

94.1

ARTICLE 8

94.2

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE POLICY

463.1

ARTICLE 18

463.2

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE POLICY

463.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.609, subdivision 11, is amended to
463.4 read:

463.5 Subd. 11. **Treatment of Supplemental Security Income.** (a) If a child placed in foster
463.6 care receives benefits through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at the time of foster
463.7 care placement or subsequent to placement in foster care, the financially responsible agency
463.8 may only apply to be the payee for the child for the duration of the child's placement in
463.9 foster care when the court has ordered the financially responsible agency to develop a plan
463.10 for the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of the child to a relative or to file
463.11 a termination of parental rights petition under section 260C.204, paragraph (e), clause (2)
463.12 or (3); ordered the child permanently placed away from the parent under sections 260C.503
463.13 to 260C.521; or approved the continued voluntary foster care placement for the child under
463.14 section 260D.07. If a child continues to be eligible for SSI after finalization of the adoption
463.15 or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody and is determined to be eligible for a
463.16 payment under Northstar Care for Children, a permanent caregiver may choose to receive
463.17 payment from both programs simultaneously. The permanent caregiver is responsible to
463.18 report the amount of the payment to the Social Security Administration and the SSI payment
463.19 will be reduced as required by the Social Security Administration.

463.20 (b) If a financially responsible agency applies to be the payee for a child who receives
463.21 benefits through SSI, or receives the benefits under this subdivision on behalf of a child,
463.22 the financially responsible agency must provide written notice by certified mail, return
463.23 receipt requested to:

463.24 (1) the child, if the child is 13 years of age or older;

463.25 (2) the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or if there is no legal parent or custodian
463.26 the child's relative selected by the agency;

463.27 (3) the guardian ad litem;

463.28 (4) the legally responsible agency; and

463.29 (5) the counsel appointed for the child pursuant to section 260C.163, subdivision 3.

463.30 (c) If a financially responsible agency receives benefits under this subdivision on behalf
463.31 of a child 13 years of age or older, the legally responsible agency and the guardian ad litem
463.32 must disclose this information to the child in person in a manner that best helps the child
464.1 understand the information. This paragraph does not apply in circumstances where the child
464.2 is living outside of Minnesota.

464.3 (d) If a financially responsible agency receives the benefits under this subdivision on
464.4 behalf of a child, it cannot use those funds for any other purpose than the care of that child.
464.5 The financially responsible agency must not commingle any benefits received under this

464.6 subdivision and must not put the benefits received on behalf of a child under this subdivision
464.7 into a general fund.

464.8 (e) If a financially responsible agency receives any benefits under this subdivision, it
464.9 must keep a record of:

464.10 (1) the total dollar amount it received on behalf of all children it receives benefits for;
464.11 (2) the total number of children it applied to be a payee for; and
464.12 (3) the total number of children it received benefits for.

464.13 (f) By July 1, 2025, and each July 1 thereafter, each financially responsible agency must
464.14 submit a report to the commissioner of children, youth, and families that includes the
464.15 information required under paragraph (e). By September 1 of each year, the commissioner
464.16 must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees
464.17 with jurisdiction over child protection that compiles the information provided to the
464.18 commissioner by each financially responsible agency under paragraph (e); subdivision 12,
464.19 paragraph (e); and section 260C.331, subdivision 7, paragraph (d). This paragraph expires
464.20 January 31, 2034.

464.21 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.609, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

464.22 Subd. 12. **Treatment of Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance; veteran's**
464.23 **benefits; railroad retirement benefits; and black lung benefits.** (a) If a child placed in
464.24 foster care receives Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance; veteran's benefits;
464.25 railroad retirement benefits; or black lung benefits at the time of foster care placement or
464.26 subsequent to placement in foster care, the financially responsible agency may only apply
464.27 to be the payee for the child for the duration of the child's placement in foster care when
464.28 the court has ordered the financially responsible agency to develop a plan for the transfer
464.29 of permanent legal and physical custody of the child to a relative or to file a termination of
464.30 parental rights petition under section 260C.204, paragraph (e), clause (2) or (3); ordered
464.31 the child permanently placed away from the parent under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521;
464.32 or approved the continued voluntary foster care placement for the child under section
464.33 260D.07. If it is anticipated that a child will be eligible to receive Retirement, Survivors,
465.1 and Disability Insurance; veteran's benefits; railroad retirement benefits; or black lung
465.2 benefits after finalization of the adoption or assignment of permanent legal and physical
465.3 custody, the permanent caregiver shall apply to be the payee of those benefits on the child's
465.4 behalf.

465.5 (b) If the financially responsible agency applies to be the payee for a child who receives
465.6 Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance; veteran's benefits; railroad retirement
465.7 benefits; or black lung benefits, or receives the benefits under this subdivision on behalf of
465.8 a child, the financially responsible agency must provide written notice by certified mail,
465.9 return receipt requested to:

465.10 (1) the child, if the child is 13 years of age or older;

94.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.01, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

94.4 Subd. 15. **Individual who is related.** "Individual who is related" means a spouse, a
94.5 parent, a birth or adopted child or stepchild, a stepparent, a stepbrother, a stepsister, a niece,
94.6 a nephew, an adoptive parent, a grandparent, a sibling, an aunt, an uncle, or a legal guardian.
94.7 For purposes of family child foster care, individual who is related also includes an individual
94.8 who, prior to the child's placement in the individual's home for foster care or adoption, was
94.9 an important friend of the child or of the child's parent or custodian, including an individual
94.10 with whom the child has resided or had significant contact or who has a significant
94.11 relationship to the child or the child's parent or custodian.

94.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.05, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

94.13 Subd. 3. **Foster care by an individual who is related to a child; license required.** (a)
94.14 Notwithstanding subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (1), in order to provide foster care for

465.11 (2) the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or if there is no legal parent or custodian
465.12 the child's relative selected by the agency;
465.13 (3) the guardian ad litem;
465.14 (4) the legally responsible agency; and
465.15 (5) the counsel appointed for the child pursuant to section 260C.163, subdivision 3.
465.16 (c) If a financially responsible agency receives benefits under this subdivision on behalf
465.17 of a child 13 years of age or older, the legally responsible agency and the guardian ad litem
465.18 must disclose this information to the child in person in a manner that best helps the child
465.19 understand the information. This paragraph does not apply in circumstances where the child
465.20 is living outside of Minnesota.
465.21 (d) If a financially responsible agency receives the benefits under this subdivision on
465.22 behalf of a child, it cannot use those funds for any other purpose than the care of that child.
465.23 The financially responsible agency must not commingle any benefits received under this
465.24 subdivision and must not put the benefits received on behalf of a child under this subdivision
465.25 into a general fund.
465.26 (e) If a financially responsible agency receives any benefits under this subdivision, it
465.27 must keep a record of:
465.28 (1) the total dollar amount it received on behalf of all children it receives benefits for;
465.29 (2) the total number of children it applied to be a payee for; and
465.30 (3) the total number of children it received benefits for.
466.1 (f) By July 1, 2025, and each July 1 thereafter, each financially responsible agency must
466.2 submit a report to the commissioner of children, youth, and families that includes the
466.3 information required under paragraph (e).

466.4 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.01, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

466.5 Subd. 15. **Individual who is related.** "Individual who is related" means a spouse, a
466.6 parent, a birth or adopted child or stepchild, a stepparent, a stepbrother, a stepsister, a niece,
466.7 a nephew, an adoptive parent, a grandparent, a sibling, an aunt, an uncle, or a legal guardian.
466.8 For purposes of family child foster care, individual who is related also includes an individual
466.9 who, prior to the child's placement in the individual's home for foster care or adoption, is
466.10 an important individual of the child or of the child's parent or custodian. Important individual
466.11 means an individual with whom the child has previously resided or had significant contact
466.12 or who has a significant relationship to the child or the child's parent or custodian.

466.13 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.05, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

466.14 Subd. 3. **Foster care by an individual who is related to a child; license required.** (a)
466.15 Notwithstanding subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (1), in order to provide foster care for

94.15 a child, an individual who is related to the child, other than a parent, or legal guardian, must
94.16 be licensed by the commissioner except as provided by section 142B.06.

94.17 (b) An individual who is related to the child may seek foster care licensure through the
94.18 county agency or a private agency in the community licensed and authorized by the
94.19 commissioner. The placing agency must provide information to all potential relative foster
94.20 care providers about this choice. Counties are not obligated to pay costs for services provided
94.21 by private agencies.

94.22 (c) If an individual who is related to a child is seeking licensure to provide foster care
94.23 for the child and the individual has a domestic partner but is not married to the domestic
94.24 partner, only the individual related to the child must be licensed to provide foster care. The
94.25 commissioner must conduct background studies on household members according to section
94.26 245C.03, subdivision 1.

94.27 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.47, is amended to read:

94.28 **142B.47 TRAINING ON RISK OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH**
94.29 **AND ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA FOR CHILD FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS.**

94.30 (a) Licensed child foster care providers, except individuals related to the child, that care
94.31 for infants or children through five years of age must document that before caregivers assist
94.32 in the care of infants or children through five years of age, ~~they~~ the caregivers are instructed
95.1 on the standards in section 142B.46 and receive training on reducing the risk of sudden
95.2 unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma from shaking infants and young children.
95.3 Licensed child foster care providers who are related to the child and who only serve a relative
95.4 child must document completion of the training required under this section within 30 days
95.5 after licensure. This section does not apply to emergency relative placement under section
95.6 142B.06. The training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive
95.7 head trauma may be provided as:

95.8 (1) orientation training to child foster care providers who care for infants or children
95.9 through five years of age under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 1; or

95.10 (2) in-service training to child foster care providers who care for infants or children
95.11 through five years of age under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2.

466.16 a child, an individual who is related to the child, other than a parent, or legal guardian, must
466.17 be licensed by the commissioner except as provided by section 142B.06.

466.18 (b) If an individual who is related to a child is seeking licensure to provide foster care
466.19 for the child and the individual has a domestic partner but is not married to the domestic
466.20 partner, only the individual related to the child must be licensed to provide foster care. The
466.21 commissioner must conduct background studies on household members according to section
466.22 245C.03, subdivision 1.

466.23 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.30, is amended by adding a subdivision to
466.24 read:

466.25 Subd. 13. **Individual who is related; agency choice.** An individual who is related to
466.26 the child may seek foster care licensure through the county agency or a private agency,
466.27 licensed and authorized by the commissioner. The child-placing agency, depending on
466.28 funding available, must provide information to all potential relative foster care providers
466.29 about this choice, including information about available private agencies for foster care
466.30 licensure.

467.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.47, is amended to read:

467.2 **142B.47 TRAINING ON RISK OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH**
467.3 **AND ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA FOR CHILD FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS.**

467.4 (a) Licensed child foster care providers, except individuals related to the child who only
467.5 care for a relative child, that care for infants or children through five years of age must
467.6 document that before caregivers assist in the care of infants or children through five years
467.7 of age, ~~they~~ the caregivers are instructed on the standards in section 142B.46 and receive
467.8 training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma
467.9 from shaking infants and young children. Licensed child foster care providers who are
467.10 related to the child, and who only care for a relative child, must document completion of
467.11 the training required under this section within 30 days after licensure. This section does not
467.12 apply to emergency relative placement under section 142B.06. The training on reducing
467.13 the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma may be provided as:

467.14 (1) orientation training to child foster care providers who care for infants or children
467.15 through five years of age under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 1; or

467.16 (2) in-service training to child foster care providers who care for infants or children
467.17 through five years of age under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2.

95.12 (b) Training required under this section must be at least one hour in length and must be
95.13 completed at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the risk
95.14 factors related to sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma, means of reducing
95.15 the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma, and license holder
95.16 communication with parents regarding reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death
95.17 and abusive head trauma.

95.18 (c) Training for child foster care providers must be approved by the county or private
95.19 licensing agency that is responsible for monitoring the child foster care provider under
95.20 section 142B.30. The approved training fulfills, in part, training required under Minnesota
95.21 Rules, part 2960.3070.

95.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

95.23 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.51, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

95.24 Subd. 2. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) Programs
95.25 licensed by the Department of Human Services under chapter 245A or the Department of
95.26 Children, Youth, and Families under this chapter and Minnesota Rules, chapter 2960, that
95.27 serve a child or children under eight years of age must document training that fulfills the
95.28 requirements in this subdivision.

95.29 (b) Before a license holder, staff person, or caregiver transports a child or children under
95.30 age eight in a motor vehicle, the person transporting the child must satisfactorily complete
95.31 training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles.
95.32 Training completed under this section may be used to meet initial or ongoing training under
95.33 Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subparts 1 and 2.

96.1 (c) Training required under this section must be completed at orientation or initial training
96.2 and repeated at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the
96.3 proper use of child restraint systems based on the child's size, weight, and age, and the
96.4 proper installation of a car seat or booster seat in the motor vehicle used by the license
96.5 holder to transport the child or children.

96.6 (d) Training under paragraph (c) must be provided by individuals who are certified and
96.7 approved by the Office of Traffic Safety within the Department of Public Safety. License
96.8 holders may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public
96.9 Safety website or by contacting the agency.

96.10 (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for an emergency relative placement under section
96.11 142B.06, the commissioner may grant a variance to the training required by this subdivision
96.12 for a relative who completes a child seat safety check up. The child seat safety check up
96.13 trainer must be approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, and
96.14 must provide one-on-one instruction on placing a child of a specific age in the exact child
96.15 passenger restraint in the motor vehicle in which the child will be transported. Once granted
96.16 a variance, and if all other licensing requirements are met, the relative applicant may receive
96.17 a license and may transport a relative foster child younger than eight years of age. A child

467.18 (b) Training required under this section must be at least one hour in length and must be
467.19 completed at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the risk
467.20 factors related to sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma, means of reducing
467.21 the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma, and license holder
467.22 communication with parents regarding reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death
467.23 and abusive head trauma.

467.24 (c) Training for child foster care providers must be approved by the county or private
467.25 licensing agency that is responsible for monitoring the child foster care provider under
467.26 section 142B.30. The approved training fulfills, in part, training required under Minnesota
467.27 Rules, part 2960.3070.

467.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

467.29 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.51, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

467.30 Subd. 2. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) Programs
467.31 licensed by the Department of Human Services under chapter 245A or the Department of
467.32 Children, Youth, and Families under this chapter and Minnesota Rules, chapter 2960, that
468.1 serve a child or children under eight years of age must document training that fulfills the
468.2 requirements in this subdivision.

468.3 (b) Before a license holder, staff person, or caregiver transports a child or children under
468.4 age eight in a motor vehicle, the person transporting the child must satisfactorily complete
468.5 training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles.
468.6 Training completed under this section may be used to meet initial or ongoing training under
468.7 Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subparts 1 and 2.

468.8 (c) Training required under this section must be completed at orientation or initial training
468.9 and repeated at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the
468.10 proper use of child restraint systems based on the child's size, weight, and age, and the
468.11 proper installation of a car seat or booster seat in the motor vehicle used by the license
468.12 holder to transport the child or children.

468.13 (d) Training under paragraph (c) must be provided by individuals who are certified and
468.14 approved by the Office of Traffic Safety within the Department of Public Safety. License
468.15 holders may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public
468.16 Safety website or by contacting the agency.

468.17 (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for an emergency relative placement under section
468.18 142B.06, the commissioner may grant a variance to the training required by this subdivision
468.19 for a relative who completes a child seat safety check up. The child seat safety check up
468.20 trainer must be approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, and
468.21 must provide one-on-one instruction on placing a child of a specific age in the exact child
468.22 passenger restraint in the motor vehicle in which the child will be transported. Once granted
468.23 a variance, and if all other licensing requirements are met, the relative applicant may receive
468.24 a license and may transport a relative foster child younger than eight years of age. A child

96.18 seat safety check up must be completed each time a child requires a different size car seat
96.19 according to car seat and vehicle manufacturer guidelines. A relative license holder must
96.20 complete training that meets the other requirements of this subdivision prior to placement
96.21 of another foster child younger than eight years of age in the home or prior to the renewal
96.22 of the child foster care license.

96.23 (f) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), a child foster care license holder who is an individual
96.24 related to the child and who only serves a relative child must document completion of the
96.25 training required under this section within 30 days after licensure.

96.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

96.27 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.80, is amended to read:

96.28 **142B.80 CHILD FOSTER CARE TRAINING REQUIREMENT; MENTAL**
96.29 **HEALTH TRAINING; FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS TRAINING.**

96.30 Prior to a nonemergency placement of a child in a foster care home, the child foster care
96.31 license holder and caregivers in foster family and treatment foster care settings must complete
96.32 two hours of training that addresses the causes, symptoms, and key warning signs of mental
96.33 health disorders; cultural considerations; and effective approaches for dealing with a child's
97.1 behaviors. At least one hour of the annual training requirement for the foster family license
97.2 holder and caregivers must be on children's mental health issues and treatment. Except for
97.3 providers and services under chapter 245D and child foster care license holders who are
97.4 individuals related to the child and who only serve a relative child who does not have fetal
97.5 alcohol spectrum disorder, the annual training must also include at least one hour of training
97.6 on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, which must be counted toward the 12 hours of required
97.7 in-service training per year. Short-term substitute caregivers are exempt from these
97.8 requirements. Training curriculum shall be approved by the commissioner of children,
97.9 youth, and families.

97.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

97.11 Sec. 6. **[142B.81] CHILD FOSTER CARE TRAINING; RELATIVE CAREGIVERS.**

97.12 Notwithstanding the required hours under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2,
97.13 a child foster care license holder who is an individual related to the child must complete a
97.14 minimum of six hours of in-service training per year in one or more of the areas in Minnesota
97.15 Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2, or in other areas as agreed upon by the licensing agency
97.16 and the foster parent. The relative child foster care license holder must consult with the
97.17 licensing agency and complete training in areas that are most applicable to caring for the
97.18 relative children in foster care in the home. This section does not apply to a child foster care
97.19 license holder who is licensed to care for both a relative child and a nonrelative child.

97.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

468.25 seat safety check up must be completed each time a child requires a different size car seat
468.26 according to car seat and vehicle manufacturer guidelines. A relative license holder must
468.27 complete training that meets the other requirements of this subdivision prior to placement
468.28 of another foster child younger than eight years of age in the home or prior to the renewal
468.29 of the child foster care license.

468.30 (f) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), a child foster care license holder who is an individual
468.31 related to the child, and who only serves a relative child, must document completion of the
468.32 training required under this section within 30 days after licensure.

468.33 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

469.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.80, is amended to read:

469.2 **142B.80 CHILD FOSTER CARE TRAINING REQUIREMENT; MENTAL**
469.3 **HEALTH TRAINING; FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS TRAINING.**

469.4 Prior to a nonemergency placement of a child in a foster care home, the child foster care
469.5 license holder and caregivers in foster family and treatment foster care settings must complete
469.6 two hours of training that addresses the causes, symptoms, and key warning signs of mental
469.7 health disorders; cultural considerations; and effective approaches for dealing with a child's
469.8 behaviors. At least one hour of the annual training requirement for the foster family license
469.9 holder and caregivers must be on children's mental health issues and treatment. Except for
469.10 providers and services under chapter 245D and child foster care license holders who are
469.11 individuals related to the child who only serve a relative child who does not have fetal
469.12 alcohol spectrum disorder, the annual training must also include at least one hour of training
469.13 on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, which must be counted toward the 12 hours of required
469.14 in-service training per year. Short-term substitute caregivers are exempt from these
469.15 requirements. Training curriculum shall be approved by the commissioner of children,
469.16 youth, and families.

469.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

469.18 Sec. 9. **[142B.81] CHILD FOSTER CARE TRAINING; RELATIVE CAREGIVERS.**

469.19 Notwithstanding the required hours under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2,
469.20 a child foster care license holder who is an individual related to the child must complete a
469.21 minimum of six hours of in-service training per year in one or more of the areas in Minnesota
469.22 Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2, or in other areas as agreed upon by the licensing agency
469.23 and the foster parent. The relative child foster care license holder must consult with the
469.24 licensing agency and complete training in areas that are most applicable to caring for the
469.25 relative children in foster care in the home. This section does not apply to a child foster care
469.26 license holder who is licensed to care for both a relative child and a nonrelative child.

469.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

97.21 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245C.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to
97.22 read:

97.23 Subd. 16b. **Relative.** "Relative" has the meaning given in section 260C.007, subdivision
97.24 27. For purposes of background studies affiliated with child foster care licensure, a person
97.25 is a relative if the person was known to the child or the child's parent before the child is
97.26 placed in foster care.

469.28 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245C.02, is amended by adding a subdivision
469.29 to read:

469.30 Subd. 16b. **Relative.** "Relative" has the meaning given in section 260C.007, subdivision
469.31 27. For purposes of background studies affiliated with child foster care licensure, a person
470.1 is a relative if the person was known to the child or the child's parent before the child is
470.2 placed in foster care.

