



NEW JERSEY LAW REVISION COMMISSION

Draft Tentative Report

Relating to

Title 9-Child Abuse and Neglect

March 11, 2013

This Draft Tentative Report is distributed to advise interested persons of the Commission's tentative recommendations and to notify them of the opportunity to submit comments. The Commission will consider these comments before making its final recommendations to the Legislature. The Commission often substantially revises tentative recommendations as a result of the comments it receives. If you approve of the Draft Tentative Report, please inform the Commission so that your approval can be considered along with other comments.

Please send comments concerning this tentative report or direct any related inquiries, by June 15, 2013, to:

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Title 9 – Children; Chapter 6 Abused and Neglected Children

Introduction

This is a draft of revised law on child abuse and neglect. It includes sections that deal directly with proceedings concerning child neglect and abuse and provisions that govern proceedings to terminate parental rights. Although actions on these subjects are usually connected, the provisions governing them are now separated, most of child abuse and neglect in Title 9 and termination of parental rights in Title 30. The revision replaces Title 9 Chapter 6 and Title 30 Chapter 4A. The Table of Dispositions indicates which sections are involved and where their substance can be found in the revision.

Because the current law was enacted over a long period of time, there are provisions that no longer reflect current practice. These have been deleted or rewritten. There are many overlapping provisions; these have been consolidated. Again, because of the way it was enacted, there is no organizational structure. The revision consolidates overlapping provisions organizes the material into groups of provisions on related subjects. The revision is divided into chapters; The principal revisions are in the first on child abuse and neglect and the second on termination of parental rights. The last four chapters are on discrete subjects that were added to the law relatively recently and have been changed little or not at all. These chapters are included so that whole coherent parts of Titles 9 and 30 can be superseded.

This revision benefitted from the help of many interested parties. Meetings included representatives from the Department of Children and Families, the Office of Law Guardian, the Office of the Public Defender, Parental Representation Program, as well as members of the public with a deep interest in issues raised by child abuse and neglect. While this draft has not been formally approved by any agency or organization, it is our hope that it responds to many of the issues raised.

General Provisions

9:26-1. "Abused child," Neglected child defined

For purposes of this act:

a. "Abused child" means a child under the age of 18 years whose parent, guardian, or other person having his custody and control:

(1) Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical injury by other than accidental means which causes or creates a substantial risk of death, or serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted impairment of physical or emotional health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ;

(2) Creates or allows to be created a substantial or ongoing risk of physical injury to the child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death or serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ; or

(3) Commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse against the child including (i.) the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct; (ii) sexual conduct including molestation, prostitution, other forms of sexual

exploitation of children or incest; or (iii) sexual penetration and sexual contact as defined in N.J.S.2C:14-1 and a prohibited sexual act as defined in N.J.S. 2C:24-4.

b. "Neglected child" means a child under the age of 18 years whose physical, mental, or emotional condition has been impaired or is in imminent danger of becoming impaired as the result of the failure of his parent or guardian, or such other person having his custody and control, to exercise a minimum degree of care (1) in supplying the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, medical or surgical care though financially able to do so or though offered financial or other reasonable means to do so, or (2) in providing the child with proper supervision or guardianship, by unreasonably inflicting or allowing to be inflicted harm, or substantial risk thereof, including the infliction of excessive corporal punishment or using excessive physical restraint under circumstances which do not indicate that the child's behavior is harmful to himself, others or property; or by any other act of a similarly serious nature requiring the aid of the court. "Neglected child" also includes a child who has been abandoned.

c. No child who in good faith is under treatment by spiritual means alone through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination by a duly accredited practitioner thereof shall for this reason alone be considered to be abused or neglected.

Source: 9:6-8.21; 9:6-8.9

COMMENT

The definition of child abuse is derived from 9:6-8.21 and 9:6-8.9 which are substantively identical to each other. That definition from the parts of 9:6-8.9 that define abuse rather than neglect is:

"Abused child" means a child under the age of 18 years whose parent, guardian, or other person having his custody and control:

a. Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury by other than accidental means which causes or creates a substantial risk of death, or serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted impairment of physical or emotional health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ;

b. Creates or allows to be created a substantial or ongoing risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death or serious or protracted disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ; or

c. Commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse against the child;

The definition in regard to sexual abuse was expanded by inclusion of material from 9:6-8.84.

