

CHAPTER 235—S.F.No. 486

An act relating to juvenile justice; requiring reasonable efforts to prevent placement of children in need of protection or services proceedings; amending duty of juvenile court to ensure placement prevention and family reunification; defining reasonable efforts; clarifying definitions, jurisdiction, and services for Indian children; requiring preference for racial or ethnic heritage for appointment of guardian ad litem; requiring consideration of reasonable efforts in factors determining neglect; requiring that a child be in imminent danger for detention; permitting social services to release for detention; requiring finding of reasonable efforts at detention; and imposing requirements for disposition case plans; providing for notice to certain grandparents; amending Minnesota Statutes 1988, sections 260.012; 260.015, subdivisions 11, 13, 14, and by adding subdivisions; 260.111, by adding a subdivision; 260.135, subdivision 2; 260.141; 260.155, subdivisions 4 and 7; 260.165, subdivision 1; 260.171, subdivision 1; 260.172, subdivisions 1 and 4; 260.173, subdivision 2; 260.181, subdivision 2; 260.191, subdivisions 1a and 1e; and 260.231, subdivision 3.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.012, is amended to read:

260.012 DUTY OF JUVENILE COURT TO ENSURE PLACEMENT PREVENTION AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION; REASONABLE EFFORTS.

(a) If a child in need of protection or services is under the court's ~~dependen-~~
~~cy or neglect~~ jurisdiction, the court shall ensure that reasonable efforts including
culturally appropriate services by the social service agency are made to prevent
placement or to eliminate the need for removal and to reunite the child with the
child's family at the earliest possible time, consistent with the best interests,
safety, and protection of the child. In the case of an Indian child, in proceedings
under sections 260.172, 260.191, and 260.221 the juvenile court must make
findings and conclusions consistent with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978,
United States Code, title 25, section 1901 et. seq., as to the provision of active
efforts. If a child is under the court's delinquency jurisdiction, it shall be the
duty of the court to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to reunite the child
with the child's family at the earliest possible time, consistent with the best
interests of the child and the safety of the public.

(b) "Reasonable efforts" means the exercise of due diligence by the responsi-
ble social service agency to use appropriate and available services to meet the
needs of the child and the child's family in order to prevent removal of the child
from the child's family; or upon removal, services to eliminate the need for
removal and reunite the family. Services may include those listed under section
256F.07, subdivision 3, and other appropriate services available in the commu-
nity. The social service agency has the burden of demonstrating that it has
made reasonable efforts.

(c) The juvenile court, in proceedings under sections 260.172, 260.191, and
260.221 shall make findings and conclusions as to the provision of reasonable
efforts. When determining whether reasonable efforts have been made, the court
shall consider whether services to the child and family were:

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- (1) relevant to the safety and protection of the child;
- (2) adequate to meet the needs of the child and family;
- (3) culturally appropriate;
- (4) available and accessible;
- (5) consistent and timely; and
- (6) realistic under the circumstances.

(d) This section does not prevent out-of-home placement for treatment of a child with a mental disability when the child's diagnostic assessment or individual treatment plan indicates that appropriate and necessary treatment cannot be effectively provided outside of a residential or inpatient treatment program.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.015, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 1a. "Agency" means the local social service agency or a licensed child placing agency.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.015, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. "Parent" means the natural or adoptive parent of a minor. For an Indian child, parent includes any Indian person who has adopted a child by tribal law or custom, as provided in section 257.351, subdivision 11.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.015, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

Subd. 13. "Relative" means a parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt of the minor. This relationship may be by blood or marriage. For an Indian child, relative includes members of the extended family as defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe or, in the absence of laws or custom, nieces, nephews, or first or second cousins, as provided in the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1903. For purposes of dispositions, relative has the meaning given in section 260.181, subdivision 3.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.015, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

Subd. 14. "Custodian" means any person who is under a legal obligation to provide care and support for a minor or who is in fact providing care and support for a minor. For an Indian child, custodian means any Indian person who has legal custody of an Indian child under tribal law or custom or under state law or to whom temporary physical care, custody, and control has been transferred by the parent of the child, as provided in section 257.351, subdivision 8.