470.3 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245C.15, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

470.4 Subd. 4a. **Licensed family foster setting disqualifications.** (a) Notwithstanding
470.5 subdivisions 1 to 4, for a background study affiliated with a licensed family foster setting,
470.6 regardless of how much time has passed, an individual is disqualified under section 245C.14
470.7 if the individual committed an act that resulted in a felony-level conviction for sections:
470.8 609.185 (murder in the first degree); 609.19 (murder in the second degree); 609.195 (murder
470.9 in the third degree); 609.20 (manslaughter in the first degree); 609.205 (manslaughter in
470.10 the second degree); 609.2112 (criminal vehicular homicide); ~~609.221 (assault in the first~~
470.11 ~~degree);~~ 609.223, subdivision 2 (assault in the third degree, past pattern of child abuse);
470.12 609.223, subdivision 3 (assault in the third degree, victim under four); a felony offense
470.13 under sections 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault, spousal abuse, child abuse or
470.14 neglect, or a crime against children); 609.2247 (domestic assault by strangulation); 609.2325
470.15 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult resulting in the death of a vulnerable adult); 609.245
470.16 (aggravated robbery); 609.247, subdivision 2 or 3 (carjacking in the first or second degree);
470.17 609.25 (kidnapping); 609.255 (false imprisonment); 609.2661 (murder of an unborn child
470.18 in the first degree); 609.2662 (murder of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.2663
470.19 (murder of an unborn child in the third degree); 609.2664 (manslaughter of an unborn child
470.20 in the first degree); 609.2665 (manslaughter of an unborn child in the second degree);
470.21 609.267 (assault of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2671 (assault of an unborn child
470.22 in the second degree); 609.268 (injury or death of an unborn child in the commission of a
470.23 crime); 609.322, subdivision 1 (solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution; sex
470.24 trafficking in the first degree); 609.324, subdivision 1 (other prohibited acts; engaging in,
470.25 hiring, or agreeing to hire minor to engage in prostitution); 609.342 (criminal sexual conduct
470.26 in the first degree); 609.343 (criminal sexual conduct in the second degree); 609.344 (criminal
470.27 sexual conduct in the third degree); 609.345 (criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree);
470.28 609.3451 (criminal sexual conduct in the fifth degree); 609.3453 (criminal sexual predatory
470.29 conduct); 609.3458 (sexual extortion); 609.352 (solicitation of children to engage in sexual
470.30 conduct); 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of
470.31 a child); 609.561 (arson in the first degree); 609.582, subdivision 1 (burglary in the first
470.32 degree); 609.746 (interference with privacy); 617.23 (indecent exposure); 617.246 (use of
470.33 minors in sexual performance prohibited); or 617.247 (possession of pictorial representations
470.34 of minors).

471.1 (b) Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 to 4, for the purposes of a background study affiliated
471.2 with a licensed family foster setting, an individual is disqualified under section 245C.14,
471.3 regardless of how much time has passed, if the individual:

471.4 (1) committed an action under paragraph (e) that resulted in death or involved sexual
471.5 abuse, as defined in section 260E.03, subdivision 20;

471.6 (2) committed an act that resulted in a gross misdemeanor-level conviction for section
471.7 609.3451 (criminal sexual conduct in the fifth degree);

471.8 (3) committed an act against or involving a minor that resulted in a felony-level conviction
471.9 for: section 609.222 (assault in the second degree); 609.223, subdivision 1 (assault in the
471.10 third degree); 609.2231 (assault in the fourth degree); or 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree);
471.11 or

471.12 (4) committed an act that resulted in a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor-level
471.13 conviction for section 617.293 (dissemination and display of harmful materials to minors).

471.14 (c) Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 to 4, for a background study affiliated with a licensed
471.15 family foster setting;

471.16 (1) an individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if fewer than 20 years have passed
471.17 since the termination of the individual's parental rights under section 260C.301, subdivision
471.18 1, paragraph (b), or if the individual consented to a termination of parental rights under
471.19 section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), to settle a petition to involuntarily terminate
471.20 parental rights. An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if fewer than 20 years
471.21 have passed since the termination of the individual's parental rights in any other state or
471.22 country, where the conditions for the individual's termination of parental rights are
471.23 substantially similar to the conditions in section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (b); or

471.24 (2) when an individual is a relative of the child in foster care, an individual is disqualified
471.25 under section 245C.14 if fewer than seven years have passed since the termination of the
471.26 individual's parental rights under section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), or if the
471.27 individual consented to a termination of parental rights under section 260C.301, subdivision
471.28 1, paragraph (a), to settle a petition to involuntarily terminate parental rights. An individual
471.29 is disqualified under section 245C.14 if fewer than seven years have passed since the
471.30 termination of the individual's parental rights in any other state or country, where the
471.31 conditions for the individual's termination of parental rights are substantially similar to the
471.32 conditions in section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (b).

472.1 (d) Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 to 4, for a background study affiliated with a licensed
472.2 family foster setting, an individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if fewer than five
472.3 years have passed since a felony-level violation for sections: 152.021 (controlled substance
472.4 crime in the first degree); 152.022 (controlled substance crime in the second degree); 152.023
472.5 (controlled substance crime in the third degree); 152.024 (controlled substance crime in the
472.6 fourth degree); 152.025 (controlled substance crime in the fifth degree); 152.0261 (importing
472.7 controlled substances across state borders); 152.0262, subdivision 1, paragraph (b)
472.8 (possession of substance with intent to manufacture methamphetamine); 152.027, subdivision
472.9 6, paragraph (c) (sale or possession of synthetic cannabinoids); 152.096 (conspiracies
472.10 prohibited); 152.097 (simulated controlled substances); 152.136 (anhydrous ammonia);

472.11 prohibited conduct; criminal penalties; civil liabilities); 152.137 (methamphetamine-related
472.12 crimes involving children or vulnerable adults); 169A.24 (felony first-degree driving while
472.13 impaired); 243.166 (violation of predatory offender registration requirements); 609.2113
472.14 (criminal vehicular operation; bodily harm); 609.2114 (criminal vehicular operation; unborn
472.15 child); 609.221 (assault in the first degree); 609.228 (great bodily harm caused by distribution
472.16 of drugs); 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult not resulting in the death of a
472.17 vulnerable adult); 609.233 (criminal neglect); 609.235 (use of drugs to injure or facilitate
472.18 a crime); 609.24 (simple robbery); 609.247, subdivision 4 (carjacking in the third degree);
472.19 609.322, subdivision 1a (solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution; sex
472.20 trafficking in the second degree); 609.498, subdivision 1 (tampering with a witness in the
472.21 first degree); 609.498, subdivision 1b (aggravated first-degree witness tampering); 609.562
472.22 (arson in the second degree); 609.563 (arson in the third degree); 609.582, subdivision 2
472.23 (burglary in the second degree); 609.66 (felony dangerous weapons); 609.687 (adulteration);
472.24 609.713 (terroristic threats); 609.749, subdivision 3, 4, or 5 (felony-level harassment or
472.25 stalking); 609.855, subdivision 5 (shooting at or in a public transit vehicle or facility); or
472.26 624.713 (certain people not to possess firearms).

472.27 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 to 4, except as provided in paragraph (a), for a
472.28 background study affiliated with a licensed family child foster care license, an individual
472.29 is disqualified under section 245C.14 if fewer than five years have passed since:

472.30 (1) a felony-level violation for an act not against or involving a minor that constitutes:
472.31 section 609.222 (assault in the second degree); 609.223, subdivision 1 (assault in the third
472.32 degree); 609.2231 (assault in the fourth degree); or 609.224, subdivision 4 (assault in the
472.33 fifth degree);

472.34 (2) a violation of an order for protection under section 518B.01, subdivision 14;

473.1 (3) a determination or disposition of the individual's failure to make required reports
473.2 under section 260E.06 or 626.557, subdivision 3, for incidents in which the final disposition
473.3 under chapter 260E or section 626.557 was substantiated maltreatment and the maltreatment
473.4 was recurring or serious;

473.5 (4) a determination or disposition of the individual's substantiated serious or recurring
473.6 maltreatment of a minor under chapter 260E, a vulnerable adult under section 626.557, or
473.7 serious or recurring maltreatment in any other state, the elements of which are substantially
473.8 similar to the elements of maltreatment under chapter 260E or section 626.557 and meet
473.9 the definition of serious maltreatment or recurring maltreatment;

473.10 (5) a gross misdemeanor-level violation for sections: 609.224, subdivision 2 (assault in
473.11 the fifth degree); 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault); 609.233 (criminal neglect);
473.12 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child);
473.13 609.746 (interference with privacy); 609.749 (stalking); or 617.23 (indecent exposure); or

473.14 (6) committing an act against or involving a minor that resulted in a misdemeanor-level
473.15 violation of section 609.224, subdivision 1 (assault in the fifth degree).

97.27 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 256.045, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

97.28 Subd. 7. **Judicial review.** (a) Except for a prepaid health plan, any party who is aggrieved

97.29 by an order of the commissioner of human services; the commissioner of health; or the

97.30 commissioner of children, youth, and families in appeals within the commissioner's

97.31 jurisdiction under subdivision 3b; or the Direct Care and Treatment executive board in

98.1 appeals within the jurisdiction of the executive board under subdivision 5a may appeal the

98.2 order ~~to the~~ in district court ~~of~~.

98.3 (b) A party appealing under this subdivision must file:

98.4 (1) in the county responsible for furnishing assistance; ~~or, in~~

98.5 (2) for appeals under subdivision 3b;

98.6 (i) in the county where the maltreatment occurred, ~~by serving; or~~

473.16 (f) For purposes of this subdivision, the disqualification begins from:

473.17 (1) the date of the alleged violation, if the individual was not convicted;

473.18 (2) the date of conviction, if the individual was convicted of the violation but not

473.19 committed to the custody of the commissioner of corrections; or

473.20 (3) the date of release from prison, if the individual was convicted of the violation and

473.21 committed to the custody of the commissioner of corrections.

473.22 Notwithstanding clause (3), if the individual is subsequently reincarcerated for a violation

473.23 of the individual's supervised release, the disqualification begins from the date of release

473.24 from the subsequent incarceration.

473.25 (g) Notwithstanding paragraph (f), for purposes of paragraph (d), the disqualification

473.26 begins from the date of the alleged violation when the individual is a relative of the child

473.27 in foster care.

473.28 (h) An individual's aiding and abetting, attempt, or conspiracy to commit any of the

473.29 offenses listed in paragraphs (a) and (b), as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota

473.30 Statutes, permanently disqualifies the individual under section 245C.14. An individual is

473.31 disqualified under section 245C.14 if fewer than five years have passed since the individual's

473.32 aiding and abetting, attempt, or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in paragraphs

473.33 (d) and (e).

474.1 ~~(h)~~ (i) An individual's offense in any other state or country, where the elements of the

474.2 offense are substantially similar to any of the offenses listed in paragraphs (a) and (b),

474.3 permanently disqualifies the individual under section 245C.14. An individual is disqualified

474.4 under section 245C.14 if fewer than five years have passed since an offense in any other

474.5 state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any

474.6 offense listed in paragraphs (d) and (e).

98.7 (ii) if the maltreatment occurred in another state or country, in the county where the
98.8 maltreatment was determined.

98.9 (c) A party appealing under this subdivision must (1) serve a written copy of a notice
98.10 of appeal upon the applicable commissioner or executive board and any adverse party of
98.11 record within 30 days after the date the commissioner or executive board issued the order,
98.12 the amended order, or order affirming the original order, and by filing (2) file the original
98.13 notice and proof of service with the court administrator of the district court. Service may
98.14 be made personally or by mail; service by mail is complete upon mailing; no filing fee shall
98.15 be required by the court administrator in appeals taken pursuant to this subdivision, with
98.16 the exception of appeals taken under subdivision 3b.

98.17 (d) The applicable commissioner or executive board may elect to become a party to the
98.18 proceedings in the district court.

98.19 (e) Except for appeals under subdivision 3b, any party may demand that the commissioner
98.20 or executive board furnish all parties to the proceedings with a copy of the decision, and a
98.21 transcript of any testimony, evidence, or other supporting papers from the hearing held
98.22 before the human services judge, by serving a written demand upon the applicable
98.23 commissioner or executive board within 30 days after service of the notice of appeal.

98.24 (f) Any party aggrieved by the failure of an adverse party to obey an order issued by the
98.25 commissioner or executive board under subdivision 5 or 5a may compel performance
98.26 according to the order in the manner prescribed in sections 586.01 to 586.12.

98.27 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.65, is amended to read:

98.28 **260.65 NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS; RELATIVE PLACEMENT.**

98.29 (a) Prior to the removal of an African American or a disproportionately represented child
98.30 from the child's home, the responsible social services agency must make active efforts to
98.31 identify and locate the child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and the child's relatives
98.32 to notify the child's parent and relatives that the child is or will be placed in foster care; and
99.1 provide the child's parent and relatives with a list of legal resources. The notice to the child's
99.2 noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and relatives must also include the information
99.3 required under section 260C.221, subdivision 2, paragraph (b). The responsible social
99.4 services agency must maintain detailed records of the agency's efforts to notify parents and
99.5 relatives under this section.

99.6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 260C.219, the responsible social services
99.7 agency must assess an African American or a disproportionately represented child's
99.8 noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent's ability to care for the child before placing the child
99.9 in foster care. If a child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent is willing and able to provide
99.10 daily care for the African American or disproportionately represented child temporarily or
99.11 permanently, the court shall order that the child be placed in into the home of the noncustodial
99.12 or nonadjudicated parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201, subdivision 1. The
99.13 responsible social services agency must make active efforts to assist a noncustodial or

474.7 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.65, is amended to read:

474.8 **260.65 NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS; RELATIVE PLACEMENT.**

474.9 (a) Prior to the removal of an African American or a disproportionately represented child
474.10 from the child's home, the responsible social services agency must make active efforts to
474.11 identify and locate the child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and the child's relatives
474.12 to notify the child's parent and relatives that the child is or will be placed in foster care; and
474.13 provide the child's parent and relatives with a list of legal resources. The notice to the child's
474.14 noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and relatives must also include the information
474.15 required under section 260C.221, subdivision 2, paragraph (b). The responsible social
474.16 services agency must maintain detailed records of the agency's efforts to notify parents and
474.17 relatives under this section.

474.18 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 260C.219, the responsible social services
474.19 agency must assess an African American or a disproportionately represented child's
474.20 noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent's ability to care for the child before placing the child
474.21 in foster care. If a child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent is willing and able to provide
474.22 daily care for the African American or disproportionately represented child temporarily or
474.23 permanently, the court shall order that the child be placed in into the home of the noncustodial
474.24 or nonadjudicated parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201, subdivision 1. The
474.25 responsible social services agency must make active efforts to assist a noncustodial or

99.14 nonadjudicated parent with remedying any issues that may prevent the child from being
99.15 ~~placed with the~~ ordered into the home of a noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent.

99.16 (c) The relative search, notice, engagement, and placement consideration requirements
99.17 under section 260C.221 apply under this act.

99.18 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.66, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

99.19 Subdivision 1. **Emergency removal or placement permitted.** Nothing in this section
99.20 shall be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an African American or a
99.21 disproportionately represented ~~child's parent or custodian~~ child or the emergency placement
99.22 of the child in a foster setting in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the
99.23 child.

99.24 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.691, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

99.25 Subdivision 1. **Establishment and duties.** (a) The African American Child and Family
99.26 Well-Being Advisory Council is established for the Department of Children, Youth, and
99.27 Families.

99.28 (b) The council shall consist of 31 members appointed by the commissioner and must
99.29 include representatives with lived personal or professional experience within African
99.30 American communities. Members may include but are not limited to youth who have exited
99.31 the child welfare system; parents; legal custodians; relative and kinship caregivers or foster
99.32 care providers; community service providers, advocates, and members; county and private
99.33 social services agency case managers; representatives from faith-based institutions; academic
100.1 professionals; a representative from the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage; the
100.2 Ombudsperson for African American Families; and other individuals with experience and
100.3 knowledge of African American communities. Council members must be selected through
100.4 an open appointments process under section 15.0597. The terms, compensation, and removal
100.5 of council members are governed by section 15.059.

100.6 (c) ~~The African American Child Well-Being Advisory~~ council must:

100.7 (1) review annual reports related to African American children involved in the child
100.8 welfare system. These reports may include but are not limited to the maltreatment,
100.9 out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American children;

100.10 (2) assist with and make recommendations to the commissioner for developing strategies
100.11 to reduce maltreatment determinations, prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement, promote
100.12 culturally appropriate foster care and shelter or facility placement decisions and settings for
100.13 African American children in need of out-of-home placement, ensure timely achievement
100.14 of permanency, and improve child welfare outcomes for African American children and
100.15 their families;

100.16 (3) review summary reports on targeted case reviews prepared by the commissioner to
100.17 ensure that responsible social services agencies meet the needs of African American children
100.18 and their families. Based on data collected from those reviews, the council shall assist the

474.26 nonadjudicated parent with remedying any issues that may prevent the child from being
474.27 ~~placed with the~~ ordered into the home of a noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent.

474.28 (c) The relative search, notice, engagement, and placement consideration requirements
474.29 under section 260C.221 apply under this act.

474.30 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.66, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

474.31 Subdivision 1. **Emergency removal or placement permitted.** Nothing in this section
474.32 shall be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an African American or a
474.33 disproportionately represented ~~child's parent or custodian~~ child or the emergency placement
475.1 of the child in a foster setting in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the
475.2 child.

475.3 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.691, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

475.4 Subdivision 1. **Establishment and duties.** (a) The African American Child and Family
475.5 Well-Being Advisory Council is established for the Department of Children, Youth, and
475.6 Families.

475.7 (b) The council shall consist of 31 members appointed by the commissioner and must
475.8 include representatives with lived personal or professional experience within African
475.9 American communities. Members may include but are not limited to youth who have exited
475.10 the child welfare system; parents; legal custodians; relative and kinship caregivers or foster
475.11 care providers; community service providers, advocates, and members; county and private
475.12 social services agency case managers; representatives from faith-based institutions; academic
475.13 professionals; a representative from the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage; the
475.14 Ombudsperson for African American Families; and other individuals with experience and
475.15 knowledge of African American communities. Council members must be selected through
475.16 an open appointments process under section 15.0597. The terms, compensation, and removal
475.17 of council members are governed by section 15.059.

475.18 (c) ~~The African American Child Well-Being Advisory~~ council must:

475.19 (1) review annual reports related to African American children involved in the child
475.20 welfare system. These reports may include but are not limited to the maltreatment,
475.21 out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American children;

475.22 (2) assist with and make recommendations to the commissioner for developing strategies
475.23 to reduce maltreatment determinations, prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement, promote
475.24 culturally appropriate foster care and shelter or facility placement decisions and settings for
475.25 African American children in need of out-of-home placement, ensure timely achievement
475.26 of permanency, and improve child welfare outcomes for African American children and
475.27 their families;

475.28 (3) review summary reports on targeted case reviews prepared by the commissioner to
475.29 ensure that responsible social services agencies meet the needs of African American children
475.30 and their families. Based on data collected from those reviews, the council shall assist the

100.19 commissioner with developing strategies needed to improve any identified child welfare
100.20 outcomes, including but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency
100.21 for African American children;

100.22 ~~(4) assist the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council with making make~~
100.23 recommendations to the commissioner and the legislature for public policy and statutory
100.24 changes that specifically consider the needs of African American children and their families
100.25 involved in the child welfare system;

100.26 (5) advise the commissioner on stakeholder engagement strategies and actions that the
100.27 commissioner and responsible social services agencies may take to improve child welfare
100.28 outcomes for African American children and their families;

100.29 (6) assist the commissioner with developing strategies for public messaging and
100.30 communication related to racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare outcomes
100.31 for African American children and their families;

100.32 (7) assist the commissioner with identifying and developing internal and external
100.33 partnerships to support adequate access to services and resources for African American
101.1 children and their families, including but not limited to housing assistance, employment
101.2 assistance, food and nutrition support, health care, child care assistance, and educational
101.3 support and training; and

101.4 (8) assist the commissioner with developing strategies to promote the development of
101.5 a culturally diverse and representative child welfare workforce in Minnesota that includes
101.6 professionals who are reflective of the community served and who have been directly
101.7 impacted by lived experiences within the child welfare system. The council must also assist
101.8 the commissioner with exploring strategies and partnerships to address education and training
101.9 needs, hiring, recruitment, retention, and professional advancement practices.

101.10 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.692, is amended to read:

101.11 **260.692 AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING UNIT.**

101.12 Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit,
101.13 currently established by the commissioner, must:

101.14 (1) assist with the development of African American cultural competency training and
101.15 review child welfare curriculum in the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy to
101.16 ensure that responsible social services agency staff and other child welfare professionals
101.17 are appropriately prepared to engage with African American children and their families and
101.18 to support family preservation and reunification;

101.19 (2) provide technical assistance, including on-site technical assistance, and case
101.20 consultation to responsible social services agencies to assist agencies with implementing
101.21 and complying with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare
101.22 Disproportionality Act;

475.31 commissioner with developing strategies needed to improve any identified child welfare
475.32 outcomes, including but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency
475.33 for African American children;

476.1 ~~(4) assist the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council with making make~~
476.2 recommendations to the commissioner and the legislature for public policy and statutory
476.3 changes that specifically consider the needs of African American children and their families
476.4 involved in the child welfare system;

476.5 (5) advise the commissioner on stakeholder engagement strategies and actions that the
476.6 commissioner and responsible social services agencies may take to improve child welfare
476.7 outcomes for African American children and their families;

476.8 (6) assist the commissioner with developing strategies for public messaging and
476.9 communication related to racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare outcomes
476.10 for African American children and their families;

476.11 (7) assist the commissioner with identifying and developing internal and external
476.12 partnerships to support adequate access to services and resources for African American
476.13 children and their families, including but not limited to housing assistance, employment
476.14 assistance, food and nutrition support, health care, child care assistance, and educational
476.15 support and training; and

476.16 (8) assist the commissioner with developing strategies to promote the development of
476.17 a culturally diverse and representative child welfare workforce in Minnesota that includes
476.18 professionals who are reflective of the community served and who have been directly
476.19 impacted by lived experiences within the child welfare system. The council must also assist
476.20 the commissioner with exploring strategies and partnerships to address education and training
476.21 needs, hiring, recruitment, retention, and professional advancement practices.