The definition of child neglect is also derived from 9:6-8.21 and 9:6-8.9.

9:26-2 Other Definitions.

As used in this act, unless the specific context indicates otherwise:

a. "Parent or guardian" means any natural parent, adoptive parent, resource family parent, stepparent, paramour of a parent or any person, who has assumed responsibility for the care, custody or control of a child or upon whom there is a legal duty for such care. Parent or guardian includes a teacher, employee or volunteer, whether compensated or uncompensated, of an institution who is responsible for the child's welfare and any other staff person of an institution regardless of whether or not the person is responsible for the care or supervision of the child. Parent or guardian also includes a teaching staff member or other employee, whether

compensated or uncompensated, of a day school as defined in section 1 of P.L.1974, c.119 (C.9:6-8.21).

b. "Law guardian" means an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this State, regularly employed by the Office of the Public Defender, and designated under this act to represent minors in cases of alleged child neglect or abuse and in termination of parental rights proceedings.

c. "Department" means the Department of Children and Families.

d. "Institution" means a public or private facility in the State that provides children with out of home care, supervision or maintenance. Institution includes, but is not limited to, a correctional facility, detention facility, treatment facility, day care center, residential school, shelter and hospital.

e. "Day school" means a public or private school that provides general or special educational services to day students in grades kindergarten through 12. Day school does not include a residential facility, whether public or private, which provides care on a 24-hour basis.

f. "Board" means the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board established under P.L.1997, c.175 (C.9:6-8.83 et al.).

g. "Child" means any person under the age of 18.

h. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Children and Families.

i. "Near fatality" means a case in which a child is in serious or critical condition, as certified by a physician.

j. "Panel" means a citizen review panel as established under P.L.1997, c.175 (C.9:6-8.83 et al.).

k. "Reasonable efforts" means attempts by an agency authorized by the Department of Children and Families to assist the parents in remedying the circumstances and conditions that led to the placement of the child and in reinforcing the family structure, as defined in section 7 of P.L.1991, c.275 (C.30:4C-15.1).

l. "Significant bodily injury" means a temporary loss of the functioning of any bodily member or organ or temporary loss of any one of the five senses.

m. "Withholding of medically indicated treatment" means the failure to respond to a child's life-threatening conditions by providing treatment, including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication which, in the treating physician's reasonable judgment, will most likely be effective in ameliorating or correcting all such conditions. The term does not include the failure to provide treatment, other than appropriate nutrition, hydration, or medication to a child when, in the treating physician's reasonable medical judgment:

(1) the child is chronically and irreversibly comatose;

(2) the provision of such treatment would merely prolong dying, not be effective in ameliorating or correcting all of the child's life-threatening conditions, or otherwise be futile in terms of the survival of the child; or

(3) the provision of such treatment would be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the child and the treatment itself under such circumstances would be inhumane.

Source: 9:6-8.21; 9:6-8.84

COMMENT

This section contains the definitions now in 9:6-8.84 as well as those in 9:6-8.21 other than those of child abuse and neglect.

9:26-3 Health, safety of child paramount concern.

a. The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the protection of children under 18 years of age who have had serious injury inflicted upon them by other than accidental means. The safety of the children served shall be of paramount concern. It is the intent of this legislation to assure that the lives of innocent children are immediately safeguarded from further injury and possible death and that the legal rights of such children are fully protected.

b. (1) In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, when determining the reasonable efforts to be made and when making the reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety shall be of paramount concern.

(2) In any case in which the Department accepts a child in care or custody, the Department shall make reasonable efforts, prior to placement, to preserve the family in order to prevent the need for removing the child from his home. After placement, the Department shall make reasonable efforts to make it possible for the child to safely return to his home.

(3) Reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a legal guardian or in an alternative permanent placement may be made concurrently with reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the child's family.

(4) In any case in which family reunification is not the permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

Source: 9:6-8.8

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-4. Regulations.

The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," to carry out the purposes this act.

Source: 9:6-8.10d; 9:6-8.15; 9:6-8.58b; 9:6-8.72; 9:6-8.101

COMMENT

This regulatory power given by the source sections has been expanded to include all parts of these chapters.