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Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.015, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 26. INDIAN. "Indian," consistent with section 257.351, subdivision 5, means a person who is a member of an Indian tribe or who is an Alaskan native and a member of a regional corporation as defined in section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, United States Code, title 43, section 1606.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.015, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 27. INDIAN CHILD. "Indian child," consistent with section 257.351, subdivision 6, means an unmarried person who is under age 18 and is:

- (1) a member of an Indian tribe; or
- (2) eligible for membership in an Indian tribe.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.111, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5. JURISDICTION OVER INDIAN CHILDREN. In a child in need of protection or services proceeding, when an Indian child is a ward of a tribal court with federally recognized child welfare jurisdiction, the Indian tribe retains exclusive jurisdiction notwithstanding the residence or domicile of an Indian child, as provided in the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1911.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.135, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. The court shall have notice of the pendency of the case and of the time and place of the hearing served upon a parent, guardian, or spouse of the child, who has not been summoned as provided in subdivision 1. For an Indian child, notice of all proceedings must comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1901, et. seq., and section 257.353.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.141, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. In any proceeding regarding a child in need of protection or services in a state court, where the court knows or has reason to know that an Indian child is involved, the prosecuting authority seeking the foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights to an Indian child, shall notify the parent or Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe of the pending proceedings and of their right of intervention. The notice must be provided by registered mail with return receipt requested unless personal service is accomplished. If the identity or location of the parent or Indian custodian and the tribe cannot be determined, the notice shall be given to the Secretary of the Interior of the United States in like manner, according to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1912. No foster care placement proceeding or termination of parental rights proceeding shall be held until at least ten days after receipt of notice by the parent or Indian custodian and the tribe or the Secretary. However, the parent or Indian custodian or the tribe shall, upon request, be granted up to 20 additional days to prepare for the proceeding.

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Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.155, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **GUARDIAN AD LITEM.** (a) The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the interests of the minor when it appears, at any stage of the proceedings, that the minor is without a parent or guardian, or that the minor's parent is a minor or incompetent, or that the parent or guardian is indifferent or hostile to the minor's interests, and in every proceeding alleging a child's need for protection or services under section 260.015, subdivision 2a, clauses (1) to (10). In any other case the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the interests of the minor when the court feels that such an appointment is desirable. The court shall appoint the guardian ad litem on its own motion or in the manner provided for the appointment of a guardian ad litem in the district court.

(b) The court may waive the appointment of a guardian ad litem pursuant to clause (a), whenever counsel has been appointed pursuant to subdivision 2 or is retained otherwise, and the court is satisfied that the interests of the minor are protected.

(c) In appointing a guardian ad litem pursuant to clause (a), the court shall not appoint the party, or any agent or employee thereof, filing a petition pursuant to section 260.131.

(d) The following factors shall be considered when appointing a guardian ad litem in a case involving an Indian or minority child:

(1) whether a person is available who is the same racial or ethnic heritage as the child or, if that is not possible;

(2) whether a person is available who knows and appreciates the child's racial or ethnic heritage.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.155, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **FACTORS IN DETERMINING NEGLECT.** In determining whether a child is neglected and in foster care, the court shall consider, among other factors, the following:

(1) the length of time the child has been in foster care;

(2) the effort the parent has made to adjust circumstances, conduct, or condition that necessitates the removal of the child to make it in the child's best interest to be returned to the parent's home in the foreseeable future, including the use of rehabilitative services offered to the parent;

(3) whether the parent has visited the child within the three months preceding the filing of the petition, unless extreme financial or physical hardship or treatment for mental disability or chemical dependency or other good cause

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prevented the parent from visiting the child or it was not in the best interests of the child to be visited by the parent;

(4) the maintenance of regular contact or communication with the agency or person temporarily responsible for the child;

(5) the appropriateness and adequacy of services provided or offered to the parent to facilitate a reunion;

(6) whether additional services would be likely to bring about lasting parental adjustment enabling a return of the child to the parent within an ascertainable period of time, whether the services have been offered to the parent, or, if services were not offered, the reasons they were not offered; and

(7) the nature of the ~~effort~~ efforts made by the responsible social service agency to rehabilitate and reunite the family, and whether the efforts were reasonable.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.165, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. No child may be taken into immediate custody except:

(a) With an order issued by the court in accordance with the provisions of section 260.135, subdivision 5, or by a warrant issued in accordance with the provisions of section 260.145; or