476.22 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.692, is amended to read:

476.23 **260.692 AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING UNIT.**

476.24 Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit,
476.25 currently established by the commissioner, must:

476.26 (1) assist with the development of African American cultural competency training and
476.27 review child welfare curriculum in the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy to
476.28 ensure that responsible social services agency staff and other child welfare professionals
476.29 are appropriately prepared to engage with African American children and their families and
476.30 to support family preservation and reunification;

476.31 (2) provide technical assistance, including on-site technical assistance, and case
476.32 consultation to responsible social services agencies to assist agencies with implementing
477.1 and complying with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare
477.2 Disproportionality Act;

101.23 (3) monitor individual county and statewide disaggregated and nondisaggregated data
101.24 to identify trends and patterns in child welfare outcomes, including but not limited to
101.25 reporting, maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American
101.26 children and develop strategies to address disproportionality and disparities in the child
101.27 welfare system;

101.28 (4) develop and implement a system for conducting case reviews when the commissioner
101.29 receives reports of noncompliance with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation
101.30 and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act or when requested by the parent or custodian of
101.31 an African American child. Case reviews may include but are not limited to a review of
101.32 placement prevention efforts, safety planning, case planning and service provision by the
102.1 responsible social services agency, relative placement consideration, and permanency
102.2 planning;

102.3 (5) establish and administer a request for proposals process for African American and
102.4 disproportionately represented family preservation grants under section 260.693, monitor
102.5 grant activities, and provide technical assistance to grantees;

102.6 (6) in coordination with the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory
102.7 Council, coordinate services and create internal and external partnerships to support adequate
102.8 access to services and resources for African American children and their families, including
102.9 but not limited to housing assistance, employment assistance, food and nutrition support,
102.10 health care, child care assistance, and educational support and training; and

102.11 (7) develop public messaging and communication to inform the public about racial
102.12 disparities in child welfare outcomes, current efforts and strategies to reduce racial disparities,
102.13 and resources available to African American children and their families involved in the
102.14 child welfare system.

102.15 Subd. 2. **Case reviews.** (a) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit
102.16 must conduct systemic case reviews to monitor targeted child welfare outcomes, including
102.17 but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African
102.18 American children.

102.19 (b) The reviews under this subdivision must be conducted using a random sampling of
102.20 representative child welfare cases stratified for certain case related factors, including but
102.21 not limited to case type, maltreatment type, if the case involves out-of-home placement,
102.22 and other demographic variables. In conducting the reviews, unit staff may use court records
102.23 and documents, information from the social services information system, and other available
102.24 case file information to complete the case reviews.

102.25 (c) The frequency of the reviews and the number of cases, child welfare outcomes, and
102.26 selected counties reviewed shall be determined by the unit in consultation with the African
102.27 American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, with consideration given to the
102.28 availability of unit resources needed to conduct the reviews.

477.3 (3) monitor individual county and statewide disaggregated and nondisaggregated data
477.4 to identify trends and patterns in child welfare outcomes, including but not limited to
477.5 reporting, maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American
477.6 children and develop strategies to address disproportionality and disparities in the child
477.7 welfare system;

477.8 (4) develop and implement a system for conducting case reviews when the commissioner
477.9 receives reports of noncompliance with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation
477.10 and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act or when requested by the parent or custodian of
477.11 an African American child. Case reviews may include but are not limited to a review of
477.12 placement prevention efforts, safety planning, case planning and service provision by the
477.13 responsible social services agency, relative placement consideration, and permanency
477.14 planning;

477.15 (5) establish and administer a request for proposals process for African American and
477.16 disproportionately represented family preservation grants under section 260.693, monitor
477.17 grant activities, and provide technical assistance to grantees;

477.18 (6) in coordination with the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory
477.19 Council, coordinate services and create internal and external partnerships to support adequate
477.20 access to services and resources for African American children and their families, including
477.21 but not limited to housing assistance, employment assistance, food and nutrition support,
477.22 health care, child care assistance, and educational support and training; and

477.23 (7) develop public messaging and communication to inform the public about racial
477.24 disparities in child welfare outcomes, current efforts and strategies to reduce racial disparities,
477.25 and resources available to African American children and their families involved in the
477.26 child welfare system.

477.27 Subd. 2. **Case reviews.** (a) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit
477.28 must conduct systemic case reviews to monitor targeted child welfare outcomes, including
477.29 but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African
477.30 American children.

477.31 (b) The reviews under this subdivision must be conducted using a random sampling of
477.32 representative child welfare cases stratified for certain case related factors, including but
477.33 not limited to case type, maltreatment type, if the case involves out-of-home placement,
477.34 and other demographic variables. In conducting the reviews, unit staff may use court records
478.1 and documents, information from the social services information system, and other available
478.2 case file information to complete the case reviews.

478.3 (c) The frequency of the reviews and the number of cases, child welfare outcomes, and
478.4 selected counties reviewed shall be determined by the unit in consultation with the African
478.5 American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, with consideration given to the
478.6 availability of unit resources needed to conduct the reviews.

102.29 (d) The unit must monitor all case reviews and use the collective case review information
102.30 and data to generate summary case review reports, ensure compliance with the Minnesota
102.31 African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, and
102.32 identify trends or patterns in child welfare outcomes for African American children.

103.1 (e) The unit must review information from members of the public received through the
103.2 compliance and feedback portal, including policy and practice concerns related to individual
103.3 child welfare cases. After assessing a case concern, the unit may determine if further
103.4 necessary action should be taken, which may include coordinating case remediation with
103.5 other relevant child welfare agencies in accordance with data privacy laws, including the
103.6 African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, and offering case
103.7 consultation and technical assistance to the responsible local social services agency as
103.8 needed or requested by the agency.

103.9 Subd. 3. **Reports.** (a) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit must
103.10 provide regular updates on unit activities, including summary reports of case reviews, to
103.11 the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, and must publish
103.12 an annual census of African American children in out-of-home placements statewide. The
103.13 annual census must include data on the types of placements, age and sex of the children,
103.14 how long the children have been in out-of-home placements, and other relevant demographic
103.15 information.

103.16 (b) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit shall gather summary data
103.17 about the practice and policy inquiries and individual case concerns received through the
103.18 compliance and feedback portal under subdivision 2, paragraph (e). The unit shall provide
103.19 regular reports of the nonidentifying compliance and feedback portal summary data to the
103.20 African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council to identify child welfare
103.21 trends and patterns to assist with developing policy and practice recommendations to support
103.22 eliminating disparity and disproportionality for African American children.

103.23 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.001, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

103.24 Subd. 2. **Juvenile protection proceedings.** (a) The paramount consideration in all
103.25 juvenile protection proceedings is the health, safety, and best interests of the child. In
103.26 proceedings involving an American Indian child, as defined in section 260.755, subdivision
103.27 8, the best interests of the child must be determined consistent with sections 260.751 to
103.28 260.835 and the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to
103.29 1923.

103.30 (b) The purpose of the laws relating to juvenile protection proceedings is:

103.31 (1) to secure for each child under the jurisdiction of the court, the care and guidance,
103.32 preferably in the child's own home, as will best serve the spiritual, emotional, mental, and
103.33 physical welfare of the child;

104.1 (2) to provide judicial procedures that protect the welfare of the child;

478.7 (d) The unit must monitor all case reviews and use the collective case review information
478.8 and data to generate summary case review reports, ensure compliance with the Minnesota
478.9 African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, and
478.10 identify trends or patterns in child welfare outcomes for African American children.

478.11 (e) The unit must review information from members of the public received through the
478.12 compliance and feedback portal, including policy and practice concerns related to individual
478.13 child welfare cases. After assessing a case concern, the unit may determine if further
478.14 necessary action should be taken, which may include coordinating case remediation with
478.15 other relevant child welfare agencies in accordance with data privacy laws, including the
478.16 African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, and offering case
478.17 consultation and technical assistance to the responsible local social services agency as
478.18 needed or requested by the agency.

478.19 Subd. 3. **Reports.** (a) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit must
478.20 provide regular updates on unit activities, including summary reports of case reviews, to
478.21 the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, and must publish
478.22 an annual census of African American children in out-of-home placements statewide. The
478.23 annual census must include data on the types of placements, age and sex of the children,
478.24 how long the children have been in out-of-home placements, and other relevant demographic
478.25 information.

478.26 (b) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit shall gather summary data
478.27 about the practice and policy inquiries and individual case concerns received through the
478.28 compliance and feedback portal under subdivision 2, paragraph (e). The unit shall provide
478.29 regular reports of the nonidentifying compliance and feedback portal summary data to the
478.30 African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council to identify child welfare
478.31 trends and patterns to assist with developing policy and practice recommendations to support
478.32 eliminating disparity and disproportionality for African American children.

479.1 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.001, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

479.2 Subd. 2. **Juvenile protection proceedings.** (a) The paramount consideration in all
479.3 juvenile protection proceedings is the health, safety, and best interests of the child. In
479.4 proceedings involving an American Indian child, as defined in section 260.755, subdivision
479.5 8, the best interests of the child must be determined consistent with sections 260.751 to
479.6 260.835 and the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to
479.7 1923.

479.8 (b) The purpose of the laws relating to juvenile protection proceedings is:

479.9 (1) to secure for each child under the jurisdiction of the court, the care and guidance,
479.10 preferably in the child's own home, as will best serve the spiritual, emotional, mental, and
479.11 physical welfare of the child;

479.12 (2) to provide judicial procedures that protect the welfare of the child;

104.2 (3) to preserve and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible and in the child's
104.3 best interests, removing the child from the custody of parents only when the child's welfare
104.4 or safety cannot be adequately safeguarded without removal;

104.5 (4) to ensure that when removal from the child's own family is necessary and in the
104.6 child's best interests, the responsible social services agency has legal responsibility for the
104.7 child removal either:

104.8 (i) pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement between the child's parent or guardian
104.9 or the child, when the child is over age 18, and the responsible social services agency; or

104.10 (ii) by court order pursuant to section 260C.151, subdivision 6; 260C.178; 260C.201;
104.11 260C.325; or 260C.515;

104.12 (5) to ensure that, when placement is pursuant to court order, the court order removing
104.13 the child or continuing the child in foster care contains an individualized determination that
104.14 placement is in the best interests of the child that coincides with the actual removal of the
104.15 child;

104.16 (6) to ensure that when the child is removed, the child's care and discipline is, as nearly
104.17 as possible, equivalent to that which should have been given by the parents and is either in:

104.18 (i) the home of a noncustodial parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201,
104.19 subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1);

104.20 (ii) the home of a relative pursuant to emergency placement by the responsible social
104.21 services agency under chapter 245A; or

104.22 (iii) foster care licensed under chapter 245A; and

104.23 (7) to ensure appropriate permanency planning for children in foster care including:

104.24 (i) unless reunification is not required under section 260.012, developing a permanency
104.25 plan for the child that includes a primary plan for reunification with the child's parent or
104.26 guardian and a secondary plan for an alternative, legally permanent home for the child in
104.27 the event reunification cannot be achieved in a timely manner;

104.28 (ii) identifying, locating, and assessing both parents of the child as soon as possible and
104.29 offering reunification services to both parents of the child as required under sections 260.012
104.30 and 260C.219;

105.1 (iii) inquiring about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to
105.2 section 260.761, and ~~their~~ race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision
105.3 10;

105.4 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) identifying, locating, and notifying relatives of both parents of the child according
105.5 to section 260C.221;

479.13 (3) to preserve and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible and in the child's
479.14 best interests, removing the child from the custody of parents only when the child's welfare
479.15 or safety cannot be adequately safeguarded without removal;

479.16 (4) to ensure that when removal from the child's own family is necessary and in the
479.17 child's best interests, the responsible social services agency has legal responsibility for the
479.18 child removal either:

479.19 (i) pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement between the child's parent or guardian
479.20 or the child, when the child is over age 18, and the responsible social services agency; or

479.21 (ii) by court order pursuant to section 260C.151, subdivision 6; 260C.178; 260C.201;
479.22 260C.325; or 260C.515;

479.23 (5) to ensure that, when placement is pursuant to court order, the court order removing
479.24 the child or continuing the child in foster care contains an individualized determination that
479.25 placement is in the best interests of the child that coincides with the actual removal of the
479.26 child;

479.27 (6) to ensure that when the child is removed, the child's care and discipline is, as nearly
479.28 as possible, equivalent to that which should have been given by the parents and is either in:

479.29 (i) the home of a noncustodial parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201,
479.30 subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1);

479.31 (ii) the home of a relative pursuant to emergency placement by the responsible social
479.32 services agency under chapter 245A; or

480.1 (iii) foster care licensed under chapter 245A; and

480.2 (7) to ensure appropriate permanency planning for children in foster care including:

480.3 (i) unless reunification is not required under section 260.012, developing a permanency
480.4 plan for the child that includes a primary plan for reunification with the child's parent or
480.5 guardian and a secondary plan for an alternative, legally permanent home for the child in
480.6 the event reunification cannot be achieved in a timely manner;

480.7 (ii) identifying, locating, and assessing both parents of the child as soon as possible and
480.8 offering reunification services to both parents of the child as required under sections 260.012
480.9 and 260C.219;

480.10 (iii) inquiring about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to
480.11 section 260.761, and ~~the child's~~ race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63,
480.12 subdivision 10;

480.13 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) identifying, locating, and notifying relatives of both parents of the child according
480.14 to section 260C.221;

105.6 (⇔) (v) making a placement with a family that will commit to being the legally permanent
105.7 home for the child in the event reunification cannot occur at the earliest possible time while
105.8 at the same time actively supporting the reunification plan; and

105.9 (⇔) (vi) returning the child home with supports and services, as soon as return is safe for
105.10 the child, or when safe return cannot be timely achieved, moving to finalize another legally
105.11 permanent home for the child.

105.12 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.007, subdivision 19, is amended to read:

105.13 Subd. 19. **Habitual truant.** "Habitual truant" means a child under the age of 17 who is
105.14 at least 12 years old and less than 18 years old who is absent from attendance at school
105.15 without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary
105.16 school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is
105.17 in middle school, junior high school, or high school or a child who is 17 years of age who
105.18 is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on
105.19 seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under
105.20 section 120A.22, subdivision 8. Pursuant to section 260C.163, subdivision 11, habitual
105.21 truant also means a child under age 12 who has been absent from school for seven school
105.22 days without lawful excuse, based on a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the
105.23 child's absence is not due to the failure of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to comply
105.24 with compulsory instruction laws.

105.25 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.141, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

105.26 Subdivision 1. **Who may file; required form.** (a) Any reputable person, including but
105.27 not limited to any agent of the commissioner of children, youth, and families, having
105.28 knowledge of a child in this state or of a child who is a resident of this state, who appears
105.29 to be in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care, may petition the
105.30 juvenile court in the manner provided in this section.

105.31 (b) A petition for a child in need of protection filed by an individual who is not a county
105.32 attorney or an agent of the commissioner of children, youth, and families shall be filed on
106.1 a form developed by the state court administrator and provided to court administrators.
106.2 Copies of the form may be obtained from the court administrator in each county. The court
106.3 administrator shall review the petition before it is filed to determine that it is completed.
106.4 The court administrator may reject the petition if it does not indicate that the petitioner has
106.5 contacted the responsible social services agency.

480.15 (⇔) (v) making a placement with a family that will commit to being the legally permanent
480.16 home for the child in the event reunification cannot occur at the earliest possible time while
480.17 at the same time actively supporting the reunification plan; and

480.18 (⇔) (vi) returning the child home with supports and services, as soon as return is safe for
480.19 the child, or when safe return cannot be timely achieved, moving to finalize another legally
480.20 permanent home for the child.

480.21 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.007, subdivision 19, is amended to read:

480.22 Subd. 19. **Habitual truant.** (a) "Habitual truant" means a child under the age of 17 years
480.23 who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per
480.24 school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven
480.25 school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high
480.26 school or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without
480.27 lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who
480.28 has not lawfully withdrawn from school under section 120A.22, subdivision 8.

480.29 (b) For the purposes of educational neglect under section 260C.163, subdivision 11,
480.30 habitual truant includes a child under 12 years of age who has been absent from school for
480.31 seven school days without lawful excuse where the presumption of educational neglect is
480.32 rebutted based on a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the child's absence is
481.1 not due to the failure of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to comply with compulsory
481.2 instruction laws.

106.6 An individual may file a petition under this subdivision without seeking internal review
106.7 of the responsible social services agency's decision. The court shall determine whether there
106.8 is probable cause to believe that a need for protection or services exists before the matter
106.9 is set for hearing. If the matter is set for hearing, the court administrator shall notify the
106.10 responsible social services agency by sending notice to the county attorney.

106.11 The petition must contain:

106.12 (1) a statement of facts that would establish, if proven, that there is a need for protection
106.13 or services for the child named in the petition;

106.14 (2) a statement that petitioner has reported the circumstances underlying the petition to
106.15 the responsible social services agency, and protection or services were not provided to the
106.16 child;

106.17 (3) a statement whether there are existing juvenile or family court custody orders or
106.18 pending proceedings in juvenile or family court concerning the child; ~~and~~

106.19 (4) a statement of the relationship of the petitioner to the child and any other parties;
106.20 and

106.21 (5) a statement whether the petitioner has inquired of the parent or parents of the child,
106.22 the child, and relatives about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant
106.23 to section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63,
106.24 subdivision 10.

106.25 The court may not allow a petition to proceed under this paragraph if it appears that the
106.26 sole purpose of the petition is to modify custody between the parents.

106.27 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.150, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

106.28 Subd. 3. **Identifying parents of child; diligent efforts; data.** (a) The responsible social
106.29 services agency shall make diligent efforts to inquire about the child's heritage, including
106.30 the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and ~~their~~ race, culture, and ethnicity
106.31 pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, and to identify and locate both parents of any
106.32 child who is the subject of proceedings under this chapter. Diligent efforts include:

107.1 (1) asking the custodial or known parent to identify any nonresident parent of the child
107.2 and provide information that can be used to verify the nonresident parent's identity including
107.3 the dates and locations of marriages and divorces; dates and locations of any legal
107.4 proceedings regarding paternity; date and place of the child's birth; nonresident parent's full
107.5 legal name; nonresident parent's date of birth, or if the nonresident parent's date of birth is
107.6 unknown, an approximate age; the nonresident parent's Social Security number; the
107.7 nonresident parent's whereabouts including last known whereabouts; and the whereabouts
107.8 of relatives of the nonresident parent. For purposes of this subdivision, "nonresident parent"
107.9 means a parent who does not reside in the same household as the child or did not reside in
107.10 the same household as the child at the time the child was removed when the child is in foster
107.11 care;

481.3 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.150, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

481.4 Subd. 3. **Identifying parents of child; diligent efforts; data.** (a) The responsible social
481.5 services agency shall make diligent efforts to inquire about the child's heritage, including
481.6 the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and ~~the child's~~ race, culture, and
481.7 ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, and to identify and locate both parents
481.8 of any child who is the subject of proceedings under this chapter. Diligent efforts include:

481.9 (1) asking the custodial or known parent to identify any nonresident parent of the child
481.10 and provide information that can be used to verify the nonresident parent's identity including
481.11 the dates and locations of marriages and divorces; dates and locations of any legal
481.12 proceedings regarding paternity; date and place of the child's birth; nonresident parent's full
481.13 legal name; nonresident parent's date of birth, or if the nonresident parent's date of birth is
481.14 unknown, an approximate age; the nonresident parent's Social Security number; the
481.15 nonresident parent's whereabouts including last known whereabouts; and the whereabouts
481.16 of relatives of the nonresident parent. For purposes of this subdivision, "nonresident parent"
481.17 means a parent who does not reside in the same household as the child or did not reside in
481.18 the same household as the child at the time the child was removed when the child is in foster
481.19 care;

107.12 (2) obtaining information that will identify and locate the nonresident parent from the
107.13 county and state of Minnesota child support enforcement information system;

107.14 (3) requesting a search of the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry 30 days after the
107.15 child's birth; and

107.16 (4) using any other reasonable means to identify and locate the nonresident parent.

107.17 (b) The agency may disclose data which is otherwise private under section 13.46 or
107.18 chapter 260E in order to carry out its duties under this subdivision.

107.19 (c) Upon the filing of a petition alleging the child to be in need of protection or services,
107.20 the responsible social services agency may contact a putative father who registered with
107.21 the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry more than 30 days after the child's birth. The
107.22 social service agency may consider a putative father for the day-to-day care of the child
107.23 under section 260C.219 if the putative father cooperates with genetic testing and there is a
107.24 positive test result under section 257.62, subdivision 5. Nothing in this paragraph:

107.25 (1) relieves a putative father who registered with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption
107.26 Registry more than 30 days after the child's birth of the duty to cooperate with paternity
107.27 establishment proceedings under section 260C.219;

107.28 (2) gives a putative father who registered with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry
107.29 more than 30 days after the child's birth the right to notice under section 260C.151 unless
107.30 the putative father is entitled to notice under sections 259.24 and 259.49, subdivision 1,
107.31 paragraph (a) or (b), clauses (1) to (7); or

107.32 (3) establishes a right to assert an interest in the child in a termination of parental rights
107.33 proceeding contrary to section 259.52, subdivision 6, unless the putative father is entitled
108.1 to notice under sections 259.24 and 259.49, subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (b), clauses (1)
108.2 to (7).