Reports of Neglect or abuse

9:26-5. Report of abuse

a. Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse shall report that immediately to the Department of Children and Families by telephone or otherwise. Where possible, the report shall contain the names and addresses of the child and the child's parent, guardian, or other person having custody and control of the child and, if known, the child's age, the nature of the abuse, and any other information that the person believes may be helpful with respect to the child abuse and the identity of the perpetrator.

b. Anyone acting pursuant to this act in making a report of child neglect or abuse shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such person shall have the same immunity with respect to testimony given in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report.

c. A person who reports or causes to report in good faith an allegation of child neglect or abuse and as a result thereof is discharged from employment or in any manner discriminated against with respect to compensation, hire, tenure or terms, conditions or privileges of employment, may file a cause of action for appropriate relief in the family part of the Chancery Division of the Superior Court. If the court finds that the person was discharged or discriminated against as a result of the person's reporting an allegation of child neglect or abuse, the court may grant reinstatement of employment with back pay or other legal or equitable relief.

d. Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that an act of child abuse has been committed and knowingly fails to report the child abuse is a disorderly person.

Source: 9:6-8.10; 9:6-8.13; 9:6-8.14.

COMMENT

This section has been simplified but is substantively similar to its sources. Subsection (a) is derived from 9:6-8.10; subsections (b) and (c) from 9:6-8.13. Subsection (d) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.14.

9:26-6 Records of child abuse reports; confidentiality; disclosure.

a. All records of child abuse reports made as required by this chapter, all information obtained by the Department of Children and Families in investigating such reports, and all reports of findings forwarded to the child abuse registry shall be kept confidential, and the Department shall disclose information only as expressly authorized in this section that is relevant to the purpose for which the information is required, and nothing may be disclosed which would likely endanger the life, safety, or physical or emotional well-being of a child or the life or safety of any other person or which may compromise the integrity of a department investigation or a civil or criminal investigation or judicial proceeding. If the department denies access to specific information on this basis, the requesting entity may seek disclosure through the Chancery Division of the Superior Court.

Nothing in this act shall be construed to permit the disclosure of any information deemed confidential by federal or State law.

b. The department may and upon written request, shall release the records and reports referred to in subsection a., or parts thereof, consistent with the provisions of P.L.1997, c.175 (C.9:6-8.83 et al.) to:

(1) A public or private child protective agency authorized to investigate a report of child neglect or abuse;

(2) A police or other law enforcement agency investigating a report of child neglect or abuse;

(3) A physician who is examining or treating a child reasonably suspected of having been abused or neglected, or an authorized member of the staff of a designated regional child abuse diagnostic and treatment center which is involved with a particular child who is the subject of the request;

(4) A physician, a hospital director or designate, a police officer or other person authorized to place a child in protective custody who is aiding a child reasonably suspected of

having been abused or neglected and requires the information in order to determine whether to place the child in protective custody;

(5) An agency, whether public or private, including the Department, authorized to care for, treat, assess, evaluate or supervise a child who is the subject of a child abuse report, or a parent, guardian, resource family parent or other person who is responsible for the child's welfare, or both, when the information is needed in connection with the provision of care, treatment, assessment, evaluation or supervision to such child or such parent, guardian, resource family parent or other person and the provision of information is in the best interests of the child as determined by the Department;

(6) A court or the Office of Administrative Law, upon its finding that access to such records may be necessary for determination of an issue before it, and these records may be disclosed by the court or the Office of Administrative Law in whole or in part to the law guardian, attorney or other appropriate person upon a finding that such further disclosure is necessary for determination of an issue before the court or the Office of Administrative Law;

(7) A grand jury upon its determination that access to such records is necessary in the conduct of its official business;

(8) Any appropriate State legislative committee acting in the course of its official functions, provided, however, that no names or other information identifying persons named in the report shall be made available to the legislative committee unless it is absolutely essential to the legislative purpose;

(9) A family day care sponsoring organization for the purpose of providing information on child neglect or abuse allegations involving prospective or current providers or household members pursuant to P.L.1993, c.350 (C.30:5B-25.1 et seq.) and as necessary, for use in administrative appeals related to information obtained through a child abuse registry search;

(10) The Victims of Crime Compensation Board, for the purpose of providing services available pursuant to the "Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1971," P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.) to a child victim who is the subject of such report;

