

REFERENCE TITLE: children's bill of rights

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2646

Introduced by
Representatives Liguori: Abeytia, Aguilar, Austin, Caverro, Connolly, De
Los Santos, Gutierrez, Márquez, Peshlakai, Sandoval, Simacek, Villegas;
Senator Ortiz

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING CHAPTER 7; RELATING
TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 8, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding
3 chapter 7, to read:

4 CHAPTER 7

5 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

6 ARTICLE 1. CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

7 8-931. Children's bill of rights; fundamental rights; child's
8 best interest; parental relationship; health care;
9 education; definition

10 A. A CHILD'S RIGHTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION ARE FUNDAMENTAL
11 RIGHTS AND ANY LAW OR RULE THAT BURDENS A CHILD'S RIGHTS SHALL BE IN THE
12 CHILD'S BEST INTEREST, SHALL BE NARROWLY TAILORED TO FURTHER A COMPELLING
13 GOVERNMENT INTEREST AND SHALL INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CHILD'S
14 EXPRESSED INTEREST. A CHILD HAS THE FOLLOWING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:

15 1. TO KNOW AND HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD'S PARENT OR
16 PARENTS. THIS RIGHT INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO VISIT AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE
17 CHILD'S PARENT OR PARENTS IF THE CHILD'S PARENT OR PARENTS ARE DETAINED OR
18 INCARCERATED WITHOUT THE IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS THAT WOULD UNDULY
19 OBSTRUCT OR LIMIT THE CHILD'S VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE
20 CHILD'S PARENT OR PARENTS.

21 2. TO HEALTH CARE. A CHILD SHALL BE CONSIDERED COMPETENT TO
22 CONSENT TO THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES PRESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH WHETHER
23 OR NOT THE CHILD IS A MINOR AND WITH OR WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CHILD'S
24 PARENT OR PARENTS. A CHILD SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE THAT
25 INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE
26 SERVICES RELATING TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

27 (a) CONTRACEPTION, PREGNANCY TESTING, PRENATAL CARE AND OTHER
28 PREGNANCY-RELATED CARE.

29 (b) PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
30 DISEASES.

31 (c) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS OR MENTAL ILLNESS.

32 3. TO RECEIVE EDUCATION AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL. NOTWITHSTANDING A
33 PARENT'S RIGHT TO DIRECT THE CHILD'S EDUCATION, A CHILD'S RIGHT TO AN
34 EDUCATION INCLUDES THE RIGHT OF A CHILD TO EXPRESS THE DESIRE TO RECEIVE
35 EDUCATION AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND TO BE ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH
36 THE RIGHT TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION.

37 B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "PARENT":

38 1. MEANS:

39 (a) A NATURAL OR ADOPTIVE PARENT OF A CHILD.

40 (b) A LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A CHILD OR A PERSON WHO IS LEGALLY
41 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD'S WELFARE.

42 (c) A PERSON WHO IS ACTING AS THE PARENT OF A CHILD AND WITH WHOM
43 THE CHILD LIVES OR HAS PREVIOUSLY LIVED.

44 2. DOES NOT INCLUDE THIS STATE, IF THE CHILD IS IN THE CARE AND
45 CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY.