutive or nonconsecutive months in a twelve-month  
14 period, the department shall establish a missing, abducted and runaway  
15 children unit within the department. The missing, abducted and runaway  
16 children unit shall have at least four employees with at least one  
17 employee available twenty-four hours a day. The missing, abducted and  
18 runaway children unit may enter into contracts with any vendor necessary  
19 to ensure the department is in compliance with this section. If the  
20 missing, abducted and runaway children unit is established, the unit shall  
21 submit a report to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker  
22 of the house of representatives and the joint legislative oversight  
23 committee on the department of child safety established by section  
24 41-1292. The report shall do all of the following:

25 1. Identify the reasons why the department is not in compliance  
26 with the requirements prescribed in subsections A, B, C and D of this  
27 section.

28 2. Identify the methods by which the missing, abducted and runaway  
29 children unit will achieve a ninety-five percent compliance rate with the  
30 requirements prescribed in subsections A, B, C and D of this section.

31 3. Include organizational changes that the department will make to  
32 ensure compliance with the requirements prescribed in subsections A, B, C  
33 and D of this section.

34 4. Recommend legislative changes that are necessary to ensure the  
35 department's compliance with the requirements prescribed in subsections A,  
36 B, C and D of this section.

37 N. The legislature may convene an oversight committee to address  
38 problems and deviations from policy and procedure and recommend corrective  
39 action plans. The legislature shall request an annual independent audit  
40 of the department's compliance with this section. If the independent  
41 audit determines that the department is not in compliance, the department  
42 shall contract with a consulting firm that is licensed by this state for  
43 investigative services. The consulting firm shall present recommendations  
44 to the oversight committee on how to improve compliance with this section.

1           0. The legislature may convene the joint legislative oversight  
2 committee on the department of child safety established by section 41-1292  
3 to address concerns and deviations from policy and procedure and provide  
4 recommendations. The legislature may request an annual independent audit  
5 of the department's compliance with this section. If the independent  
6 audit determines that the department is not in compliance, the independent  
7 audit shall provide recommendations for improving the department's efforts  
8 to locate missing, abducted or runaway children. If the joint legislative  
9 oversight committee on the department of child safety determines that the  
10 department, after the establishment of the missing, abducted and runaway  
11 children unit, has failed to meet the requirements of subsection M of this  
12 section for a period of more than two months, the department shall  
13 contract with a consulting firm that is licensed by this state for  
14 investigative services. The consulting firm shall present recommendations  
15 to the joint legislative oversight committee **ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD**  
16 **SAFETY** on how to improve compliance with this section.

17           Sec. 6. Section 8-811, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws  
18 2024, chapter 47, section 5, is amended to read:

19           8-811. Hearing process; definitions

20           A. The department shall notify a person who is alleged to have  
21 abused or neglected a child that the department intends to substantiate  
22 the allegation in the central registry pursuant to section 8-804 and of  
23 that person's right:

- 24           1. To receive a copy of the report containing the allegation.
- 25           2. To a hearing before the entry into the central registry.

26           B. The department shall provide the notice prescribed in subsection  
27 A of this section by first class mail or by personal service no more than  
28 fourteen days after completion of the investigation.

29           C. A request for a hearing on the proposed finding must be received  
30 by the department within twenty days after the mailing or personal service  
31 of the notice by the department.

32           D. The department shall not disclose any information related to the  
33 investigation of the allegation except as provided in sections 8-456,  
34 8-807, 8-807.01 and 13-3620.

35           E. If a request for a hearing is made pursuant to subsection C of  
36 this section, the department shall conduct a review before the hearing.  
37 The department shall provide an opportunity for the accused person to  
38 provide written or verbal information to support the position that the  
39 department should not substantiate the allegation. If the department  
40 determines that ~~there is no probable cause that the accused person engaged~~  
41 ~~in the alleged conduct~~ **THE PROPOSED FINDING IS NOT SUPPORTED BY A**  
42 **PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE**, the department shall amend the information  
43 or finding in the report and shall notify the person and a hearing shall  
44 not be held.