108.3 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.178, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

108.4 Subdivision 1. **Hearing and release requirements.** (a) If a child was taken into custody
108.5 under section 260C.175, subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), item (ii), the court shall hold a
108.6 hearing within 72 hours of the time that the child was taken into custody, excluding
108.7 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, to determine whether the child should continue to be in
108.8 custody.

108.9 (b) Unless there is reason to believe that the child would endanger self or others or not
108.10 return for a court hearing, or that the child's health or welfare would be immediately
108.11 endangered, the child shall be released to the custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or
108.12 other suitable person, subject to reasonable conditions of release including, but not limited
108.13 to, a requirement that the child undergo a chemical use assessment as provided in section
108.14 260C.157, subdivision 1.

481.20 (2) obtaining information that will identify and locate the nonresident parent from the
481.21 county and state of Minnesota child support enforcement information system;

481.22 (3) requesting a search of the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry 30 days after the
481.23 child's birth; and

481.24 (4) using any other reasonable means to identify and locate the nonresident parent.

481.25 (b) The agency may disclose data which is otherwise private under section 13.46 or
481.26 chapter 260E in order to carry out its duties under this subdivision.

481.27 (c) Upon the filing of a petition alleging the child to be in need of protection or services,
481.28 the responsible social services agency may contact a putative father who registered with
481.29 the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry more than 30 days after the child's birth. The
481.30 social service agency may consider a putative father for the day-to-day care of the child
481.31 under section 260C.219 if the putative father cooperates with genetic testing and there is a
481.32 positive test result under section 257.62, subdivision 5. Nothing in this paragraph:

482.1 (1) relieves a putative father who registered with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption
482.2 Registry more than 30 days after the child's birth of the duty to cooperate with paternity
482.3 establishment proceedings under section 260C.219;

482.4 (2) gives a putative father who registered with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry
482.5 more than 30 days after the child's birth the right to notice under section 260C.151 unless
482.6 the putative father is entitled to notice under sections 259.24 and 259.49, subdivision 1,
482.7 paragraph (a) or (b), clauses (1) to (7); or

482.8 (3) establishes a right to assert an interest in the child in a termination of parental rights
482.9 proceeding contrary to section 259.52, subdivision 6, unless the putative father is entitled
482.10 to notice under sections 259.24 and 259.49, subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (b), clauses (1)
482.11 to (7).

108.15 (c) If the court determines that there is reason to believe that the child would endanger
108.16 self or others or not return for a court hearing, or that the child's health or welfare would be
108.17 immediately endangered if returned to the care of the parent or guardian who has custody
108.18 and from whom the child was removed, the court shall order the child:

108.19 (1) into the care of the child's noncustodial parent and order the noncustodial parent to
108.20 comply with any conditions that the court determines appropriate to ensure the safety and
108.21 care of the child, including requiring the noncustodial parent to cooperate with paternity
108.22 establishment proceedings if the noncustodial parent has not been adjudicated the child's
108.23 father; or

108.24 (2) into foster care as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 18, under the legal
108.25 responsibility of the responsible social services agency or responsible probation or corrections
108.26 agency for the purposes of protective care as that term is used in the juvenile court rules.
108.27 The court shall not give the responsible social services legal custody and order a trial home
108.28 visit at any time prior to adjudication and disposition under section 260C.201, subdivision
108.29 1, paragraph (a), clause (3), but may order the child returned to the care of the parent or
108.30 guardian who has custody and from whom the child was removed and order the parent or
108.31 guardian to comply with any conditions the court determines to be appropriate to meet the
108.32 safety, health, and welfare of the child.

109.1 (d) In determining whether the child's health or welfare would be immediately
109.2 endangered, the court shall consider whether the child would reside with a perpetrator of
109.3 domestic child abuse.

109.4 (e) The court, before determining whether a child should be placed in or continue in
109.5 foster care under the protective care of the responsible agency, shall also make a
109.6 determination, consistent with section 260.012 as to whether reasonable efforts were made
109.7 to prevent placement or whether reasonable efforts to prevent placement are not required.
109.8 In the case of an Indian child, the court shall determine whether active efforts, according
109.9 to section 260.762 and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25,
109.10 section 1912(d), were made to prevent placement. The court shall enter a finding that the
109.11 responsible social services agency has made reasonable efforts to prevent placement when
109.12 the agency establishes either:

109.13 (1) that the agency has actually provided services or made efforts in an attempt to prevent
109.14 the child's removal but that such services or efforts have not proven sufficient to permit the
109.15 child to safely remain in the home; or

109.16 (2) that there are no services or other efforts that could be made at the time of the hearing
109.17 that could safely permit the child to remain home or to return home. The court shall not
109.18 make a reasonable efforts determination under this clause unless the court is satisfied that
109.19 the agency has sufficiently demonstrated to the court that there were no services or other
109.20 efforts that the agency was able to provide at the time of the hearing enabling the child to
109.21 safely remain home or to safely return home. When reasonable efforts to prevent placement
109.22 are required and there are services or other efforts that could be ordered that would permit

109.23 the child to safely return home, the court shall order the child returned to the care of the
109.24 parent or guardian and the services or efforts put in place to ensure the child's safety. When
109.25 the court makes a prima facie determination that one of the circumstances under paragraph
109.26 (g) exists, the court shall determine that reasonable efforts to prevent placement and to
109.27 return the child to the care of the parent or guardian are not required.

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

109.32 (g) The court may not order or continue the foster care placement of the child unless the
109.33 court makes explicit, individualized findings that continued custody of the child by the
110.1 parent or guardian would be contrary to the welfare of the child and that placement is in the
110.2 best interest of the child.

110.3 (h) At the emergency removal hearing, or at any time during the course of the proceeding,
110.4 and upon notice and request of the county attorney, the court shall determine whether a
110.5 petition has been filed stating a prima facie case that:

110.6 (1) the parent has subjected a child to egregious harm as defined in section 260C.007,
110.7 subdivision 14;

110.8 (2) the parental rights of the parent to another child have been involuntarily terminated;

110.9 (3) the child is an abandoned infant under section 260C.301, subdivision 2, paragraph
110.10 (a), clause (2);

110.11 (4) the parents' custodial rights to another child have been involuntarily transferred to a
110.12 relative under a juvenile protection proceeding or a similar process of another jurisdiction;

110.13 (5) the parent has committed sexual abuse as defined in section 260E.03, against the
110.14 child or another child of the parent;

110.15 (6) the parent has committed an offense that requires registration as a predatory offender
110.16 under section 243.166, subdivision 1b, paragraph (a) or (b); or

110.17 (7) the provision of services or further services for the purpose of reunification is futile
110.18 and therefore unreasonable.

110.19 (i) When a petition to terminate parental rights is required under section 260C.301,
110.20 subdivision 4, or 260C.503, subdivision 2, but the county attorney has determined not to
110.21 proceed with a termination of parental rights petition, and has instead filed a petition to
110.22 transfer permanent legal and physical custody to a relative under section 260C.507, the
110.23 court shall schedule a permanency hearing within 30 days of the filing of the petition.

110.24 (j) If the county attorney has filed a petition under section 260C.307, the court shall
110.25 schedule a trial under section 260C.163 within 90 days of the filing of the petition except

110.26 when the county attorney determines that the criminal case shall proceed to trial first under
110.27 section 260C.503, subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

110.28 (k) If the court determines the child should be ordered into foster care ~~and~~, the court
110.29 shall inquire about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section
110.30 260.761; their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10; and
110.31 the responsible social services agency's initial relative search efforts. If the child's parent
110.32 refuses to give information to the responsible social services agency regarding the child's
111.1 father or relatives of the child, the court may order the parent to disclose the names, addresses,
111.2 telephone numbers, and other identifying information to the responsible social services
111.3 agency for the purpose of complying with sections 260C.150, 260C.151, 260C.212,
111.4 260C.215, 260C.219, and 260C.221.

111.5 (l) If a child ordered into foster care has siblings, whether full, half, or step, who are
111.6 also ordered into foster care, the court shall inquire of the responsible social services agency
111.7 of the efforts to place the children together as required by section 260C.212, subdivision 2,
111.8 paragraph (d), if placement together is in each child's best interests, unless a child is in
111.9 placement for treatment or a child is placed with a previously noncustodial parent who is
111.10 not a parent to all siblings. If the children are not placed together at the time of the hearing,
111.11 the court shall inquire at each subsequent hearing of the agency's reasonable efforts to place
111.12 the siblings together, as required under section 260.012. If any sibling is not placed with
111.13 another sibling or siblings, the agency must develop a plan to facilitate visitation or ongoing
111.14 contact among the siblings as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, unless it is
111.15 contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings to do so.

111.16 (m) When the court has ordered the child into the care of a noncustodial parent or in
111.17 foster care, the court may order a chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation,
111.18 medical examination, and parenting assessment for the parent as necessary to support the
111.19 development of a plan for reunification required under subdivision 7 and section 260C.212,
111.20 subdivision 1, or the child protective services plan under section 260E.26, and Minnesota
111.21 Rules, part 9560.0228.

111.22 (n) When the court has ordered an Indian child into an emergency child placement, the
111.23 Indian child shall be placed according to the placement preferences in the Minnesota Indian
111.24 Family Preservation Act, section 260.773.

111.25 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.178, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

111.26 Subd. 7. **Case plan.** (a) When the court has ordered the child into the care of a parent
111.27 under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (1), the child protective services plan under section
111.28 260E.26 must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the juvenile protection petition under
111.29 section 260C.141, subdivision 1.

111.30 (b) When the court orders the child into foster care under subdivision 1, paragraph (c),
111.31 clause (2), and not into the care of a parent, an out-of-home placement plan summary required
111.32 under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, must be filed with the court within 30 days of the

111.33 filing of a juvenile protection petition under section 260C.141, subdivision 1, when the
111.34 court orders emergency removal of the child under this section, or filed with the petition if
112.1 the petition is a review of a voluntary placement under section 260C.141, subdivision 2.
112.2 An out-of-home placement plan shall be prepared and filed with the court within 60 days
112.3 after any child is placed in foster care under section 260C.212, subdivision 1.

112.4 (c) Upon the filing of the child protective services plan under section 260E.26 or
112.5 out-of-home placement plan that has been developed jointly with the parent and in
112.6 consultation with others as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, the court may
112.7 approve implementation of the plan by the responsible social services agency based on the
112.8 allegations contained in the petition and any evaluations, examinations, or assessments
112.9 conducted under subdivision 1, paragraph (m). The court shall send written notice of the
112.10 approval of the child protective services plan or out-of-home placement plan to all parties
112.11 and the county attorney or may state such approval on the record at a hearing. A parent may
112.12 agree to comply with the terms of the plan filed with the court.

112.13 (d) The responsible social services agency shall make reasonable efforts to engage both
112.14 parents of the child in case planning. The responsible social services agency shall report
112.15 the results of its efforts to engage the child's parents in the child protective services plan or
112.16 out-of-home placement plan filed with the court. The agency shall notify the court of the
112.17 services it will provide or efforts it will attempt under the plan notwithstanding the parent's
112.18 refusal to cooperate or disagreement with the services. The parent may ask the court to
112.19 modify the plan to require different or additional services requested by the parent, but which
112.20 the agency refused to provide. The court may approve the plan as presented by the agency
112.21 or may modify the plan to require services requested by the parent. The court's approval
112.22 must be based on the content of the petition.

112.23 (e) Unless the parent agrees to comply with the terms of the child protective services
112.24 plan or out-of-home placement plan, the court may not order a parent to comply with the
112.25 provisions of the plan until the court finds the child is in need of protection or services and
112.26 orders disposition under section 260C.201, subdivision 1. However, the court may find that
112.27 the responsible social services agency has made reasonable efforts for reunification if the
112.28 agency makes efforts to implement the terms of the child protective services plan or
112.29 out-of-home placement plan approved under this section.

112.30 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.201, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

112.31 Subdivision 1. **Dispositions.** (a) If the court finds that the child is in need of protection
112.32 or services or neglected and in foster care, the court shall enter an order making any of the
112.33 following dispositions of the case:

113.1 (1) place the child under the protective supervision of the responsible social services
113.2 agency or child-placing agency in the home of a parent of the child under conditions
113.3 prescribed by the court directed to the correction of the child's need for protection or services;

113.4 (i) the court may order the child into the home of a parent who does not otherwise have
113.5 legal custody of the child, however, an order under this section does not confer legal custody
113.6 on that parent;

113.7 (ii) if the court orders the child into the home of a father who is not adjudicated, the
113.8 father must cooperate with paternity establishment proceedings regarding the child in the
113.9 appropriate jurisdiction as one of the conditions prescribed by the court for the child to
113.10 continue in the father's home; and

113.11 (iii) the court may order the child into the home of a noncustodial parent with conditions
113.12 and may also order both the noncustodial and the custodial parent to comply with the
113.13 requirements of a case plan under subdivision 2; ~~or~~

113.14 (2) transfer legal custody to one of the following:

113.15 (i) a child-placing agency; or

113.16 (ii) the responsible social services agency. In making a foster care placement of a child
113.17 whose custody has been transferred under this subdivision, the court shall inquire about the
113.18 child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and their
113.19 race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, and the agency shall
113.20 make an individualized determination of how the placement is in the child's best interests
113.21 using the placement consideration order for relatives and the best interest factors in section
113.22 260C.212, subdivision 2, and may include a child colocated with a parent in a licensed
113.23 residential family-based substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190;
113.24 ~~or~~

113.25 (3) order a trial home visit without modifying the transfer of legal custody to the
113.26 responsible social services agency under clause (2). Trial home visit means the child is
113.27 returned to the care of the parent or guardian from whom the child was removed for a period
113.28 not to exceed six months. During the period of the trial home visit, the responsible social
113.29 services agency:

113.30 (i) shall continue to have legal custody of the child, which means that the agency may
113.31 see the child in the parent's home, at school, in a child care facility, or other setting as the
113.32 agency deems necessary and appropriate;

113.33 (ii) shall continue to have the ability to access information under section 260C.208;

114.1 (iii) shall continue to provide appropriate services to both the parent and the child during
114.2 the period of the trial home visit;

114.3 (iv) without previous court order or authorization, may terminate the trial home visit in
114.4 order to protect the child's health, safety, or welfare and may remove the child to foster care;

114.5 (v) shall advise the court and parties within three days of the termination of the trial
114.6 home visit when a visit is terminated by the responsible social services agency without a
114.7 court order; and

114.8 (vi) shall prepare a report for the court when the trial home visit is terminated whether
114.9 by the agency or court order that describes the child's circumstances during the trial home
114.10 visit and recommends appropriate orders, if any, for the court to enter to provide for the
114.11 child's safety and stability. In the event a trial home visit is terminated by the agency by
114.12 removing the child to foster care without prior court order or authorization, the court shall
114.13 conduct a hearing within ten days of receiving notice of the termination of the trial home
114.14 visit by the agency and shall order disposition under this subdivision or commence
114.15 permanency proceedings under sections 260C.503 to 260C.515. The time period for the
114.16 hearing may be extended by the court for good cause shown and if it is in the best interests
114.17 of the child as long as the total time the child spends in foster care without a permanency
114.18 hearing does not exceed 12 months;

114.19 (4) if the child has been adjudicated as a child in need of protection or services because
114.20 the child is in need of special services or care to treat or ameliorate a physical or mental
114.21 disability or emotional disturbance as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, the court
114.22 may order the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to provide it. The court may order the
114.23 child's health plan company to provide mental health services to the child. Section 62Q.535
114.24 applies to an order for mental health services directed to the child's health plan company.
114.25 If the health plan, parent, guardian, or custodian fails or is unable to provide this treatment
114.26 or care, the court may order it provided. Absent specific written findings by the court that
114.27 the child's disability is the result of abuse or neglect by the child's parent or guardian, the
114.28 court shall not transfer legal custody of the child for the purpose of obtaining special
114.29 treatment or care solely because the parent is unable to provide the treatment or care. If the
114.30 court's order for mental health treatment is based on a diagnosis made by a treatment
114.31 professional, the court may order that the diagnosing professional not provide the treatment
114.32 to the child if it finds that such an order is in the child's best interests; or

114.33 (5) if the court believes that the child has sufficient maturity and judgment and that it is
114.34 in the best interests of the child, the court may order a child 16 years old or older to be
115.1 allowed to live independently, either alone or with others as approved by the court under
115.2 supervision the court considers appropriate, if the county board, after consultation with the
115.3 court, has specifically authorized this dispositional alternative for a child.

115.4 (b) If the child was adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child is a
115.5 runaway or habitual truant, the court may order any of the following dispositions in addition
115.6 to or as alternatives to the dispositions authorized under paragraph (a):

115.7 (1) counsel the child or the child's parents, guardian, or custodian;

115.8 (2) place the child under the supervision of a probation officer or other suitable person
115.9 in the child's own home under conditions prescribed by the court, including reasonable rules
115.10 for the child's conduct and the conduct of the parents, guardian, or custodian, designed for
115.11 the physical, mental, and moral well-being and behavior of the child;

115.12 (3) subject to the court's supervision, transfer legal custody of the child to one of the
115.13 following;

115.14 (i) a reputable person of good moral character. No person may receive custody of two
115.15 or more unrelated children unless licensed to operate a residential program under sections
115.16 245A.01 to 245A.16; or

115.17 (ii) a county probation officer for placement in a group foster home established under
115.18 the direction of the juvenile court and licensed pursuant to section 241.021;

115.19 (4) require the child to pay a fine of up to \$100. The court shall order payment of the
115.20 fine in a manner that will not impose undue financial hardship upon the child;

115.21 (5) require the child to participate in a community service project;

115.22 (6) order the child to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation and, if warranted by
115.23 the evaluation, order participation by the child in a drug awareness program or an inpatient
115.24 or outpatient chemical dependency treatment program;

115.25 (7) if the court believes that it is in the best interests of the child or of public safety that
115.26 the child's driver's license or instruction permit be canceled, the court may order the
115.27 commissioner of public safety to cancel the child's license or permit for any period up to
115.28 the child's 18th birthday. If the child does not have a driver's license or permit, the court
115.29 may order a denial of driving privileges for any period up to the child's 18th birthday. The
115.30 court shall forward an order issued under this clause to the commissioner, who shall cancel
115.31 the license or permit or deny driving privileges without a hearing for the period specified
115.32 by the court. At any time before the expiration of the period of cancellation or denial, the
116.1 court may, for good cause, order the commissioner of public safety to allow the child to
116.2 apply for a license or permit, and the commissioner shall so authorize;

116.3 (8) order that the child's parent or legal guardian deliver the child to school at the
116.4 beginning of each school day for a period of time specified by the court; or

116.5 (9) require the child to perform any other activities or participate in any other treatment
116.6 programs deemed appropriate by the court.

116.7 To the extent practicable, the court shall enter a disposition order the same day it makes
116.8 a finding that a child is in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care, but
116.9 in no event more than 15 days after the finding unless the court finds that the best interests
116.10 of the child will be served by granting a delay. If the child was under eight years of age at
116.11 the time the petition was filed, the disposition order must be entered within ten days of the
116.12 finding and the court may not grant a delay unless good cause is shown and the court finds
116.13 the best interests of the child will be served by the delay.

116.14 (c) If a child who is 14 years of age or older is adjudicated in need of protection or
116.15 services because the child is a habitual truant and truancy procedures involving the child
116.16 were previously dealt with by a school attendance review board or county attorney mediation
116.17 program under section 260A.06 or 260A.07, the court shall order a cancellation or denial
116.18 of driving privileges under paragraph (b), clause (7), for any period up to the child's 18th
116.19 birthday.

116.20 (d) In the case of a child adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child
116.21 has committed domestic abuse and been ordered excluded from the child's parent's home,
116.22 the court shall dismiss jurisdiction if the court, at any time, finds the parent is able or willing
116.23 to provide an alternative safe living arrangement for the child as defined in paragraph (f).

116.24 (e) When a parent has complied with a case plan ordered under subdivision 6 and the
116.25 child is in the care of the parent, the court may order the responsible social services agency
116.26 to monitor the parent's continued ability to maintain the child safely in the home under such
116.27 terms and conditions as the court determines appropriate under the circumstances.

116.28 (f) For the purposes of this subdivision, "alternative safe living arrangement" means a
116.29 living arrangement for a child proposed by a petitioning parent or guardian if a court excludes
116.30 the minor from the parent's or guardian's home that is separate from the victim of domestic
116.31 abuse and safe for the child respondent. A living arrangement proposed by a petitioning
116.32 parent or guardian is presumed to be an alternative safe living arrangement absent information
116.33 to the contrary presented to the court. In evaluating any proposed living arrangement, the
116.34 court shall consider whether the arrangement provides the child with necessary food, clothing,
117.1 shelter, and education in a safe environment. Any proposed living arrangement that would
117.2 place the child in the care of an adult who has been physically or sexually violent is presumed
117.3 unsafe.