(b) In accordance with the laws relating to arrests; or

(c) By a peace officer

(1) when a child has run away from a parent, guardian, or custodian, or when the peace officer reasonably believes ~~such~~ the child has run away from a parent, guardian, or custodian; or

(2) when a child is found in surroundings or conditions which endanger the child's health or welfare or which such peace officer reasonably believes will endanger ~~such~~ the child's health or welfare. If an Indian child is a resident of a reservation or is domiciled on a reservation but temporarily located off the reservation, the taking of the child into custody under this clause shall be consistent with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1922; or

(d) By a peace officer or probation or parole officer when it is reasonably believed that the child has violated the terms of probation, parole, or other field supervision.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.171, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. If a child is taken into custody as provided in section

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260.165, the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child shall be notified as soon as possible. Unless there is reason to believe that the child would endanger self or others, not return for a court hearing, run away from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or otherwise not remain in the care or control of the person to whose lawful custody the child is released, or that the child's health or welfare would be immediately endangered, the child shall be released to the custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or other suitable person. When a child is taken into custody by a peace officer under section 260.165, subdivision 1, clause (c)(2), release from detention may be authorized by the detaining officer, the detaining officer's supervisor, or the county attorney. If the social service agency has determined that the child's health or welfare will not be endangered and the provision of appropriate and available services will eliminate the need for placement, the agency shall request authorization for the child's release from detention. That The person to whom the child is released shall promise to bring the child to the court, if necessary, at the time the court may direct. If the person taking the child into custody believes it desirable, that person may request the parent, guardian, custodian, or other person designated by the court to sign a written promise to bring the child to court as provided above. The intentional violation of such a promise, whether given orally or in writing, shall be punishable as contempt of court.

The court may require the parent, guardian, custodian, or other person to whom the child is released, to post any reasonable bail or bond required by the court which shall be forfeited to the court if the child does not appear as directed. The court may also release the child on the child's own promise to appear in juvenile court.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.172, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. Except a child taken into custody pursuant to section 260.165, subdivision 1, clause (a) or (c)(2), a hearing shall be held within 36 hours of a child's being taken into custody, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, to determine whether the child should continue in detention. Within 72 hours of a child being taken into custody pursuant to section 260.165, subdivision 1, clause (a) or (c)(2), excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, a hearing shall be held to determine whether the child should continue in custody. Unless there is reason to believe that the child would endanger self or others, not return for a court hearing, run away from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or otherwise not remain in the care or control of the person to whose lawful custody the child is released, or that the child's health or welfare would be immediately endangered, the child shall be released to the custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or other suitable person. In a proceeding regarding a child in need of protection or services, the court, before determining whether a child should continue in custody, shall also make a determination, consistent with section 260.012 as to whether reasonable efforts, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts, according to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1912(d), were made to prevent placement or to reunite the child with the child's family, or that reasonable efforts were not possible. The court shall also determine whether there are available services that would prevent the need for further detention.

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If the court finds the social services agency's preventive or reunification efforts have not been reasonable but further preventive or reunification efforts could not permit the child to safely remain at home, the court may nevertheless authorize or continue the removal of the child.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.172, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. If a child held in detention under a court order issued under subdivision 2 has not been released prior to expiration of the order, the court or referee shall informally review the child's case file to determine, under the standards provided by subdivision 1, whether detention should be continued. If detention is continued thereafter, informal reviews such as these shall be held within every eight days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, of the child's detention.

A hearing, rather than an informal review of the child's case file, shall be held at the request of any one of the parties notified pursuant to subdivision 3, if that party notifies the court of a wish to present to the court new evidence concerning whether the child should be continued in detention or notifies the court of a wish to present an alternate placement arrangement to provide for the safety and protection of the child.