1 F. Notwithstanding section 41-1092.03, the notification prescribed  
2 in subsection A of this section shall also state that if the department  
3 does not amend the information or finding in the report as prescribed in  
4 subsection E of this section within sixty days after it receives the  
5 request for a hearing the person has a right to a hearing unless:

6 1. The person is a party in a pending civil, criminal or  
7 administrative proceeding in which the allegations of abuse or neglect are  
8 at issue.

9 2. The person is a party in a pending juvenile proceeding in which  
10 the allegations of abuse or neglect are at issue.

11 3. A court or administrative law judge has made findings as to the  
12 alleged abuse or neglect.

13 4. A court has found that a child is dependent or has terminated a  
14 parent's rights based on an allegation of abuse or neglect.

15 G. If the court or administrative law judge in a pending proceeding  
16 described in subsection F, paragraph 1 or 2 of this section does not make  
17 a finding of abuse or neglect and the matter is no longer pending in that  
18 forum, the person has a right to a hearing pursuant to subsection F of  
19 this section.

20 H. If the court or administrative law judge in a proceeding  
21 described in subsection F of this section has made a finding of abuse or  
22 neglect, the finding shall be entered into the central registry as a  
23 substantiated report.

24 I. If the department does not amend the information or finding in  
25 the report as prescribed in subsection E of this section, the department  
26 shall notify the office of administrative hearings of the request for a  
27 hearing ~~no~~ NOT later than five days after completion of the review. The  
28 department shall forward all records, reports and other relevant  
29 information with the request for hearing within ten days. The department  
30 shall redact the identity of the reporting source before transmitting the  
31 information to the office of administrative hearings.

32 J. The office of administrative hearings shall hold a hearing  
33 pursuant to title 41, chapter 6, article 10, with the following  
34 exceptions:

35 1. A child who is the victim of or a witness to abuse or neglect is  
36 not required to testify at the hearing.

37 2. A child's hearsay statement is admissible if the time, content  
38 and circumstances of that statement are sufficiently indicative of its  
39 reliability.

40 3. The identity of the reporting source of the abuse or neglect  
41 shall not be disclosed without the permission of the reporting source.

42 4. The reporting source is not required to testify.

43 5. A written statement from the reporting source may be admitted if  
44 the time, content and circumstances of that statement are sufficiently  
45 indicative of its reliability.

1           6. If the person requesting the hearing fails to appear, the  
2 hearing shall be vacated and a substantiated finding of abuse or neglect  
3 shall be entered. On good cause shown, the hearing may be rescheduled if  
4 the request is made within fifteen calendar days after the date of the  
5 notice vacating the hearing for failure to appear.

6           K. On completion of the presentation of evidence, the  
7 administrative law judge shall determine if ~~probable cause exists to~~  
8 ~~sustain the department's finding that the parent, guardian, employee of a~~  
9 ~~child welfare agency where the child was placed that was licensed by and~~  
10 ~~contracted with the department at the time of the abuse or custodian~~  
11 ~~abused the child or the parent, guardian or custodian neglected the child~~  
12 **THE PROPOSED FINDING IS SUPPORTED BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE.** If  
13 the administrative law judge determines that ~~probable cause exists to~~  
14 ~~sustain the department's finding of abuse or neglect~~ **THE PROPOSED FINDING**  
15 **IS SUPPORTED BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE**, the sustained finding  
16 shall be entered into the central registry as a substantiated report. If  
17 the administrative law judge determines that ~~probable cause does not exist~~  
18 ~~to sustain the department's finding~~ **THE PROPOSED FINDING IS NOT SUPPORTED**  
19 **BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE**, the administrative law judge shall  
20 order the department to amend the information or finding in the report.