117.4 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.201, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

117.5 Subd. 2. **Written findings.** (a) Any order for a disposition authorized under this section
117.6 shall contain written findings of fact to support the disposition and case plan ordered and
117.7 shall also set forth in writing the following information:

117.8 (1) why the best interests and safety of the child are served by the disposition and case
117.9 plan ordered;

117.10 (2) what alternative dispositions or services under the case plan were considered by the
117.11 court and why such dispositions or services were not appropriate in the instant case;

117.12 (3) when legal custody of the child is transferred, the appropriateness of the particular
117.13 placement made or to be made by the placing agency using the relative and sibling placement
117.14 considerations and best interest factors in section 260C.212, subdivision 2, or the
117.15 appropriateness of a child colocated with a parent in a licensed residential family-based
117.16 substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190;

117.17 (4) whether reasonable efforts to finalize the permanent plan for the child consistent
117.18 with section 260.012 were made including reasonable efforts;

117.19 (i) to prevent the child's placement and to reunify the child with the parent or guardian
117.20 from whom the child was removed at the earliest time consistent with the child's safety.
117.21 The court's findings must include a brief description of what preventive and reunification
117.22 efforts were made and why further efforts could not have prevented or eliminated the

117.23 necessity of removal or that reasonable efforts were not required under section 260.012 or
117.24 260C.178, subdivision 1;

117.25 (ii) to identify and locate any noncustodial or nonresident parent of the child and to
117.26 assess such parent's ability to provide day-to-day care of the child, and, where appropriate,
117.27 provide services necessary to enable the noncustodial or nonresident parent to safely provide
117.28 day-to-day care of the child as required under section 260C.219, unless such services are
117.29 not required under section 260.012 or 260C.178, subdivision 1. The court's findings must
117.30 include a description of the agency's efforts to:

117.31 (A) identify and locate the child's noncustodial or nonresident parent;

118.1 (B) assess the noncustodial or nonresident parent's ability to provide day-to-day care of
118.2 the child; and

118.3 (C) if appropriate, provide services necessary to enable the noncustodial or nonresident
118.4 parent to safely provide the child's day-to-day care, including efforts to engage the
118.5 noncustodial or nonresident parent in assuming care and responsibility of the child;

118.6 (iii) to inquire about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to
118.7 section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision
118.8 10, and make the diligent search for relatives and provide the notices required under section
118.9 260C.221; a finding made pursuant to a hearing under section 260C.202 that the agency
118.10 has made diligent efforts to conduct a relative search and has appropriately engaged relatives
118.11 who responded to the notice under section 260C.221 and other relatives, who came to the
118.12 attention of the agency after notice under section 260C.221 was sent, in placement and case
118.13 planning decisions fulfills the requirement of this item;

118.14 (iv) to identify and make a foster care placement of the child, considering the order in
118.15 section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), in the home of an unlicensed relative,
118.16 according to the requirements of section 142B.06, a licensed relative, or other licensed foster
118.17 care provider, who will commit to being the permanent legal parent or custodian for the
118.18 child in the event reunification cannot occur, but who will actively support the reunification
118.19 plan for the child. If the court finds that the agency has not appropriately considered relatives
118.20 for placement of the child, the court shall order the agency to comply with section 260C.212,
118.21 subdivision 2, paragraph (a). The court may order the agency to continue considering
118.22 relatives for placement of the child regardless of the child's current placement setting; and

118.23 (v) to place siblings together in the same home or to ensure visitation is occurring when
118.24 siblings are separated in foster care placement and visitation is in the siblings' best interests
118.25 under section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (d); and

118.26 (5) if the child has been adjudicated as a child in need of protection or services because
118.27 the child is in need of special services or care to treat or ameliorate a mental disability or
118.28 emotional disturbance as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, the written findings
118.29 shall also set forth:

118.30 (i) whether the child has mental health needs that must be addressed by the case plan;

118.31 (ii) what consideration was given to the diagnostic and functional assessments performed

118.32 by the child's mental health professional and to health and mental health care professionals'

118.33 treatment recommendations;

119.1 (iii) what consideration was given to the requests or preferences of the child's parent or

119.2 guardian with regard to the child's interventions, services, or treatment; and

119.3 (iv) what consideration was given to the cultural appropriateness of the child's treatment

119.4 or services.

119.5 (b) If the court finds that the social services agency's preventive or reunification efforts

119.6 have not been reasonable but that further preventive or reunification efforts could not permit

119.7 the child to safely remain at home, the court may nevertheless authorize or continue the

119.8 removal of the child.

119.9 (c) If the child has been identified by the responsible social services agency as the subject

119.10 of concurrent permanency planning, the court shall review the reasonable efforts of the

119.11 agency to develop a permanency plan for the child that includes a primary plan that is for

119.12 reunification with the child's parent or guardian and a secondary plan that is for an alternative,

119.13 legally permanent home for the child in the event reunification cannot be achieved in a

119.14 timely manner.

119.15 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

119.16 Subd. 2. **Court review for a child placed in foster care.** (a) If the court orders a child

119.17 placed in foster care, the court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and the child's

119.18 placement at least every 90 days as required in juvenile court rules to determine whether

119.19 continued out-of-home placement is necessary and appropriate or whether the child should

119.20 be returned home.

119.21 (b) This review is not required if the court has returned the child home, ordered the child

119.22 permanently placed away from the parent under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521, or

119.23 terminated rights under section 260C.301. Court review for a child permanently placed

119.24 away from a parent, including where the child is under guardianship of the commissioner,

119.25 is governed by section 260C.607.

119.26 (c) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined

119.27 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit

119.28 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

119.29 (d) No later than three months after the child's placement in foster care, the court shall

119.30 review agency efforts to search for and notify relatives pursuant to section 260C.221, and

119.31 order that the agency's efforts begin immediately, or continue, if the agency has failed to

119.32 perform, or has not adequately performed, the duties under that section. The court must

119.33 order the agency to continue to appropriately engage relatives who responded to the notice

120.1 under section 260C.221 in placement and case planning decisions and to consider relatives

482.12 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

482.13 Subd. 2. **Court review for a child placed in foster care.** (a) If the court orders a child

482.14 placed in foster care, the court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and the child's

482.15 placement at least every 90 days as required in juvenile court rules to determine whether

482.16 continued out-of-home placement is necessary and appropriate or whether the child should

482.17 be returned home.

482.18 (b) This review is not required if the court has returned the child home, ordered the child

482.19 permanently placed away from the parent under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521, or

482.20 terminated rights under section 260C.301. Court review for a child permanently placed

482.21 away from a parent, including where the child is under guardianship of the commissioner,

482.22 is governed by section 260C.607.

482.23 (c) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined

482.24 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit

482.25 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

482.26 (d) No later than three months after the child's placement in foster care, the court shall

482.27 review agency efforts to search for and notify relatives pursuant to section 260C.221, and

482.28 order that the agency's efforts begin immediately, or continue, if the agency has failed to

482.29 perform, or has not adequately performed, the duties under that section. The court must

482.30 order the agency to continue to appropriately engage relatives who responded to the notice

482.31 under section 260C.221 in placement and case planning decisions and to consider relatives

120.2 for foster care placement consistent with section 260C.221. Notwithstanding a court's finding
120.3 that the agency has made reasonable efforts to search for and notify relatives under section
120.4 260C.221, the court may order the agency to continue making reasonable efforts to search
120.5 for, notify, engage, and consider relatives who came to the agency's attention after sending
120.6 the initial notice under section 260C.221.

120.7 (e) The court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and may modify the plan as
120.8 provided under section 260C.201, subdivisions 6 and 7.

120.9 (f) When the court transfers the custody of a child to a responsible social services agency
120.10 resulting in foster care or protective supervision with a noncustodial parent under subdivision
120.11 1, the court shall notify the parents of the provisions of sections 260C.204 and 260C.503
120.12 to 260C.521, as required under juvenile court rules.

120.13 ~~(g) When a child remains in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451 and~~
120.14 ~~the court has jurisdiction pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (e), the~~
120.15 ~~court shall at least annually conduct the review required under section 260C.203.~~

120.16 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, is amended by adding a subdivision
120.17 to read:

120.18 Subd. 3. **Court review prior to the 18th birthday of a child in foster care.** (a) The
120.19 court must conduct a review during the 90-day period prior to the 18th birthday of a child
120.20 in foster care.

120.21 (b) The responsible social services agency must file a written report with the court
120.22 containing or attaching the following:

120.23 (1) the child's name, date of birth, race, gender, and current address;

120.24 (2) whether the child is eligible for extended foster care and if not, the reason or reasons
120.25 why the child is not eligible;

120.26 (3) a written summary describing how the child was involved in creating the child's plan
120.27 for after their 18th birthday;

120.28 (4) the date the required extended foster care eligibility notice in section 260C.451,
120.29 subdivision 1, was provided and the child's plan after the child's 18th birthday;

120.30 (5) the child's most recent independent living plan required under section 260C.212,
120.31 subdivision 1;

121.1 (6) if the agency's recommendation is to extend jurisdiction up to age 19 under section
121.2 260C.193, why the extended jurisdiction is in the child's best interest;

121.3 (7) if the agency's recommendation is to reunify the child with their parent or legal
121.4 guardian, why reunification is in the child's best interest;

482.32 for foster care placement consistent with section 260C.221. Notwithstanding a court's finding
482.33 that the agency has made reasonable efforts to search for and notify relatives under section
483.1 260C.221, the court may order the agency to continue making reasonable efforts to search
483.2 for, notify, engage, and consider relatives who came to the agency's attention after sending
483.3 the initial notice under section 260C.221.

483.4 (e) The court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and may modify the plan as
483.5 provided under section 260C.201, subdivisions 6 and 7.

483.6 (f) When the court transfers the custody of a child to a responsible social services agency
483.7 resulting in foster care or protective supervision with a noncustodial parent under subdivision
483.8 1, the court shall notify the parents of the provisions of sections 260C.204 and 260C.503
483.9 to 260C.521, as required under juvenile court rules.

483.10 ~~(g) When a child remains in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451 and~~
483.11 ~~the court has jurisdiction pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (e), the~~
483.12 ~~court shall at least annually conduct the review required under section 260C.203.~~

121.5 (8) if the agency plans to transition the child into adult services on or after the child's
121.6 18th birthday, a summary of the transition plan as required in section 260C.452 and how
121.7 this plan is in the child's best interest; and

121.8 (9) if the child's plan is to leave foster care at age 18 and not continue in extended foster
121.9 care, a copy of their 180-day transition plan required in section 260C.452 and the reasons
121.10 the child is not continuing in extended foster care.

121.11 (c) The agency must inform the child and parties to the proceeding of the reporting and
121.12 court review requirements of this subdivision and their right to request a hearing. The child
121.13 or a party to the proceeding may request a hearing if they believe the agency did not make
121.14 reasonable efforts under this subdivision.

121.15 (d) Upon receiving the report, the court must hold a hearing when a party to the
121.16 proceeding or the child requests a hearing. In all other circumstances, the court has the
121.17 discretion to hold a hearing or issue an order without a hearing.

121.18 (e) The court must issue an order with findings including but not limited to the following:

121.19 (1) whether the responsible social services agency provided the notice to the child about
121.20 extended foster care as required in section 260C.451;

121.21 (2) whether the responsible social services agency engaged with the child and
121.22 appropriately planned with the child to transition to adulthood; and

121.23 (3) if the child has decided to not continue in the extended foster care program at age
121.24 18, whether the responsible social services agency informed the child that they can reenter
121.25 extended foster care up to age 21 or that the child is not eligible to reenter and why.

121.26 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, is amended by adding a subdivision
121.27 to read:

121.28 Subd. 4. **Court reviews for a child over age 18 in foster care.** When a child remains
121.29 in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451 and the court has jurisdiction
121.30 pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), the court must at least annually
121.31 conduct the review required under section 260C.203.

122.1 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.204, is amended to read:

122.2 **260C.204 PERMANENCY PROGRESS REVIEW FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER**
122.3 **CARE FOR SIX MONTHS.**

122.4 (a) When a child continues in placement out of the home of the parent or guardian from
122.5 whom the child was removed, no later than six months after the child's placement the court
122.6 shall conduct a permanency progress hearing to review:

122.7 (1) the progress of the case, the parent's progress on the case plan or out-of-home
122.8 placement plan, whichever is applicable;

483.13 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, is amended by adding a subdivision
483.14 to read:

483.15 Subd. 4. **Court reviews for a child over age 18 in foster care.** When a child remains
483.16 in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451, and the court has jurisdiction
483.17 pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), the court must at least annually
483.18 conduct the review required under section 260C.203.

483.19 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.204, is amended to read:

483.20 **260C.204 PERMANENCY PROGRESS REVIEW FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER**
483.21 **CARE FOR SIX MONTHS.**

483.22 (a) When a child continues in placement out of the home of the parent or guardian from
483.23 whom the child was removed, no later than six months after the child's placement the court
483.24 shall conduct a permanency progress hearing to review:

483.25 (1) the progress of the case, the parent's progress on the case plan or out-of-home
483.26 placement plan, whichever is applicable;

122.9 (2) the agency's reasonable, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts for
122.10 reunification and its provision of services;

122.11 (3) the agency's reasonable efforts to finalize the permanent plan for the child under
122.12 section 260.012, paragraph (e), and to make a placement as required under section 260C.212,
122.13 subdivision 2, in a home that will commit to being the legally permanent family for the
122.14 child in the event the child cannot return home according to the timelines in this section;
122.15 and

122.16 (4) in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to prevent the breakup of the Indian
122.17 family and to make a placement according to the placement preferences under United States
122.18 Code, title 25, chapter 21, section 1915.

122.19 (b) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined
122.20 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit
122.21 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

122.22 (c) The court shall ensure that notice of the hearing is sent to any relative who:

122.23 (1) responded to the agency's notice provided under section 260C.221, indicating an
122.24 interest in participating in planning for the child or being a permanency resource for the
122.25 child and who has kept the court apprised of the relative's address; or

122.26 (2) asked to be notified of court proceedings regarding the child as is permitted in section
122.27 260C.152, subdivision 5.

122.28 (d)(1) If the parent or guardian has maintained contact with the child and is complying
122.29 with the court-ordered out-of-home placement plan, and if the child would benefit from
122.30 reunification with the parent, the court may either:

122.31 (i) return the child home, if the conditions that led to the out-of-home placement have
122.32 been sufficiently mitigated that it is safe and in the child's best interests to return home; or

123.1 (ii) continue the matter up to a total of six additional months. If the child has not returned
123.2 home by the end of the additional six months, the court must conduct a hearing according
123.3 to sections 260C.503 to 260C.521.

123.4 (2) If the court determines that the parent or guardian is not complying, is not making
123.5 progress with or engaging with services in the out-of-home placement plan, or is not
123.6 maintaining regular contact with the child as outlined in the visitation plan required as part
123.7 of the out-of-home placement plan under section 260C.212, the court may order the
123.8 responsible social services agency:

123.9 (i) to develop a plan for legally permanent placement of the child away from the parent;

123.10 (ii) to consider, identify, recruit, and support one or more permanency resources from
123.11 the child's relatives and foster parent, consistent with clause (3) and section 260C.212,
123.12 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), to be the legally permanent home in the event the child cannot

483.27 (2) the agency's reasonable, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts for
483.28 reunification and its provision of services;

483.29 (3) the agency's reasonable efforts to finalize the permanent plan for the child under
483.30 section 260.012, paragraph (e), and to make a placement as required under section 260C.212,
483.31 subdivision 2, in a home that will commit to being the legally permanent family for the
484.1 child in the event the child cannot return home according to the timelines in this section;
484.2 and

484.3 (4) in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to prevent the breakup of the Indian
484.4 family and to make a placement according to the placement preferences under United States
484.5 Code, title 25, chapter 21, section 1915.

484.6 (b) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined
484.7 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit
484.8 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

484.9 (c) The court shall ensure that notice of the hearing is sent to any relative who:

484.10 (1) responded to the agency's notice provided under section 260C.221, indicating an
484.11 interest in participating in planning for the child or being a permanency resource for the
484.12 child and who has kept the court apprised of the relative's address; or

484.13 (2) asked to be notified of court proceedings regarding the child as is permitted in section
484.14 260C.152, subdivision 5.

484.15 (d)(1) If the parent or guardian has maintained contact with the child and is complying
484.16 with the court-ordered out-of-home placement plan, and if the child would benefit from
484.17 reunification with the parent, the court may either:

484.18 (i) return the child home, if the conditions that led to the out-of-home placement have
484.19 been sufficiently mitigated that it is safe and in the child's best interests to return home; or

484.20 (ii) continue the matter up to a total of six additional months. If the child has not returned
484.21 home by the end of the additional six months, the court must conduct a hearing according
484.22 to sections 260C.503 to 260C.521.

484.23 (2) If the court determines that the parent or guardian is not complying, is not making
484.24 progress with or engaging with services in the out-of-home placement plan, or is not
484.25 maintaining regular contact with the child as outlined in the visitation plan required as part
484.26 of the out-of-home placement plan under section 260C.212, the court may order the
484.27 responsible social services agency:

484.28 (i) to develop a plan for legally permanent placement of the child away from the parent;

484.29 (ii) to consider, identify, recruit, and support one or more permanency resources from
484.30 the child's relatives and foster parent, consistent with clause (3) and section 260C.212,
484.31 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), to be the legally permanent home in the event the child cannot

123.13 be returned to the parent. Any relative or the child's foster parent may ask the court to order
123.14 the agency to consider them for permanent placement of the child in the event the child
123.15 cannot be returned to the parent. A relative or foster parent who wants to be considered
123.16 under this item shall cooperate with the background study required under section 245C.08,
123.17 if the individual has not already done so, and with the home study process required under
123.18 chapter 142B for providing child foster care and for adoption under section 259.41. The
123.19 home study referred to in this item shall be a single-home study in the form required by the
123.20 commissioner of children, youth, and families or similar study required by the individual's
123.21 state of residence when the subject of the study is not a resident of Minnesota. The court
123.22 may order the responsible social services agency to make a referral under the Interstate
123.23 Compact on the Placement of Children when necessary to obtain a home study for an
123.24 individual who wants to be considered for transfer of permanent legal and physical custody
123.25 or adoption of the child; and

123.26 (iii) to file a petition to support an order for the legally permanent placement plan.

123.27 (3) Consistent with section 260C.223, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the responsible social
123.28 services agency must not define a foster family as the permanent home for a child until:

123.29 (i) inquiry and Tribal notice requirements under section 260.761, subdivisions 1 and 2,
123.30 are satisfied;

123.31 (ii) inquiry about the child's heritage, including their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant
123.32 to section 260.63, subdivision 10, has been completed; and

124.1 (iii) the court has determined that reasonable or active efforts toward completing the
124.2 relative search requirements in section 260C.221 have been made.

124.3 (e) Following the review under this section:

124.4 (1) if the court has either returned the child home or continued the matter up to a total
124.5 of six additional months, the agency shall continue to provide services to support the child's
124.6 return home or to make reasonable efforts to achieve reunification of the child and the parent
124.7 as ordered by the court under an approved case plan;

124.8 (2) if the court orders the agency to develop a plan for the transfer of permanent legal
124.9 and physical custody of the child to a relative, a petition supporting the plan shall be filed
124.10 in juvenile court within 30 days of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the
124.11 petition held within 60 days of the filing of the pleadings; or

124.12 (3) if the court orders the agency to file a termination of parental rights, unless the county
124.13 attorney can show cause why a termination of parental rights petition should not be filed,
124.14 a petition for termination of parental rights shall be filed in juvenile court within 30 days
124.15 of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the petition held within 60 days of
124.16 the filing of the petition.

484.32 be returned to the parent. Any relative or the child's foster parent may ask the court to order
485.1 the agency to consider them for permanent placement of the child in the event the child
485.2 cannot be returned to the parent. A relative or foster parent who wants to be considered
485.3 under this item shall cooperate with the background study required under section 245C.08,
485.4 if the individual has not already done so, and with the home study process required under
485.5 chapter 142B for providing child foster care and for adoption under section 259.41. The
485.6 home study referred to in this item shall be a single-home study in the form required by the
485.7 commissioner of children, youth, and families or similar study required by the individual's
485.8 state of residence when the subject of the study is not a resident of Minnesota. The court
485.9 may order the responsible social services agency to make a referral under the Interstate
485.10 Compact on the Placement of Children when necessary to obtain a home study for an
485.11 individual who wants to be considered for transfer of permanent legal and physical custody
485.12 or adoption of the child; and

485.13 (iii) to file a petition to support an order for the legally permanent placement plan.

485.14 (3) Consistent with section 260C.223, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the responsible social
485.15 services agency must not define a foster family as the permanent home for a child until:

485.16 (i) inquiry and Tribal notice requirements under section 260.761, subdivisions 1 and 2,
485.17 are satisfied;

485.18 (ii) inquiry about the child's heritage, including the child's race, culture, and ethnicity
485.19 pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, has been completed; and

485.20 (iii) the court has determined that reasonable or active efforts toward completing the
485.21 relative search requirements in section 260C.221 have been made.

485.22 (e) Following the review under this section:

485.23 (1) if the court has either returned the child home or continued the matter up to a total
485.24 of six additional months, the agency shall continue to provide services to support the child's
485.25 return home or to make reasonable efforts to achieve reunification of the child and the parent
485.26 as ordered by the court under an approved case plan;

485.27 (2) if the court orders the agency to develop a plan for the transfer of permanent legal
485.28 and physical custody of the child to a relative, a petition supporting the plan shall be filed
485.29 in juvenile court within 30 days of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the
485.30 petition held within 60 days of the filing of the pleadings; or

485.31 (3) if the court orders the agency to file a termination of parental rights, unless the county
485.32 attorney can show cause why a termination of parental rights petition should not be filed,
485.33 a petition for termination of parental rights shall be filed in juvenile court within 30 days
486.1 of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the petition held within 60 days of
486.2 the filing of the petition.