(11) Any person appealing a department service or status action or a substantiated finding of child neglect or abuse and his attorney or authorized lay representative upon a determination by the department or the presiding Administrative Law Judge that disclosure is necessary for a determination of the issue on appeal;

(12) Any person or entity mandated by statute to consider child neglect or abuse information when conducting a background check or employment-related screening of an individual employed by or seeking employment with an agency or organization providing services to children;

(13) Any person or entity conducting a disciplinary, administrative or judicial proceeding to determine terms of employment or continued employment of an officer, employee, or volunteer with an agency or organization providing services for children. The information may be disclosed in whole or in part to the appellant or other appropriate person only upon a determination by the person or entity conducting the proceeding that the disclosure is necessary to make a determination;

(14) The members of a county multi-disciplinary team, established in accordance with State guidelines, for the purpose of coordinating the activities of agencies handling alleged cases of child abuse and neglect;

(15) A person being evaluated by the department or the court as a potential care-giver to determine whether that person is willing and able to provide the care and support required by the child;

(16) The legal counsel of a child, parent or guardian, whether court-appointed or retained, when information is needed to discuss the case with the department in order to make decisions relating to or concerning the child;

(17) A person who has filed a report of suspected child neglect or abuse for the purpose of providing that person with only the disposition of the investigation;

(18) A parent, resource family parent or legal guardian when the information is needed in a department matter in which that parent, resource family parent or legal guardian is directly involved. The information may be released only to the extent necessary for the requesting parent, resource family parent or legal guardian to discuss services or the basis for the department's involvement or to develop, discuss, or implement a case plan for the child;

(19) A federal, State or local government entity, to the extent necessary for such entity to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children from abuse and neglect;

(20) Citizen review panels designated by the State in compliance with the federal "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Amendments of 1996," Pub.L.104-235;

(21) The Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.175 (C.9:6-8.83 et al.); or

(22) Members of a family team or other case planning group formed by the Department of Children and Families and established in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Children and Families for the purpose of addressing the child's safety, permanency or well-being, when the provision of such information is in the best interests of the child as determined by the Department.

(23) A child who is the subject of a child neglect or abuse report, as appropriate to the child's age or condition, to enable the child to understand the basis for the department's involvement and to participate in the development, discussion, or implementation of a case plan for the child.

c. Any individual, or entity which receives from the department the records and reports referred to in subsection (a), shall keep these records and reports confidential and shall not disclose any part of the records and reports except as authorized by law.

d. The department may release the records and reports referred to in subsection a. of this section to any person engaged in a bona fide research purpose, provided, however, that no names or other information identifying persons named in the report shall be made available to the researcher unless it is absolutely essential to the research purpose and provided further that the approval of the Commissioner of Children and Families or his designee shall first have been obtained.

e. For incidents determined by the department to be substantiated, the department shall forward to the police or law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the child named in the report resides, the identity of persons alleged to have committed child neglect or abuse and of victims of child neglect or abuse, their addresses, the nature of the allegations, and other relevant information, including, but not limited to, prior reports of neglect or abuse and names of siblings obtained by the department during its investigation of a report of child neglect or abuse. The police or law enforcement agency shall keep such information confidential.

f. The department may disclose to the public the findings or information about a case of child neglect or abuse which has resulted in a child fatality or near fatality. Nothing may be disclosed which would likely endanger the life, safety, or physical or emotional well-being of a child or the life or safety of any other person or which may compromise the integrity of a department investigation or a civil or criminal investigation or judicial proceeding. If the department denies access to specific information on this basis, the requesting entity may seek disclosure of the information through the Chancery Division of the Superior Court. No information may be disclosed which is deemed confidential by federal or State law. The name or any other information identifying the person or entity who referred the child to the department shall not be released to the public.

g. The department shall release the records and reports referred to in subsection a. of this section to a unified child care agency contracted with the department pursuant to N.J.A.C.10:15-2.1 for the purpose of providing information on child neglect or abuse allegations involving a prospective approved home provider or any adult household member pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2003, c.185 (C.30:5B-32) to a child's parent when the information is necessary for the parent to make a decision concerning the placement of the child in an appropriate child care arrangement.

h. The department shall not release any information that would likely endanger the life, safety, or physical or emotional well-being of a child or the life or safety of any other person.