21           L. When the department is requested to verify pursuant to section  
22 8-807, if the central registry contains a substantiated report about a  
23 specific person, the department shall determine if the report was taken  
24 after January 1, 1998. If the report was taken after January 1, 1998, the  
25 department shall notify the requestor of the substantiated finding. If  
26 the report was taken before January 1, 1998, the department shall notify  
27 the person of the person's right to request an administrative hearing. The  
28 department shall not send this notification if the person was a party in a  
29 civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in which the allegations of  
30 abuse or neglect were at issue. The provisions of this section shall  
31 apply to the person's appeal.

32           M. The department shall provide the parent, guardian or custodian  
33 who is the subject of the investigation and the person who reported the  
34 suspected child abuse or neglect if that person is the child's parent,  
35 guardian or custodian with a copy of the outcome of the investigation at  
36 one of the following times:

- 37           1. If the report is unsubstantiated.
- 38           2. If ~~probable cause exists that abuse or neglect has occurred~~ **THE**  
39 **PROPOSED FINDING IS SUPPORTED BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE** but a  
40 specific person is not identified as having abused or neglected the child.
- 41           3. After the time to request a hearing has lapsed pursuant to  
42 subsection C of this section without the department receiving a request  
43 for a hearing.
- 44           4. After a final administrative decision has been made pursuant to  
45 section 41-1092.08.

1 N. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Amend the finding" means to change the finding from  
3 substantiated to unsubstantiated.

4 2. "Amend the information" means to change information identifying  
5 the accused of having abused or neglected a child.

6 Sec. 7. Repeal

7 Section 8-811, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws 2024,  
8 chapter 127, section 5, is repealed.

9 Sec. 8. Representation of children; report; requirements;  
10 delayed repeal; definition

11 A. Each county office that employs attorneys who are appointed to  
12 represent children in dependency proceedings or termination of parental  
13 rights proceedings pursuant to title 8, chapter 4, Arizona Revised  
14 Statutes, shall submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the house  
15 of representatives and the president of the senate on or before January  
16 15, 2027. The report shall be compiled by month for the period of June 1,  
17 2026 through December 31, 2026 and shall include all of the following:

18 1. The number of attorneys in each county office who are  
19 representing children in dependency proceedings or termination of parental  
20 rights proceedings.

21 2. The average number of children who are being represented by each  
22 attorney.

23 3. The range of the number of dependency or termination of parental  
24 rights cases that are assigned to each county office.

25 4. The number of children who are assigned to each county office by  
26 case plan goal.

27 5. The number and percentage of children who are contacted in  
28 person by their appointed attorney, categorized by the age of the child.

29 6. The number and percentage of children who are contacted by  
30 electronic means by their appointed attorney, categorized by the age of  
31 the child and the type of electronic means that was used to contact the  
32 child.

33 7. The number and percentage of children who are contacted in  
34 person by another member of the child's legal team, including a social  
35 worker or other appropriately trained support staff, categorized by age  
36 and the position of the person who contacted the child.

37 8. The number and percentage of children who are contacted by  
38 electronic means by another member of the child's legal team, including a  
39 social worker or other appropriately trained support staff, categorized by  
40 age, the position of the person who contacted the child and the electronic  
41 means that was used to contact the child.

42 9. The number and percentage of preverbal children whose placement  
43 is contacted, either in person or by electronic means, by the child's  
44 appointed attorney, categorized by the means that was used to contact the  
45 child's placement.

- 1           10. The number of preverbal children whose placement is contacted,  
2 either in person or by electronic means, by another member of the child's  
3 legal team, including a social worker or other appropriately trained  
4 support staff, categorized by the position of the person who contacted the  
5 child's placement and the means that was used to contact the child's  
6 placement.
- 7           B. This section is repealed from and after June 30, 2027.
- 8           C. For the purposes of this section, "electronic means" includes:  
9           1. Telephone calls.  
10           2. Video calls.  
11           3. Email.  
12           4. Text messages.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 19, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 22, 2026.