124.17 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.212, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

124.18 Subdivision 1. **Out-of-home placement; plan.** ~~(a) An out-of-home placement plan shall~~
124.19 ~~be prepared within 30 days after any child is placed in foster care by court order or a~~
124.20 ~~voluntary placement agreement between the responsible social services agency and the~~
124.21 ~~child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227 or chapter 260D.~~

124.22 ~~(b)~~ (a) An out-of-home placement plan means a written document individualized to the
124.23 needs of the child and the child's parents or guardians that is prepared by the responsible
124.24 social services agency using a form developed by the commissioner. The plan must be
124.25 completed jointly with the child's parents or guardians and in consultation with the child's
124.26 guardian ad litem; the child's tribe, if the child is an Indian child; the child's foster parent
124.27 or representative of the foster care facility; and, when appropriate, the child. When a child
124.28 is age 14 or older, the child may include two other individuals on the team preparing the
124.29 child's out-of-home placement plan. The child may select one member of the case planning
124.30 team to be designated as the child's advisor and to advocate with respect to the application
124.31 of the reasonable and prudent parenting standards. The responsible social services agency
124.32 may reject an individual selected by the child if the agency has good cause to believe that
124.33 the individual would not act in the best interest of the child. For a child in voluntary foster
125.1 care for treatment under chapter 260D, preparation of the out-of-home placement plan shall
125.2 additionally include the child's mental health treatment provider. For a child 18 years of
125.3 age or older, the responsible social services agency shall involve the child and the child's
125.4 parents as appropriate. As appropriate, the plan shall be:

125.5 (1) submitted to the court for approval under section 260C.178, subdivision 7;

125.6 (2) ordered by the court, either as presented or modified after hearing, under section
125.7 260C.178, subdivision 7, or 260C.201, subdivision 6; and

125.8 (3) signed by the parent or parents or guardian of the child, the child's guardian ad litem,
125.9 a representative of the child's tribe, the responsible social services agency, and, if possible,
125.10 the child.

125.11 (b) Before an out-of-home placement plan is signed by the parent or parents or guardian
125.12 of the child, the responsible social services agency must provide the parent or parents or
125.13 guardian with a one- to two-page summary of the plan using a form developed by the
125.14 commissioner. The out-of-home placement plan summary must clearly summarize the plan's
125.15 contents under paragraph (d) and list the requirements and responsibilities for the parent or
125.16 parents or guardian using plain language. The summary must be updated and provided to
125.17 the parent or parents or guardian when the out-of-home placement plan is updated under
125.18 subdivision 1a.

125.19 (c) An out-of-home placement plan summary shall be prepared within 30 days after any
125.20 child is placed in foster care by court order or voluntary placement agreement between the
125.21 responsible social services agency and the child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227 or
125.22 chapter 260D. An out-of-home placement plan shall be prepared within 60 days after any

125.23 child is placed in foster care by court order or a voluntary placement agreement between
125.24 the responsible social services agency and the child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227
125.25 or chapter 260D.

125.26 ~~(e)~~ (d) The out-of-home placement plan shall be explained by the responsible social
125.27 services agency to all persons involved in the plan's implementation, including the child
125.28 who has signed the plan, and shall set forth:

125.29 (1) a description of the foster care home or facility selected, including how the
125.30 out-of-home placement plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the
125.31 least restrictive, most family-like setting available that is in close proximity to the home of
125.32 the child's parents or guardians when the case plan goal is reunification; and how the
125.33 placement is consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child according to
125.34 the factors under subdivision 2, paragraph (b);

126.1 (2) a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child
126.2 from the home;

126.3 ~~(2)~~ (3) the specific reasons for the placement of the child in foster care, and when
126.4 reunification is the plan, a description of the problems or conditions in the home of the
126.5 parent or parents that necessitated removal of the child from home and the services offered
126.6 and provided to support the changes the parent or parents must make for the child to safely
126.7 return home;

126.8 ~~(3)~~ a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child
126.9 from the home and to reunify the family including:

126.10 (i) the specific actions to be taken by the parent or parents of the child to eliminate or
126.11 correct the problems or conditions identified in clause (2), and the time period during which
126.12 the actions are to be taken; and

126.13 (ii) the reasonable efforts, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to be made to
126.14 achieve a safe and stable home for the child including social and other supportive services
126.15 to be provided or offered to the parent or parents or guardian of the child, the child, and the
126.16 residential facility during the period the child is in the residential facility;

126.17 (4) a description of any services or resources that were requested by the child or the
126.18 child's parent, guardian, foster parent, or custodian since the date of the child's placement
126.19 in the residential facility, and whether those services or resources were provided and if not,
126.20 the basis for the denial of the services or resources;

126.21 (5) the visitation plan for the parent or parents or guardian, other relatives as defined in
126.22 section 260C.007, subdivision 26b or 27, and siblings of the child if the siblings are not
126.23 placed together in foster care, and whether visitation is consistent with the best interest of
126.24 the child, during the period the child is in foster care;

- 126.25 (6) when a child cannot return to or be in the care of either parent, documentation of
126.26 steps to finalize permanency through either:
- 126.27 (i) adoption as the permanency plan for the child through reasonable efforts to place the
126.28 child for adoption pursuant to section 260C.605. At a minimum, the documentation must
126.29 include consideration of whether adoption is in the best interests of the child and
126.30 child-specific recruitment efforts such as a relative search, consideration of relatives for
126.31 adoptive placement, and the use of state, regional, and national adoption exchanges to
126.32 facilitate orderly and timely placements in and outside of the state. A copy of this
127.1 documentation shall be provided to the court in the review required under section 260C.317,
127.2 subdivision 3, paragraph (b); or
- 127.3 (7) when a child cannot return to or be in the care of either parent, documentation of
127.4 steps to finalize (ii) the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative as the
127.5 permanency plan for the child. This documentation must support the requirements of the
127.6 kinship placement agreement under section 142A.605 and must include the reasonable
127.7 efforts used to determine that it is not appropriate for the child to return home or be adopted,
127.8 and reasons why permanent placement with a relative through a Northstar kinship assistance
127.9 arrangement is in the child's best interest; how the child meets the eligibility requirements
127.10 for Northstar kinship assistance payments; agency efforts to discuss adoption with the child's
127.11 relative foster parent and reasons why the relative foster parent chose not to pursue adoption,
127.12 if applicable; and agency efforts to discuss with the child's parent or parents the permanent
127.13 transfer of permanent legal and physical custody or the reasons why these efforts were not
127.14 made;
- 127.15 ~~(8)~~ (7) efforts to ensure the child's educational stability while in foster care for a child
127.16 who attained the minimum age for compulsory school attendance under state law and is
127.17 enrolled full time in elementary or secondary school, or instructed in elementary or secondary
127.18 education at home, or instructed in an independent study elementary or secondary program,
127.19 or incapable of attending school on a full-time basis due to a medical condition that is
127.20 documented and supported by regularly updated information in the child's case plan.
127.21 Educational stability efforts include:
- 127.22 (i) efforts to ensure that the child remains in the same school in which the child was
127.23 enrolled prior to placement or upon the child's move from one placement to another, including
127.24 efforts to work with the local education authorities to ensure the child's educational stability
127.25 and attendance; or
- 127.26 (ii) if it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the same school that the child was
127.27 enrolled in prior to placement or move from one placement to another, efforts to ensure
127.28 immediate and appropriate enrollment for the child in a new school;
- 127.29 ~~(9)~~ (8) the educational records of the child including the most recent information available
127.30 regarding:
- 127.31 (i) the names and addresses of the child's educational providers;

- 127.32 (ii) the child's grade level performance;
- 127.33 (iii) the child's school record;
- 128.1 (iv) a statement about how the child's placement in foster care takes into account
- 128.2 proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; and
- 128.3 (v) any other relevant educational information;
- 128.4 ~~(10)~~ (9) the efforts by the responsible social services agency to ensure support the child's
- 128.5 well-being by ensuring the oversight and continuity of health care services for the foster
- 128.6 child and documenting their health record, including:
- 128.7 (i) the plan to schedule the child's initial health screens;
- 128.8 (ii) how the child's known medical problems and identified needs from the screens,
- 128.9 including any known communicable diseases, as defined in section 144.4172, subdivision
- 128.10 2, shall be monitored and treated while the child is in foster care;
- 128.11 (iii) how the child's medical information shall be updated and shared, including the
- 128.12 child's immunizations;
- 128.13 (iv) who is responsible to coordinate and respond to the child's health care needs,
- 128.14 including the role of the parent, the agency, and the foster parent;
- 128.15 (v) who is responsible for oversight of the child's prescription medications;
- 128.16 (vi) how physicians or other appropriate medical and nonmedical professionals shall be
- 128.17 consulted and involved in assessing the health and well-being of the child and determine
- 128.18 the appropriate medical treatment for the child; and
- 128.19 (vii) the responsibility to ensure that the child has access to medical care through either
- 128.20 medical insurance or medical assistance; and
- 128.21 ~~(11) the health records of the child including~~ (viii) information available regarding:
- 128.22 ~~(i)~~ (A) the names and addresses of the child's health care and dental care providers;
- 128.23 ~~(ii)~~ (B) a record of the child's immunizations;
- 128.24 ~~(iii)~~ (C) the child's known medical problems, including any known communicable
- 128.25 diseases as defined in section 144.4172, subdivision 2;
- 128.26 ~~(iv)~~ (D) the child's medications; and
- 128.27 ~~(v)~~ (E) any other relevant health care information such as the child's eligibility for medical
- 128.28 insurance or medical assistance;
- 128.29 ~~(12)~~ (10) an independent living plan for a child 14 years of age or older, developed in
- 128.30 consultation with the child. The child may select one member of the case planning team to
- 128.31 be designated as the child's advisor and to advocate with respect to the application of the

129.1 reasonable and prudent parenting standards in subdivision 14. The plan should include, but
129.2 not be limited to, the following objectives:

129.3 (i) educational, vocational, or employment planning;

129.4 (ii) health care planning and medical coverage;

129.5 (iii) transportation including, where appropriate, assisting the child in obtaining a driver's
129.6 license;

129.7 (iv) money management, including the responsibility of the responsible social services
129.8 agency to ensure that the child annually receives, at no cost to the child, a consumer report
129.9 as defined under section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies
129.10 in the report;

129.11 (v) planning for housing;

129.12 (vi) social and recreational skills;

129.13 (vii) establishing and maintaining connections with the child's family and community;
129.14 and

129.15 (viii) regular opportunities to engage in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate
129.16 activities typical for the child's age group, taking into consideration the capacities of the
129.17 individual child;

129.18 ~~(13)~~ (11) for a child in voluntary foster care for treatment under chapter 260D, diagnostic
129.19 and assessment information, specific services relating to meeting the mental health care
129.20 needs of the child, and treatment outcomes;

129.21 ~~(14)~~ (12) for a child 14 years of age or older, a signed acknowledgment that describes
129.22 the child's rights regarding education, health care, visitation, safety and protection from
129.23 exploitation, and court participation; receipt of the documents identified in section 260C.452;
129.24 and receipt of an annual credit report. The acknowledgment shall state that the rights were
129.25 explained in an age-appropriate manner to the child; and

129.26 ~~(15)~~ (13) for a child placed in a qualified residential treatment program, the plan must
129.27 include the requirements in section 260C.708.

129.28 ~~(d)~~ (c) The parent or parents or guardian and the child each shall have the right to legal
129.29 counsel in the preparation of the case plan and shall be informed of the right at the time of
129.30 placement of the child. The child shall also have the right to a guardian ad litem. If unable
129.31 to employ counsel from their own resources, the court shall appoint counsel upon the request
129.32 of the parent or parents or the child or the child's legal guardian. The parent or parents may
130.1 also receive assistance from any person or social services agency in preparation of the case
130.2 plan.

130.3 ~~(e) Before an out-of-home placement plan is signed by the parent or parents or guardian~~
130.4 ~~of the child, the responsible social services agency must provide the parent or parents or~~

130.5 guardian with a one- to two-page summary of the plan using a form developed by the
130.6 commissioner. The out-of-home placement plan summary must clearly summarize the plan's
130.7 contents under paragraph (c) and list the requirements and responsibilities for the parent or
130.8 parents or guardian using plain language. The summary must be updated and provided to
130.9 the parent or parents or guardian when the out-of-home placement plan is updated under
130.10 subdivision 1a.

130.11 (f) After the plan has been agreed upon by the parties involved or approved or ordered
130.12 by the court, the foster parents shall be fully informed of the provisions of the case plan and
130.13 shall be provided a copy of the plan.

130.14 (g) Upon the child's discharge from foster care, the responsible social services agency
130.15 must provide the child's parent, adoptive parent, or permanent legal and physical custodian,
130.16 and the child, if the child is 14 years of age or older, with a current copy of the child's health
130.17 and education record. If a child meets the conditions in subdivision 15, paragraph (b), the
130.18 agency must also provide the child with the child's social and medical history. The responsible
130.19 social services agency may give a copy of the child's health and education record and social
130.20 and medical history to a child who is younger than 14 years of age, if it is appropriate and
130.21 if subdivision 15, paragraph (b), applies.

130.22 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.212, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

130.23 Subd. 1a. **Out-of-home placement plan update.** (a) Within 30 days of placing the child
130.24 in foster care, the agency must complete the child's out-of-home placement plan summary
130.25 and file it with the court. Within 60 days of placing the child in foster care, the agency must
130.26 file the child's initial out-of-home placement plan with the court. After filing the child's
130.27 initial out-of-home placement plan, the agency shall update and file the child's out-of-home
130.28 placement plan with the court as follows:

130.29 (1) when the agency moves a child to a different foster care setting, the agency shall
130.30 inform the court within 30 days of the child's placement change or court-ordered trial home
130.31 visit. The agency must file the child's updated out-of-home placement plan summary and
130.32 out-of-home placement plan with the court at the next required review hearing;

131.1 (2) when the agency places a child in a qualified residential treatment program as defined
131.2 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, or moves a child from one qualified residential
131.3 treatment program to a different qualified residential treatment program, the agency must
131.4 update the child's out-of-home placement plan within 60 days. To meet the requirements
131.5 of section 260C.708, the agency must file the child's out-of-home placement plan along
131.6 with the agency's report seeking the court's approval of the child's placement at a qualified
131.7 residential treatment program under section 260C.71. After the court issues an order, the
131.8 agency must update the child's out-of-home placement plan to document the court's approval
131.9 or disapproval of the child's placement in a qualified residential treatment program;

131.10 (3) when the agency places a child with the child's parent in a licensed residential
131.11 family-based substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190, the agency

131.12 must identify the treatment program where the child will be placed in the child's out-of-home
131.13 placement plan prior to the child's placement. The agency must file the child's out-of-home
131.14 placement plan summary and out-of-home placement plan with the court at the next required
131.15 review hearing; and

131.16 (4) under sections 260C.227 and 260C.521, the agency must update the child's
131.17 out-of-home placement plan summary and out-of-home placement plan and file the child's
131.18 out-of-home placement plan with the court.

131.19 (b) When none of the items in paragraph (a) apply, the agency must update the child's
131.20 out-of-home placement plan summary and out-of-home placement plan no later than 180
131.21 days after the child's initial placement and every six months thereafter, consistent with
131.22 section 260C.203, paragraph (a).

131.23 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.221, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

131.24 Subd. 2. **Relative notice requirements.** (a) The agency may provide oral or written
131.25 notice to a child's relatives. In the child's case record, the agency must document providing
131.26 the required notice to each of the child's relatives. The responsible social services agency
131.27 must notify relatives:

131.28 (1) of the need for a foster home for the child, the option to become a placement resource
131.29 for the child, the order of placement that the agency will consider under section 260C.212,
131.30 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), and the possibility of the need for a permanent placement for
131.31 the child;

131.32 (2) of their responsibility to keep the responsible social services agency and the court
131.33 informed of their current address in order to receive notice in the event that a permanent
132.1 placement is sought for the child and to receive notice of the permanency progress review
132.2 hearing under section 260C.204. A relative who fails to provide a current address to the
132.3 responsible social services agency and the court forfeits the right to receive notice of the
132.4 possibility of permanent placement and of the permanency progress review hearing under
132.5 section 260C.204, until the relative provides a current address to the responsible social
132.6 services agency and the court. A decision by a relative not to be identified as a potential
132.7 permanent placement resource or participate in planning for the child shall not affect whether
132.8 the relative is considered for placement of, or as a permanency resource for, the child with
132.9 that relative at any time in the case, and shall not be the sole basis for the court to rule out
132.10 the relative as the child's placement or permanency resource;

132.11 (3) that the relative may participate in the care and planning for the child, as specified
132.12 in subdivision 3, including that the opportunity for such participation may be lost by failing
132.13 to respond to the notice sent under this subdivision;

132.14 (4) of the family foster care licensing and adoption home study requirements and supports,
132.15 including how to complete an application and how to request a variance from licensing
132.16 standards that do not present a safety or health risk to the child in the home under section

486.3 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.221, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

486.4 Subd. 2. **Relative notice requirements.** (a) The agency may provide oral or written
486.5 notice to a child's relatives. In the child's case record, the agency must document providing
486.6 the required notice to each of the child's relatives. The responsible social services agency
486.7 must notify relatives:

486.8 (1) of the need for a foster home for the child, the option to become a placement resource
486.9 for the child, the order of placement that the agency will consider under section 260C.212,
486.10 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), and the possibility of the need for a permanent placement for
486.11 the child;

486.12 (2) of their responsibility to keep the responsible social services agency and the court
486.13 informed of their current address in order to receive notice in the event that a permanent
486.14 placement is sought for the child and to receive notice of the permanency progress review
486.15 hearing under section 260C.204. A relative who fails to provide a current address to the
486.16 responsible social services agency and the court forfeits the right to receive notice of the
486.17 possibility of permanent placement and of the permanency progress review hearing under
486.18 section 260C.204, until the relative provides a current address to the responsible social
486.19 services agency and the court. A decision by a relative not to be identified as a potential
486.20 permanent placement resource or participate in planning for the child shall not affect whether
486.21 the relative is considered for placement of, or as a permanency resource for, the child with
486.22 that relative at any time in the case, and shall not be the sole basis for the court to rule out
486.23 the relative as the child's placement or permanency resource;

486.24 (3) that the relative may participate in the care and planning for the child, as specified
486.25 in subdivision 3, including that the opportunity for such participation may be lost by failing
486.26 to respond to the notice sent under this subdivision;

486.27 (4) of the family foster care licensing and adoption home study requirements, including;

132.17 ~~142B.10 and supports that are available for relatives and children who reside in a family~~
132.18 ~~foster home;~~

132.19 (i) the choice between county or private agency licensing and services under section
132.20 142B.05, subdivision 3;

132.21 (ii) how to complete an application;

132.22 (iii) how to request a variance from licensing standards that do not present a safety or
132.23 health risk to the child in the home under section 142B.10; and

132.24 (iv) supports that are available for relatives and children who reside in a family foster
132.25 home, including but not limited to ways to include resource or substitute caregivers in the
132.26 child's case plan, strategies for leveraging the child and family's natural supports, and how
132.27 to access legal services and support and respite care;

132.28 (5) of the relatives' right to ask to be notified of any court proceedings regarding the
132.29 child, to attend the hearings, and of a relative's right to be heard by the court as required
132.30 under section 260C.152, subdivision 5;

132.31 (6) that regardless of the relative's response to the notice sent under this subdivision, the
132.32 agency is required to establish permanency for a child, including planning for alternative
132.33 permanency options if the agency's reunification efforts fail or are not required; and

133.1 (7) that by responding to the notice, a relative may receive information about participating
133.2 in a child's family and permanency team if the child is placed in a qualified residential
133.3 treatment program as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d;

133.4 (b) The responsible social services agency shall send the notice required under paragraph
133.5 (a) to relatives who become known to the responsible social services agency, except for
133.6 relatives that the agency does not contact due to safety reasons under subdivision 5, paragraph
133.7 (b). The responsible social services agency shall continue to send notice to relatives
133.8 notwithstanding a court's finding that the agency has made reasonable efforts to conduct a
133.9 relative search.

133.10 (c) The responsible social services agency is not required to send the notice under
133.11 paragraph (a) to a relative who becomes known to the agency after an adoption placement
133.12 agreement has been fully executed under section 260C.613, subdivision 1. If the relative
133.13 wishes to be considered for adoptive placement of the child, the agency shall inform the
133.14 relative of the relative's ability to file a motion for an order for adoptive placement under
133.15 section 260C.607, subdivision 6.

133.16 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

487.3 (iv) the relative's choice between county or private agency and services provided by that
487.4 agency under section 142B.30, depending on funding available;

486.28 (i) how to complete an application and;

486.29 (ii) how to request a variance from licensing standards that do not present a safety or
486.30 health risk to the child in the home under section 142B.10 and;

486.31 (iii) supports that are available for relatives and children who reside in a family foster
486.32 home, including how to access respite care, strategies for leveraging natural supports for
487.1 the child and family, and ways to include resource or substitute caregivers in the child's
487.2 case plan; and

487.5 (5) of the relatives' right to ask to be notified of any court proceedings regarding the
487.6 child, to attend the hearings, and of a relative's right to be heard by the court as required
487.7 under section 260C.152, subdivision 5;

487.8 (6) that regardless of the relative's response to the notice sent under this subdivision, the
487.9 agency is required to establish permanency for a child, including planning for alternative
487.10 permanency options if the agency's reunification efforts fail or are not required; and

487.11 (7) that by responding to the notice, a relative may receive information about participating
487.12 in a child's family and permanency team if the child is placed in a qualified residential
487.13 treatment program as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d; and

487.14 (8) information advising a relative on access to legal services and support.