In addition, if a child was taken into detention under section 260.135, subdivision 5, or 260.165, subdivision 1, clause (c)(2), and is held in detention under a court order issued under subdivision 2, the court shall schedule and hold an adjudicatory hearing on the petition within 60 days of the detention hearing upon the request of any party to the proceeding ~~unless~~. However, if good cause is shown by a party to the proceeding why the hearing should not be held within that time period, the hearing shall be held within 90 days, unless the parties agree otherwise and the court so orders.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.173, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, if the child had been taken into custody pursuant to section 260.165, subdivision 1, clause (a) ~~or clause (c)(2), or had been found in surroundings or conditions reasonably believed to endanger the child's health or welfare;~~ and is not alleged to be delinquent, the child ~~may shall~~ be detained only in the least restrictive setting consistent with the child's health and welfare and in closest proximity to the child's family as possible. Placement may be with a child's relative, or in a shelter care facility.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.181, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.** Before making a disposition in a case, or terminating parental rights, or appointing a guardian for a child the

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court may consider any report or recommendation made by the county welfare board, probation officer, ~~or~~ licensed child placing agency, foster parent, guardian ad litem, tribal representative, or other authorized advocate for the child or child's family, or any other information deemed material by the court.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.191, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **WRITTEN FINDINGS.** Any order for a disposition authorized under this section shall contain written findings of fact to support the disposition ordered, and shall also set forth in writing the following information:

- (a) Why the best interests of the child are served by the disposition ordered;
- (b) What alternative dispositions were considered by the court and why such dispositions were not appropriate in the instant case; ~~and~~
- (c) In the case of a child of minority racial or minority ethnic heritage, how the court's disposition complies with the requirements of section 260.181, subdivision 3; and

(d) Whether reasonable efforts consistent with section 260.012 were made to prevent or eliminate the necessity of the child's removal and to reunify the family after removal. The court's findings must include a brief description of what preventive and reunification efforts were made and why further efforts could not have prevented or eliminated the necessity of removal.

If the court finds that the social services agency's preventive or reunification efforts have not been reasonable but that further preventive or reunification efforts could not permit the child to safely remain at home, the court may nevertheless authorize or continue the removal of the child.

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.191, subdivision 1e, is amended to read:

Subd. 1e. **CASE PLAN.** For each disposition ordered, the court shall order the appropriate agency to prepare a written case plan developed after consultation with any foster parents, and consultation with and participation by the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, guardian ad litem, and tribal representative if the tribe has intervened. The case plan shall comply with the requirements of section 257.071, where applicable. The case plan shall, among other matters, specify the actions to be taken by the child and the child's parent, guardian, foster parent, or custodian to comply with the court's disposition order, and the services to be offered and provided by the agency to the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian. The court shall review the case plan and, upon approving it, incorporate the plan into its disposition order. The court may review and modify the terms of the case plan in the manner provided in subdivision 2. For each disposition ordered, the written case plan shall specify what reasonable efforts shall be provided to the family. The case plan must include a discussion of:

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(1) the availability of appropriate prevention and reunification services for the family to prevent the removal of the child from the home or to reunify the child with the family after removal;

(2) any services or resources that were requested by the child or the child's parent, guardian, foster parent, or custodian since the date of initial adjudication, and whether those services or resources were provided or the basis for denial of the services or resources;

(3) the need of the child and family for care, treatment, or rehabilitation;

(4) the need for participation by the parent, guardian, or custodian in the plan of care for the child; and

(5) a description of any services that could prevent placement or reunify the family if such services were available.

A party has a right to request a court review of the reasonableness of the case plan upon a showing of a substantial change of circumstances.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 1988, section 260.231, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. The court shall have notice of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing served on the parents, as defined in sections 257.51 to 257.74 or 259.26, subdivision 1, clause (2), and upon the child's grandparent if the child has lived with the grandparent within the two years immediately preceding the filing of the petition. Notice must be served in the manner provided in sections 260.135 and 260.141, except that personal service shall be made at least ten days before the day of the hearing. Published notice shall be made for three weeks, the last publication to be at least ten days before the day of the hearing; and notice sent by certified mail shall be mailed at least 20 days before the day of the hearing. A parent who consents to the termination of parental rights under the provisions of section 260.221, clause (a), may waive in writing the notice required by this subdivision; however, if the parent is a minor or incompetent the waiver shall be effective only if the parent's guardian ad litem concurs in writing.

Presented to the governor May 19, 1989

Signed by the governor May 23, 1989, 5:45 p.m.

CHAPTER 236—S.F.No. 232

An act relating to corporations; providing for the simplification of certain filings made with the office of the secretary of state; changing the recipients of certain notices; modifying the definition of address to include zip codes; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 1988, sections 302A.011, subdivision 3; 302A.123, subdivision 1; 302A.821, subdivi-

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