Source: 9:6-8.10a; 9:6-8.10b.

COMMENT

Although reorganized slightly and somewhat simplified in wording, this section is substantively identical to 9:6-8.10a. Subsection (i) is derived from 9:6-8.10b which has been re-worded to make it consistent with the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

9:26-7. Emergency telephone services for child neglect or abuse calls.

The Department of Children and Families shall maintain, at all times, an emergency telephone service for the receipt of calls involving a report, complaint or allegation of child neglect or abuse.

Source: 9:6-8.12.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:26-8. Actions to ensure safety of child; investigation; report.

Upon receipt of a report of child neglect or abuse, the Department shall immediately take action necessary to insure the safety of the child and to that end may request and shall receive appropriate assistance from local and State law enforcement officials. A representative of the Department shall initiate an investigation within 24 hours of receipt of the report, unless the Department authorizes a delay based upon the request of a law enforcement official. The Department shall also, within 72 hours, forward a report of such matter to the child abuse registry operated by the Department in Trenton.

The child abuse registry shall be the repository of all information regarding child neglect or abuse that is accessible to the public pursuant to State and federal law. No information

received in the child abuse registry shall be considered as a public record within the meaning of P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).

Source: 9:6-8.11.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-9. Records involving neglect or abuse.

When the Department of Children and Families receives a report or complaint that a child may be abused or neglected; when the department provides services to a child; or when the department receives a request from the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part to investigate an allegation of neglect or abuse, the department may request of any and all public or private institutions, or agencies including law enforcement agencies, or any private practitioners, their records past and present pertaining to that child and other children under the same care, custody and control. The department shall not be charged a fee for the copying of the records. Records kept pursuant to the "New Jersey Code of Juvenile Justice," P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-20 et seq.) may be obtained by the department, upon issuance by a court of an order on good cause shown directing these records to be released to the department for the purpose of aiding in evaluation to determine if the child is abused or neglected. In the release of the aforementioned records, the source shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal.

Source: 9:6-8.40.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:26-10. Report to prosecutor of all instances of suspected child abuse, neglect.

The Department of Children and Families shall immediately report all instances of suspected child abuse and neglect, as defined by regulations, to the county prosecutor of the county in which the child resides. The regulations shall be developed jointly by the department and the county prosecutors, approved by the Attorney General, and promulgated by the Commissioner of Children and Families.

Source: 9:6-8.36a.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source. The section also replaces subsection (a) of 9:6-8.25 which requires the Department to report court complaints alleging child abuse to the prosecutor.

9:26-11. Expungement of unfounded allegations.

a. The Department of Children and Families shall expunge from its records all information relating to a report, complaint or allegation of an incident of child neglect or abuse with respect to which the Department of Children and Families to investigate allegations of child neglect or abuse has determined, based upon its investigation thereof, that the report, complaint or allegation of the incident was unfounded.

b. The definition of, and process for, making a determination of an unfounded report, complaint or allegation of an incident of child neglect or abuse shall be defined in regulations promulgated by the department pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act."

Source: 9:6-8.40a.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

Emergency Actions

9:26-12. Emergency actions by medical personnel.

a. Any physician who has examined or treated a child, or the director or designate of any hospital or similar institution to which a child has been brought for care or treatment, may take the child into protective custody when the child has suffered serious physical injury or injuries, and the most probable inference from the medical and factual information supplied, is that the injury or injuries were inflicted on the child by another person by other than accidental means, and the person suspected of inflicting the injury, or permitting it to be inflicted upon the child, is a person into whose custody the child would normally be returned.

b. The physician or the designate of the director of a hospital or similar institution that takes a child into protective custody shall immediately report the action to the Department of Children and Families by calling its emergency telephone service.

c. Any physician or director of a hospital or similar institution who takes a child into protective custody pursuant to this act shall have immunity from any civil and criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such person shall have the same immunity with respect to testimony given in any judicial proceeding resulting therefrom.

Source: 9:6-8.16; 9:6-8.17; 9:6-8.18; 9:6-8.20.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its sources.