487.15 (b) The responsible social services agency shall send the notice required under paragraph
487.16 (a) to relatives who become known to the responsible social services agency, except for
487.17 relatives that the agency does not contact due to safety reasons under subdivision 5, paragraph
487.18 (b). The responsible social services agency shall continue to send notice to relatives
487.19 notwithstanding a court's finding that the agency has made reasonable efforts to conduct a
487.20 relative search.

487.21 (c) The responsible social services agency is not required to send the notice under
487.22 paragraph (a) to a relative who becomes known to the agency after an adoption placement
487.23 agreement has been fully executed under section 260C.613, subdivision 1. If the relative
487.24 wishes to be considered for adoptive placement of the child, the agency shall inform the
487.25 relative of the relative's ability to file a motion for an order for adoptive placement under
487.26 section 260C.607, subdivision 6.

487.27 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

133.17 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.223, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

133.18 Subdivision 1. **Program; goals.** (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families

133.19 shall establish a program for concurrent permanency planning for child protection services.

133.20 (b) Concurrent permanency planning involves a planning process for children who are

133.21 placed out of the home of their parents pursuant to a court order, or who have been voluntarily

133.22 placed out of the home by the parents for 60 days or more and who are not developmentally

133.23 disabled or emotionally disabled under section 260C.212, subdivision 9. The responsible

133.24 social services agency shall develop an alternative permanency plan while making reasonable

133.25 efforts for reunification of the child with the family, if required by section 260.012. The

133.26 goals of concurrent permanency planning are to:

133.27 (1) achieve early permanency for children;

133.28 (2) decrease children's length of stay in foster care and reduce the number of moves

133.29 children experience in foster care; and

133.30 (3) ~~develop a group of families~~ establish a foster parent for a child who will work ~~towards~~

133.31 ~~toward~~ reunification and also serve as a permanent ~~families~~ family for children.

134.1 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.223, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

134.2 Subd. 2. **Development of guidelines and protocols.** (a) The commissioner shall establish

134.3 guidelines and protocols for social services agencies involved in concurrent permanency

134.4 planning, including criteria for conducting concurrent permanency planning based on relevant

134.5 factors such as:

134.6 (1) age of the child and duration of out-of-home placement;

134.7 (2) prognosis for successful reunification with parents;

134.8 (3) availability of relatives and other concerned individuals to provide support or a

134.9 permanent placement for the child; and

134.10 (4) special needs of the child and other factors affecting the child's best interests.

134.11 (b) In developing the guidelines and protocols, the commissioner shall consult with

134.12 interest groups within the child protection system, including child protection workers, child

134.13 protection advocates, county attorneys, law enforcement, community service organizations,

134.14 the councils of color, and the ombudsperson for families.

134.15 (c) The responsible social services agency must not make a foster family the permanent

134.16 home for a child until:

134.17 (1) inquiry and Tribal notice requirements under section 260.761, subdivisions 1 and 2,

134.18 are satisfied;

487.28 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.223, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

487.29 Subdivision 1. **Program; goals.** (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families

487.30 shall establish a program for concurrent permanency planning for child protection services.

487.31 (b) Concurrent permanency planning involves a planning process for children who are

487.32 placed out of the home of their parents pursuant to a court order, or who have been voluntarily

488.1 placed out of the home by the parents for 60 days or more and who are not developmentally

488.2 disabled or emotionally disabled under section 260C.212, subdivision 9. The responsible

488.3 social services agency shall develop an alternative permanency plan while making reasonable

488.4 efforts for reunification of the child with the family, if required by section 260.012. The

488.5 goals of concurrent permanency planning are to:

488.6 (1) achieve early permanency for children;

488.7 (2) decrease children's length of stay in foster care and reduce the number of moves

488.8 children experience in foster care; and

488.9 (3) ~~develop a group of families~~ establish a foster parent for a child who will work ~~towards~~

488.10 reunification and also serve as a permanent ~~families~~ family for children.

488.11 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.223, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

488.12 Subd. 2. **Development of guidelines and protocols.** (a) The commissioner shall establish

488.13 guidelines and protocols for social services agencies involved in concurrent permanency

488.14 planning, including criteria for conducting concurrent permanency planning based on relevant

488.15 factors such as:

488.16 (1) age of the child and duration of out-of-home placement;

488.17 (2) prognosis for successful reunification with parents;

488.18 (3) availability of relatives and other concerned individuals to provide support or a

488.19 permanent placement for the child; and

488.20 (4) special needs of the child and other factors affecting the child's best interests.

488.21 (b) In developing the guidelines and protocols, the commissioner shall consult with

488.22 interest groups within the child protection system, including child protection workers, child

488.23 protection advocates, county attorneys, law enforcement, community service organizations,

488.24 the councils of color, and the ombudsperson for families.

488.25 (c) The responsible social services agency must not make a foster family the permanent

488.26 home for a child until:

488.27 (1) inquiry and Tribal notice requirements under section 260.761, subdivisions 1 and 2,

488.28 are satisfied;

134.19 (2) inquiry about the child's heritage, including their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant
134.20 to section 260.63, subdivision 10, has been completed; and

134.21 (3) the court has determined that reasonable or active efforts toward completing the
134.22 relative search requirements in section 260C.221 have been made.

134.23 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.329, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

134.24 Subd. 3. **Petition.** (a) The following individuals may file a petition for the reestablishment
134.25 of the legal parent and child relationship:

134.26 (1) county attorney;

134.27 (2) a parent whose parental rights were terminated under a previous order of the court;

134.28 (3) a parent whose voluntary consent to adoption was accepted by the court and;

134.29 (i) the identified prospective adoptive parent did not finalize the adoption; or

135.1 (ii) the adoption finalized but subsequently dissolved and the child returned to foster
135.2 care and guardianship of the commissioner;

135.3 (4) a child who is ten years of age or older;

135.4 (5) the responsible social services agency; or

135.5 (6) a guardian ad litem may file a petition for the reestablishment of the legal parent and
135.6 child relationship.

135.7 (b) A parent filing a petition under this section shall pay a filing fee in the amount
135.8 required under section 357.021, subdivision 2, clause (1). The filing fee may be waived
135.9 pursuant to chapter 563. A petition for the reestablishment of the legal parent and child
135.10 relationship may be filed when:

135.11 (1) the parent has corrected the conditions that led to an order terminating parental rights;

135.12 (2) the parent is willing and has the capability to provide day-to-day care and maintain
135.13 the health, safety, and welfare of the child;

135.14 (3) the child has been in foster care for at least 24 months after the court issued the order
135.15 terminating parental rights;

135.16 (4) the child ~~has~~ is not ~~been~~ currently adopted; and

135.17 (5) the child is not the subject of a written adoption placement agreement between the
135.18 responsible social services agency and the prospective adoptive parent, as required under
135.19 Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0060, subpart 2.

488.29 (2) inquiry about the child's heritage, including the child's race, culture, and ethnicity
488.30 pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, has been completed; and

489.1 (3) the court has determined that reasonable or active efforts toward completing the
489.2 relative search requirements in section 260C.221 have been made.

135.20 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.329, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

135.21 Subd. 8. **Hearing.** The court may grant the petition ordering the reestablishment of the

135.22 legal parent and child relationship only if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that:

135.23 (1) reestablishment of the legal parent and child relationship is in the child's best interests;

135.24 (2) the child ~~has~~ is not ~~been~~ currently adopted;

135.25 (3) the child is not the subject of a written adoption placement agreement between the

135.26 responsible social services agency and the prospective adoptive parent, as required under

135.27 Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0060, subpart 2;

135.28 (4) at least 24 months have elapsed following a final order terminating parental rights

135.29 and the child remains in foster care;

135.30 (5) the child desires to reside with the parent;

136.1 (6) the parent has corrected the conditions that led to an order terminating parental rights;

136.2 and

136.3 (7) the parent is willing and has the capability to provide day-to-day care and maintain

136.4 the health, safety, and welfare of the child.

489.3 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.331, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

489.4 Subdivision 1. **Care, examination, or treatment.** (a) Except where parental rights are

489.5 terminated, the following costs are a charge upon the welfare funds of the county in which

489.6 proceedings are held upon certification of the judge of juvenile court:

489.7 (1) whenever legal custody of a child is transferred by the court to a responsible social

489.8 services agency;

489.9 (2) whenever legal custody is transferred to a person other than the responsible social

489.10 services agency, but under the supervision of the responsible social services agency; or

489.11 (3) whenever a child is given physical or mental examinations or treatment under order

489.12 of the court, and no provision is otherwise made by law for payment for the care,

489.13 examination, or treatment of the child, ~~these costs are a charge upon the welfare funds of~~

489.14 ~~the county in which proceedings are held upon certification of the judge of juvenile court.~~

489.15 (b) The court may order, and the responsible social services agency may require, the

489.16 parents or custodian of a child, while the child is under the age of 18, to use income and

489.17 resources attributable to the child for the period of care, examination, or treatment, except

489.18 for clothing and personal needs allowance as provided in section 256B.35, to reimburse the

489.19 county for the cost of care, examination, or treatment. Income and resources attributable to

489.20 the child include, but are not limited to, Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security

489.21 Income (SSI), veterans benefits, railroad retirement benefits, and child support for the child.

489.22 When the child is over the age of 18, and continues to receive care, examination, or treatment,
489.23 the court may order, and the responsible social services agency may require, reimbursement
489.24 from the child for the cost of care, examination, or treatment from the income and resources
489.25 attributable to the child less the clothing and personal needs allowance. Income does not
489.26 include earnings from a child over the age of 18 who is working as part of a plan under
489.27 section 260C.212, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (12), to transition from foster care,
489.28 or the income and resources that are needed to complete the requirements listed in section
489.29 260C.203. The responsible social services agency shall determine whether requiring
489.30 reimbursement, either through child support or parental fees, for the cost of care, examination,
489.31 or treatment from the parents or custodian of a child is in the child's best interests. In
489.32 determining whether to require reimbursement, the responsible social services agency shall
489.33 consider:

490.1 (1) whether requiring reimbursement would compromise the parent's ability to meet the
490.2 requirements of the reunification plan;

490.3 (2) whether requiring reimbursement would compromise the parent's ability to meet the
490.4 child's needs after reunification; and

490.5 (3) whether redirecting existing child support payments or changing the representative
490.6 payee of ~~social security~~ federal benefits to the responsible social services agency would
490.7 limit the parent's ability to maintain financial stability for the child.

490.8 (c) If the income and resources attributable to the child are not enough to reimburse the
490.9 county for the full cost of the care, examination, or treatment, the court may inquire into
490.10 the ability of the parents to reimburse the county for the cost of care, examination, or
490.11 treatment and, after giving the parents a reasonable opportunity to be heard, the court may
490.12 order, and the responsible social services agency may require, the parents to contribute to
490.13 the cost of care, examination, or treatment of the child. When determining the amount to
490.14 be contributed by the parents, the court shall use a fee schedule based upon ability to pay
490.15 that is established by the responsible social services agency and approved by the
490.16 commissioner of children, youth, and families. The income of a stepparent who has not
490.17 adopted a child shall be excluded in calculating the parental contribution under this section.
490.18 In determining whether to require reimbursement, the responsible social services agency
490.19 shall consider:

490.20 (1) whether requiring reimbursement would compromise the parent's ability to meet the
490.21 requirements of the reunification plan;

490.22 (2) whether requiring reimbursement would compromise the parent's ability to meet the
490.23 child's needs after reunification; and

490.24 (3) whether requiring reimbursement would compromise the parent's ability to meet the
490.25 needs of the family.

490.26 (d) If the responsible social services agency determines that reimbursement is in the
490.27 child's best interests, the court shall order the amount of reimbursement attributable to the

136.5 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.451, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

136.6 Subd. 9. **Administrative or court review of placements.** (a) The court ~~shall~~ must

136.7 conduct reviews at least annually to ensure the responsible social services agency is making

136.8 reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan for the child.

136.9 (b) The responsible social services agency must file a written report with the court

136.10 containing or attaching the following:

136.11 (1) the child's name, date of birth, race, gender, and current address;

136.12 (2) a written summary describing planning with the child, including supports and services

136.13 to ensure the child's safety, housing stability, well-being needs, and independent living

136.14 skills;

136.15 (3) the child's most recent out-of-home placement plan and independent living plan

136.16 required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1;

490.28 parents or custodian, or attributable to the child, or attributable to both sources, withheld

490.29 under chapter 518A from the income of the parents or the custodian of the child. A parent

490.30 or custodian who fails to pay without good reason may be proceeded against for contempt,

490.31 or the court may inform the county attorney, who shall proceed to collect the unpaid sums,

490.32 or both procedures may be used.

491.1 (e) If the court orders a physical or mental examination for a child, the examination is

491.2 a medically necessary service for purposes of determining whether the service is covered

491.3 by a health insurance policy, health maintenance contract, or other health coverage plan.

491.4 Court-ordered treatment shall be subject to policy, contract, or plan requirements for medical

491.5 necessity. Nothing in this paragraph changes or eliminates benefit limits, conditions of

491.6 coverage, co-payments or deductibles, provider restrictions, or other requirements in the

491.7 policy, contract, or plan that relate to coverage of other medically necessary services.

491.8 (f) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), (c), or (d), a parent, custodian, or guardian of the

491.9 child is not required to use income and resources attributable to the child to reimburse the

491.10 county for costs of care and is not required to contribute to the cost of care of the child

491.11 during any period of time when the child is returned to the home of that parent, custodian,

491.12 or guardian pursuant to a trial home visit under section 260C.201, subdivision 1, paragraph

491.13 (a).

491.14 (g) The responsible social services agency may only apply to be the representative payee

491.15 for the child's federal benefits under paragraph (b) when the court has ordered the agency

491.16 to develop a plan for the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of the child to a

491.17 relative or to file a termination of parental rights petition under section 260C.204, paragraph

491.18 (e), clause (2) or (3); ordered the child permanently placed away from the parent under

491.19 sections 260C.503 to 260C.521; or approved the continued voluntary foster care placement

491.20 for the child under section 260D.07.

136.17 (4) if the child's plan is to not continue in extended foster care or if the child will reach
136.18 age 21 before the next review, a copy of their 180-day transition plan as required in section
136.19 260C.452, subdivision 4; and

136.20 (5) if the agency plans to transition the child into adult services, a summary of the
136.21 transition plan as required in section 260C.452, subdivision 4, and how this plan is in the
136.22 child's best interest.

136.23 ~~(b)~~ (c) The court ~~shall~~ must find that the responsible social services agency is making
136.24 reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan for the child when the responsible social
136.25 services agency:

136.26 (1) provides appropriate support to the child and caregiver or foster care provider parent
136.27 to ensure continuing stability and success in placement;

136.28 (2) works with the child to plan for transition to adulthood and assists the child in
136.29 demonstrating progress in achieving related goals;

136.30 (3) works with the child to plan for independent living skills and assists the child in
136.31 demonstrating progress in achieving independent living goals; and

137.1 (4) prepares the child for independence according to sections 260C.203, paragraph (d),
137.2 and 260C.452, subdivision 4.

137.3 ~~(e)~~ (d) The responsible social services agency must ensure that an administrative review
137.4 that meets the requirements of this section and section 260C.203 is completed at least six
137.5 months after each of the court's annual reviews.

137.6 Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.452, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

137.7 Subd. 4. **Administrative or court review of placements.** (a) When the youth is 14 years
137.8 of age or older, the court, in consultation with the youth, shall review the youth's independent
137.9 living plan according to section 260C.203, paragraph (d).

137.10 (b) The responsible social services agency shall file a copy of the notification of foster
137.11 care benefits for a youth who is 18 years of age or older according to section 260C.451,
137.12 subdivision 1, with the court. If the responsible social services agency does not file the
137.13 notice by the time the youth is 17-1/2 years of age, the court shall require the responsible
137.14 social services agency to file the notice.

137.15 (c) When a youth is 18 years of age or older, the court shall ensure that the responsible
137.16 social services agency assists the youth in obtaining the following documents before the
137.17 youth leaves foster care: a Social Security card; an official or certified copy of the youth's
137.18 birth certificate; a state identification card or driver's license, Tribal enrollment identification
137.19 card, green permanent resident card, or school visa; health insurance information; the youth's
137.20 school, medical, and dental records; a contact list of the youth's medical, dental, and mental
137.21 health providers; and contact information for the youth's siblings, if the siblings are in foster
137.22 care.

491.21 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.452, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

491.22 Subd. 4. **Administrative or court review of placements.** (a) When the youth is 14 years
491.23 of age or older, the court, in consultation with the youth, shall review the youth's independent
491.24 living plan according to section 260C.203, paragraph (d).

491.25 (b) The responsible social services agency shall file a copy of the notification of foster
491.26 care benefits for a youth who is 18 years of age or older according to section 260C.451,
491.27 subdivision 1, with the court. If the responsible social services agency does not file the
491.28 notice by the time the youth is 17-1/2 years of age, the court shall require the responsible
491.29 social services agency to file the notice.

491.30 (c) When a youth is 18 years of age or older, the court shall ensure that the responsible
491.31 social services agency assists the youth in obtaining the following documents before the
491.32 youth leaves foster care: a Social Security card; an official or certified copy of the youth's
491.33 birth certificate; a state identification card or driver's license, Tribal enrollment identification
491.34 card, green permanent resident card, or school visa; health insurance information; the youth's
492.1 school, medical, and dental records; a contact list of the youth's medical, dental, and mental
492.2 health providers; and contact information for the youth's siblings, if the siblings are in foster
492.3 care.

137.23 (d) For a youth who will be discharged from foster care at 18 years of age or older
137.24 because the youth is not eligible for extended foster care benefits or chooses to leave foster
137.25 care, the responsible social services agency must develop a personalized transition plan as
137.26 directed by the youth during the 180-day period immediately prior to the expected date of
137.27 discharge. The transition plan must be as detailed as the youth elects and include specific
137.28 options, including but not limited to:

137.29 (1) affordable housing with necessary supports that does not include a homeless shelter;

137.30 (2) health insurance, including eligibility for medical assistance as defined in section
137.31 256B.055, subdivision 17;

137.32 (3) education, including application to the Education and Training Voucher Program;

138.1 (4) local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services;

138.2 (5) workforce supports and employment services;

138.3 (6) a copy of the youth's consumer credit report as defined in section 13C.001 and
138.4 assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report, at no cost to the youth;

138.5 (7) information on executing a health care directive under chapter 145C and on the
138.6 importance of designating another individual to make health care decisions on behalf of the
138.7 youth if the youth becomes unable to participate in decisions;

138.8 (8) appropriate contact information through 21 years of age if the youth needs information
138.9 or help dealing with a crisis situation; and

138.10 (9) official documentation that the youth was previously in foster care.

138.11 Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.03, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

138.12 Subd. 15. **Neglect.** (a) "Neglect" means the commission or omission of any of the acts
138.13 specified under clauses (1) to (8), other than by accidental means:

138.14 (1) failure by a person responsible for a child's care to supply a child with necessary
138.15 food, clothing, shelter, health, medical, or other care required for the child's physical or
138.16 mental health when reasonably able to do so;

138.17 (2) failure to protect a child from conditions or actions that seriously endanger the child's
138.18 physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so, including a growth delay, which
138.19 may be referred to as a failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due
138.20 to parental neglect;

138.21 (3) failure to provide for necessary supervision or child care arrangements appropriate
138.22 for a child after considering factors as the child's age, mental ability, physical condition,
138.23 length of absence, or environment, when the child is unable to care for the child's own basic
138.24 needs or safety, or the basic needs or safety of another child in their care;

492.4 (d) For a youth who will be discharged from foster care at 18 years of age or older
492.5 because the youth is not eligible for extended foster care benefits or chooses to leave foster
492.6 care, the responsible social services agency must develop a personalized transition plan as
492.7 directed by the youth during the 180-day period immediately prior to the expected date of
492.8 discharge. The transition plan must be as detailed as the youth elects and include specific
492.9 options, including but not limited to:

492.10 (1) affordable housing with necessary supports that does not include a homeless shelter;

492.11 (2) health insurance, including eligibility for medical assistance as defined in section
492.12 256B.055, subdivision 17;

492.13 (3) education, including application to the Education and Training Voucher Program;

492.14 (4) local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services;

492.15 (5) workforce supports and employment services;

492.16 (6) a copy of the youth's consumer credit report as defined in section 13C.001 and
492.17 assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report, at no cost to the youth;

492.18 (7) information on executing a health care directive under chapter 145C and on the
492.19 importance of designating another individual to make health care decisions on behalf of the
492.20 youth if the youth becomes unable to participate in decisions;

492.21 (8) appropriate contact information through 21 years of age if the youth needs information
492.22 or help dealing with a crisis situation; and

492.23 (9) official documentation that the youth was previously in foster care.

492.24 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.03, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

492.25 Subd. 15. **Neglect.** (a) "Neglect" means the commission or omission of any of the acts
492.26 specified under clauses (1) to (8), other than by accidental means:

492.27 (1) failure by a person responsible for a child's care to supply a child with necessary
492.28 food, clothing, shelter, health, medical, or other care required for the child's physical or
492.29 mental health when reasonably able to do so;

492.30 (2) failure to protect a child from conditions or actions that seriously endanger the child's
492.31 physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so, including a growth delay, which
493.1 may be referred to as a failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due
493.2 to parental neglect;

493.3 (3) failure to provide for necessary supervision or child care arrangements appropriate
493.4 for a child after considering factors as the child's age, mental ability, physical condition,
493.5 length of absence, or environment, when the child is unable to care for the child's own basic
493.6 needs or safety, or the basic needs or safety of another child in their care;

138.25 (4) failure to ensure that the child is educated as defined in sections 120A.22 and
138.26 260C.163, subdivision 11, which does not include a parent's refusal to provide the parent's
138.27 child with sympathomimetic medications, consistent with section 125A.091, subdivision
138.28 5;

138.29 (5) prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in section 253B.02, subdivision
138.30 2, used by the mother for a nonmedical purpose, as evidenced by withdrawal symptoms in
138.31 the child at birth, results of a toxicology test performed on the mother at delivery or the
138.32 child at birth, medical effects or developmental delays during the child's first year of life
139.1 that medically indicate prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, or the presence of a
139.2 fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;

139.3 (6) medical neglect, as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (5);

139.4 (7) chronic and severe use of alcohol or a controlled substance by a person responsible
139.5 for the child's care that adversely affects the child's basic needs and safety; or

139.6 (8) emotional harm from a pattern of behavior that contributes to impaired emotional
139.7 functioning of the child which may be demonstrated by a substantial and observable effect
139.8 in the child's behavior, emotional response, or cognition that is not within the normal range
139.9 for the child's age and stage of development, with due regard to the child's culture.

139.10 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean that a child is neglected solely
139.11 because the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care in good
139.12 faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or
139.13 remedial care of the child in lieu of medical care.

139.14 (c) This chapter does not impose upon persons not otherwise legally responsible for
139.15 providing a child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care a duty
139.16 to provide that care.

139.17 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean that a child who has a mental,
139.18 physical, or emotional condition is neglected solely because the child remains in an
139.19 emergency department or hospital setting because services, including residential treatment,
139.20 that are deemed necessary by the child's medical or mental health care professional or county
139.21 case manager are not available to the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible
139.22 for the child's care, and the child cannot be safely discharged to the child's family.

139.23 Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.09, is amended to read:

139.24 **260E.09 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

139.25 (a) An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. An oral report
139.26 made by a person required under section 260E.06, subdivision 1, to report shall be followed
139.27 within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, by a report in writing to the appropriate
139.28 police department, the county sheriff, the agency responsible for assessing or investigating
139.29 the report, or the local welfare agency.

493.7 (4) failure to ensure that the child is educated as defined in sections 120A.22 and
493.8 260C.163, subdivision 11, which does not include a parent's refusal to provide the parent's
493.9 child with sympathomimetic medications, consistent with section 125A.091, subdivision
493.10 5;

493.11 (5) prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in section 253B.02, subdivision
493.12 2, used by the mother for a nonmedical purpose, as evidenced by withdrawal symptoms in
493.13 the child at birth, results of a toxicology test performed on the mother at delivery or the
493.14 child at birth, medical effects or developmental delays during the child's first year of life
493.15 that medically indicate prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, or the presence of a
493.16 fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;

493.17 (6) medical neglect, as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (5);

493.18 (7) chronic and severe use of alcohol or a controlled substance by a person responsible
493.19 for the child's care that adversely affects the child's basic needs and safety; or

493.20 (8) emotional harm from a pattern of behavior that contributes to impaired emotional
493.21 functioning of the child which may be demonstrated by a substantial and observable effect
493.22 in the child's behavior, emotional response, or cognition that is not within the normal range
493.23 for the child's age and stage of development, with due regard to the child's culture.

493.24 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean that a child is neglected solely
493.25 because the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care in good
493.26 faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or
493.27 remedial care of the child in lieu of medical care.

493.28 (c) This chapter does not impose upon persons not otherwise legally responsible for
493.29 providing a child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care a duty
493.30 to provide that care.

493.31 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean that a child who has a mental,
493.32 physical, or emotional condition is neglected solely because the child remains in an
493.33 emergency department or hospital setting because services, including residential treatment,
494.1 that are deemed necessary by the child's medical or mental health care professional or county
494.2 case manager are not available to the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible
494.3 for the child's care, and the child cannot be safely discharged to the child's family.

494.4 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.09, is amended to read:

494.5 **260E.09 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

494.6 (a) An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. An oral report
494.7 made by a person required under section 260E.06, subdivision 1, to report shall be followed
494.8 within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, by a report in writing to the appropriate
494.9 police department, the county sheriff, the agency responsible for assessing or investigating
494.10 the report, or the local welfare agency.

139.30 (b) Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed
139.31 to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and
139.32 extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter. The local welfare
140.1 agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall accept a report
140.2 made under section 260E.06 notwithstanding refusal by a reporter to provide the reporter's
140.3 name or address as long as the report is otherwise sufficient under this paragraph. The local
140.4 welfare agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall ask the
140.5 reporter if the reporter is aware of the child or family heritage, including the child's Tribal
140.6 lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section
140.7 260.63, subdivision 10.

140.8 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), upon implementation of the provider licensing and
140.9 reporting hub, an individual who has an account with the provider licensing and reporting
140.10 hub and is required to report suspected maltreatment at a licensed program under section
140.11 260E.06, subdivision 1, may submit a written report in the hub in a manner prescribed by
140.12 the commissioner and is not required to make an oral report. A report submitted through
140.13 the provider licensing and reporting hub must be made immediately.

140.14 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.14, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

140.15 Subd. 2. **Sexual abuse.** (a) The local welfare agency is the agency responsible for
140.16 investigating an allegation of sexual abuse, including if the alleged sexual abuse occurred
140.17 in another state or country but the child's residence is in Minnesota, if the alleged offender
140.18 is the parent, guardian, sibling, or an individual functioning within the family unit as a
140.19 person responsible for the child's care, or a person with a significant relationship to the child
140.20 if that person resides in the child's household.

140.21 (b) The local welfare agency is also responsible for assessing or investigating when a
140.22 child is identified as a victim of sex trafficking.

140.23 Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.14, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

140.24 Subd. 3. **Neglect, physical abuse, or labor trafficking.** (a) The local welfare agency
140.25 is responsible for immediately conducting a family assessment or investigation if the report
140.26 alleges neglect or physical abuse by a parent, guardian, or individual functioning within the
140.27 family unit as a person responsible for the child's care, including if the alleged neglect or
140.28 physical abuse occurred in another state or country but the child's residence is in Minnesota.

140.29 (b) The local welfare agency is also responsible for conducting a family assessment or
140.30 investigation when a child is identified as a victim of labor trafficking.

141.1 Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.20, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

141.2 Subdivision 1. **General duties.** (a) The local welfare agency shall offer services to
141.3 prevent future maltreatment, safeguarding and enhancing the welfare of the maltreated child,
141.4 and supporting and preserving family life whenever possible.

494.11 (b) Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed
494.12 to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and
494.13 extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter. The local welfare
494.14 agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall accept a report
494.15 made under section 260E.06 notwithstanding refusal by a reporter to provide the reporter's
494.16 name or address as long as the report is otherwise sufficient under this paragraph. The local
494.17 welfare agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall ask the
494.18 reporter if the reporter is aware of the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage
494.19 pursuant to section 260.761 and the child's race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section
494.20 260.63, subdivision 10.

494.21 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), upon implementation of the provider licensing and
494.22 reporting hub, an individual who has an account with the provider licensing and reporting
494.23 hub and is required to report suspected maltreatment at a licensed program under section
494.24 260E.06, subdivision 1, may submit a written report in the hub in a manner prescribed by
494.25 the commissioner and is not required to make an oral report. A report submitted through
494.26 the provider licensing and reporting hub must be made immediately.

494.27 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.20, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

494.28 Subdivision 1. **General duties.** (a) The local welfare agency shall offer services to
494.29 prevent future maltreatment, safeguarding and enhancing the welfare of the maltreated child,
494.30 and supporting and preserving family life whenever possible.

141.5 (b) If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving maltreatment or child
141.6 endangerment under section 609.378, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare
141.7 agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and
141.8 assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews.
141.9 Each agency shall prepare a separate report of the results of the agency's investigation or
141.10 assessment.

141.11 (c) In cases of alleged child maltreatment resulting in death, the local agency may rely
141.12 on the fact-finding efforts of a law enforcement investigation to make a determination of
141.13 whether or not maltreatment occurred.

141.14 (d) When necessary, the local welfare agency shall seek authority to remove the child
141.15 from the custody of a parent, guardian, or adult with whom the child is living.

141.16 (e) In performing any of these duties, the local welfare agency shall maintain an
141.17 appropriate record.

141.18 (f) In conducting a family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or
141.19 investigation, the local welfare agency shall gather information on the existence of substance
141.20 abuse and domestic violence.

141.21 (g) If the family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation
141.22 indicates there is a potential for abuse of alcohol or other drugs by the parent, guardian, or
141.23 person responsible for the child's care, the local welfare agency must coordinate a
141.24 comprehensive assessment pursuant to section 245G.05.

141.25 (h) The agency may use either a family assessment or investigation to determine whether
141.26 the child is safe when responding to a report resulting from birth match data under section
141.27 260E.03, subdivision 23, paragraph (c). If the child subject of birth match data is determined
141.28 to be safe, the agency shall consult with the county attorney to determine the appropriateness
141.29 of filing a petition alleging the child is in need of protection or services under section
141.30 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (16), in order to deliver needed services. If the child is
141.31 determined not to be safe, the agency and the county attorney shall take appropriate action
141.32 as required under section 260C.503, subdivision 2.

142.1 (i) When conducting any assessment or investigation, the agency shall ask the child, if
142.2 age appropriate; parents; extended family; and reporter about the child's family heritage,
142.3 including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and the child's race, culture,
142.4 and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10.

142.5 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.20, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

142.6 Subd. 3. **Collection of information.** (a) The local welfare agency responsible for
142.7 conducting a family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation
142.8 shall collect available and relevant information to determine child safety, risk of subsequent
142.9 maltreatment, and family strengths and needs and share not public information with an

494.31 (b) If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving maltreatment or child
494.32 endangerment under section 609.378, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare
495.1 agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and
495.2 assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews.
495.3 Each agency shall prepare a separate report of the results of the agency's investigation or
495.4 assessment.

495.5 (c) In cases of alleged child maltreatment resulting in death, the local agency may rely
495.6 on the fact-finding efforts of a law enforcement investigation to make a determination of
495.7 whether or not maltreatment occurred.

495.8 (d) When necessary, the local welfare agency shall seek authority to remove the child
495.9 from the custody of a parent, guardian, or adult with whom the child is living.

495.10 (e) In performing any of these duties, the local welfare agency shall maintain an
495.11 appropriate record.

495.12 (f) In conducting a family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or
495.13 investigation, the local welfare agency shall gather information on the existence of substance
495.14 abuse and domestic violence.

495.15 (g) If the family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation
495.16 indicates there is a potential for abuse of alcohol or other drugs by the parent, guardian, or
495.17 person responsible for the child's care, the local welfare agency must coordinate a
495.18 comprehensive assessment pursuant to section 245G.05.

495.19 (h) The agency may use either a family assessment or investigation to determine whether
495.20 the child is safe when responding to a report resulting from birth match data under section
495.21 260E.03, subdivision 23, paragraph (c). If the child subject of birth match data is determined
495.22 to be safe, the agency shall consult with the county attorney to determine the appropriateness
495.23 of filing a petition alleging the child is in need of protection or services under section
495.24 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (16), in order to deliver needed services. If the child is
495.25 determined not to be safe, the agency and the county attorney shall take appropriate action
495.26 as required under section 260C.503, subdivision 2.

495.27 (i) When conducting any family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment,
495.28 or investigation, the agency shall ask the child, if age appropriate; parents; extended family;
495.29 and reporter about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section
495.30 260.761 and the child's race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision
495.31 10.

142.10 Indian's Tribal social services agency without violating any law of the state that may
142.11 otherwise impose a duty of confidentiality on the local welfare agency in order to implement
142.12 the Tribal state agreement.

142.13 (b) The local welfare agency or the agency responsible for investigating the report shall
142.14 collect available and relevant information to ascertain whether maltreatment occurred and
142.15 whether protective services are needed.

142.16 (c) Information collected includes, when relevant, information regarding the person
142.17 reporting the alleged maltreatment, including the nature of the reporter's relationship to the
142.18 child and to the alleged offender, and the basis of the reporter's knowledge for the report;
142.19 the child allegedly being maltreated; the alleged offender; the child's caretaker; and other
142.20 collateral sources having relevant information related to the alleged maltreatment.

142.21 (d) Information relevant to the assessment or investigation must be requested, and may
142.22 include:

142.23 (1) the child's sex and age; prior reports of maltreatment, including any maltreatment
142.24 reports that were screened out and not accepted for assessment or investigation; information
142.25 relating to developmental functioning; credibility of the child's statement; and whether the
142.26 information provided under this clause is consistent with other information collected during
142.27 the course of the assessment or investigation;

142.28 (2) except in a noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, the alleged offender's age,
142.29 a record check for prior reports of maltreatment, and criminal charges and convictions;

142.30 (3) collateral source information regarding the alleged maltreatment and care of the
142.31 child. Collateral information includes, when relevant: (i) a medical examination of the child;
142.32 (ii) prior medical records relating to the alleged maltreatment or the care of the child
142.33 maintained by any facility, clinic, or health care professional and an interview with the
143.1 treating professionals; and (iii) interviews with the child's caretakers, including the child's
143.2 parent, guardian, foster parent, child care provider, teachers, counselors, family members,
143.3 relatives, and other persons who may have knowledge regarding the alleged maltreatment
143.4 and the care of the child; and

143.5 (4) information on the existence of domestic abuse and violence in the home of the child,
143.6 and substance abuse.

143.7 (e) Nothing in this subdivision precludes the local welfare agency, the local law
143.8 enforcement agency, or the agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report from
143.9 collecting other relevant information necessary to conduct the assessment or investigation.

143.10 (f) Notwithstanding section 13.384 or 144.291 to 144.298, the local welfare agency has
143.11 access to medical data and records for purposes of paragraph (d), clause (3).

143.12 Sec. 40. **[260E.215] REPORTING OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CONCERNS.**

143.13 Subdivision 1. **Reports required.** (a) A person mandated to report under this chapter
143.14 must immediately report to the local welfare agency or designated partner if the person
143.15 knows or has reason to believe that a child required to be enrolled in school under section
143.16 120A.22 has at least seven unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of
143.17 educational neglect or truancy under section 260C.163, subdivision 11.

143.18 (b) Any person may make a voluntary report if the person knows or has reason to believe
143.19 that a child required to be enrolled in school under section 120A.22 has at least seven
143.20 unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of educational neglect or truancy
143.21 under section 260C.163, subdivision 11.

143.22 (c) An oral report must be made immediately. An oral report made by a person required
143.23 to report under paragraph (a) must be followed within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and
143.24 holidays, by a report in writing to the local welfare agency. A report must sufficiently
143.25 identify the child and the child's parent or guardian, the actual or estimated number of the
143.26 child's unexcused absences in the current school year, the efforts made by school officials
143.27 to resolve attendance concerns with the family, and the name and address of the reporter.
143.28 A voluntary reporter under paragraph (b) may refuse to provide their name or address if the
143.29 report is otherwise sufficient, and the local welfare agency must accept such a report.

143.30 Subd. 2. **Local welfare agency.** (a) The local welfare agency or partner designated to
143.31 provide child welfare services must provide a child welfare response for a report that alleges
143.32 a child enrolled in school has seven or more unexcused absences. When providing a child
143.33 welfare response under this paragraph, the local welfare agency or designated partner must
144.1 offer services to the child and the child's family to address school attendance concerns or
144.2 may partner with a county attorney's office, a community-based organization, or other
144.3 community partner to provide the services. The services must be culturally and linguistically
144.4 appropriate and tailored to the needs of the child and the child's family. This section is
144.5 subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act under sections
144.6 260.751 to 260.835 and the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child
144.7 Welfare Disproportionality Act under sections 260.61 to 260.693.

144.8 (b) If the unexcused absences continue and the family has not engaged with services
144.9 under paragraph (a) after the local welfare agency or partner designated to provide child
144.10 welfare services has made multiple varied attempts to engage the child's family, a report of
144.11 educational neglect must be made regardless of the number of unexcused absences the child
144.12 has accrued. The local welfare agency must determine the response path assignment pursuant
144.13 to section 260E.17 and may proceed with the process outlined in section 260C.141.

496.15 Sec. 32. **[260E.291] REPORTING OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CONCERNS.**

496.16 Subdivision 1. **Reports required.** (a) A person mandated to report under this chapter
496.17 must immediately report to the local welfare agency, Tribal social services agency, or
496.18 designated partner if the person knows or has reason to believe that a child required to be
496.19 enrolled in school under section 120A.22 has at least seven unexcused absences in the
496.20 current school year and is at risk of educational neglect under section 260C.163, subdivision
496.21 11.

496.22 (b) Any person may voluntarily report to the local welfare agency, Tribal social services
496.23 agency, or designated partner if the person knows or has reason to believe that a child
496.24 required to be enrolled in school under section 120A.22 has at least seven unexcused absences
496.25 in the current school year and is at risk of educational neglect under section 260C.163,
496.26 subdivision 11.

496.27 (c) An oral report must be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. An oral report
496.28 made by a person required to report under paragraph (a) must be followed within 72 hours,
496.29 exclusive of weekends and holidays, by a report in writing to the local welfare agency. A
496.30 report must sufficiently identify the child and the child's parent or guardian, the actual or
496.31 estimated number of the child's unexcused absences in the current school year, the efforts
496.32 made by school officials to resolve attendance concerns with the family, and the name and
496.33 address of the reporter. A voluntary reporter under paragraph (b) may refuse to provide
497.1 their name or address if the report is otherwise sufficient, and such a report must be accepted
497.2 by the local welfare agency.

497.3 Subd. 2. **Local welfare agency.** (a) The local welfare agency or partner designated to
497.4 provide child welfare services must provide a child welfare response for a report that alleges
497.5 a child enrolled in school has seven or more unexcused absences. When providing a child
497.6 welfare response under this paragraph, the local welfare agency or designated partner must
497.7 offer services to the child and the child's family to address school attendance concerns or
497.8 may partner with a county attorney's office, a community-based organization, or other
497.9 community partner to provide the services. The services must be culturally and linguistically
497.10 appropriate and tailored to the needs of the child and the child's family. This section is
497.11 subject to all requirements of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act under sections
497.12 260.751 to 260.835, and the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child
497.13 Welfare Disproportionality Act under sections 260.61 to 260.693.

497.14 (b) If the child's unexcused absences continue and the family has not engaged with
497.15 services under paragraph (a) after the local welfare agency, Tribal social services agency,
497.16 or partner designated to provide child welfare services has made multiple varied attempts
497.17 to engage the child's family, a report of educational neglect must be made regardless of the
497.18 number of unexcused absences the child has accrued. The local welfare agency must
497.19 determine the response path assignment pursuant to section 260E.17 and may proceed with
497.20 the process outlined in section 260C.141.

144.14 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.24, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

144.15 Subdivision 1. **Timing.** The local welfare agency shall conclude the family assessment,
144.16 the noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or the investigation within 45 days of the
144.17 receipt of a report. The conclusion of the assessment or investigation may be extended to
144.18 permit the completion of a criminal investigation or the receipt of expert information
144.19 requested within 45 days of the receipt of the report.

144.20 Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.24, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

144.21 Subd. 2. **Determination after family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking**
144.22 **assessment.** After conducting a family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking
144.23 assessment, the local welfare agency shall determine whether child protective services are
144.24 needed to address the safety of the child and other family members and the risk of subsequent
144.25 maltreatment. The local welfare agency must document the information collected under
144.26 section 260E.20, subdivision 3, related to the completed family assessment or noncaregiver
144.27 human trafficking assessment in the child's or family's case notes.

144.28 Sec. 43. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

144.29 The revisor of statutes shall change paragraphs to subdivisions, clauses to paragraphs,
144.30 and items to clauses in Minnesota Statutes, sections 260C.203 and 260C.204. The revisor
144.31 shall make any necessary grammatical changes or changes to sentence structure necessary
145.1 to preserve the meaning of the text as a result of the changes. The revisor of statutes must
145.2 correct any statutory cross-references consistent with the changes in this section.

496.1 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.24, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

496.2 Subdivision 1. **Timing.** The local welfare agency shall conclude the family assessment,
496.3 the noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or the investigation within 45 days of the
496.4 receipt of a report. The conclusion of the assessment or investigation may be extended to
496.5 permit the completion of a criminal investigation or the receipt of expert information
496.6 requested within 45 days of the receipt of the report.

496.7 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.24, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

496.8 Subd. 2. **Determination after family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking**
496.9 **assessment.** After conducting a family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking
496.10 assessment, the local welfare agency shall determine whether child protective services are
496.11 needed to address the safety of the child and other family members and the risk of subsequent
496.12 maltreatment. The local welfare agency must document the information collected under
496.13 section 260E.20, subdivision 3, related to the completed family assessment or noncaregiver
496.14 human trafficking assessment in the child's or family's case notes.

497.21 Sec. 33. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

497.22 The revisor of statutes shall change paragraphs to subdivisions, clauses to paragraphs,
497.23 and items to clauses in Minnesota Statutes, sections 260C.203 and 260C.204. The revisor
497.24 shall make any necessary grammatical changes or changes to sentence structure necessary
497.25 to preserve the meaning of the text as a result of the changes. The revisor of statutes must
497.26 correct any statutory cross-references consistent with the changes in this section.