9:26-13. Emergency action by law enforcement personnel.

a. A police officer or a designated employee of the Department may remove a child from the place where the child is residing, or may keep a child in custody without a court order and without the consent of the parent or guardian regardless of whether the parent or guardian is absent, if the child is in such a condition that continuance in that place or residence or in the care and custody of the parent or guardian presents an imminent danger to the child's life, safety or health, and there is insufficient time to apply for a court order.

b. In cases of emergency, in addition to the removal of one child, any other child residing in the home may also be removed if immediate removal is necessary to avoid imminent danger to that child's life or health.

c. The person taking a child into such protective custody shall:

(1) if the removal is not done by an employee of the Department, immediately report the action to the Department of Children and Families by calling its emergency telephone service;

(2) bring the child immediately to a place designated by the Department for this purpose, and

(3) make every reasonable effort to inform the parent or guardian of the facility to which he has brought the child.

d. Any person or institution acting in good faith in the removal or keeping of a child pursuant to this section shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of such removal or keeping.

e. Any person acting under the authority of this act may request and shall receive appropriate assistance from local and State law enforcement officials.

f. The Department of Children and Families shall not be required to provide reasonable efforts to prevent placement if removal of the child is necessary due to imminent danger to the child's life, safety or health.

Source: 9:6-8.27, 9:6-29.

COMMENT

This section combines the two sources. The power to act to protect a child is identical in substance to both sources. The other provisions are derived from 9:6-29 and from 9:6-8.16 et seq. that give similar power to physicians. The portions of the sources that allowed the Department to remove a child in an emergency have been moved to the next section.

9:26-14. Emergency action by the Department.

a. When the Department of Children and Families is informed that there has been an emergency removal of a child without court order, by medical personnel, law enforcement personnel or by an employee of the Department, it shall investigate the circumstances under which the child was injured and take appropriate action to insure the safety of the child. The Department may arrange for immediate medical screening of the child and has legal authority to consent to screening. If necessary to safeguard the child's health or life, the Department may also arrange for and consent to medical care or treatment of the child. Medical reports resulting from this screening, examination or care or treatment shall be released to the Department for the purpose of aiding in the determination of whether the child has been abused or neglected. Any person or health care facility acting in good faith in the screening of, examination of or provision of care and treatment to a child or in the release of medical records shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of such act.

b. The Department shall make every reasonable effort to communicate immediately with the child's parent or guardian that emergency removal has been made and the location of the facility to which the child has been taken. For the purposes of this section, "facility" means a hospital, shelter or child care institution in which a child may be placed for temporary care, but does not include a resource family home.

c. If the child is not returned to the parent or guardian, the Department commence an action under this act and shall advise the parent or guardian that the case will be heard in Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part within two court days. The Department shall make a reasonable effort, at least 24 hours prior to the court hearing, to notify the parent or guardian of the time to appear in court; and inform the parent or guardian of the right to obtain counsel, and how to obtain counsel through the Office of the Public Defender if the parent or guardian is indigent. The Department shall also advise the party who removed the child to appear.

d. If the removed child is returned home prior to the court hearing, there shall be no court hearing to determine the sufficiency of cause for the child's removal, unless the child's parent or guardian makes application to the court for review. However, even if the child is returned, the Department may commence an action alleging child neglect or abuse under this chapter.

e. The parents or guardian of a child in care and custody may, upon request and in the reasonable discretion of the Department of Youth and Family Services, visit the child, provided that the life or health of the child will not be endangered by the visit.

Source: 9:6-8.30.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source. It also replaces 9:6-8.19 which is largely duplicative except for the provision on parental visitation, the source of subsection (e).

Court Actions on Abused or Neglected Children

9:26-15. Originating proceeding to determine neglect or abuse

a. A proceeding to determine whether a child is neglected or abused may be commenced by Department of Children and Families or by any person with knowledge of facts substantiating the neglect or abuse;

b. A proceeding to determine whether a child is neglected or abused shall be originated by the filing of an order show cause and complaint alleging facts sufficient to establish that a child is abused or neglected.

c. Where more than one child is the responsibility of the parent or guardian, one complaint may allege that one or more children are abused or neglected.

Source: 9:6-8.33, 9:6-34.

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is similar to 9:6-34 but the authority to commence actions has been limited to the Department. Other parties are required to report child neglect and abuse to the Department, and current practice is for the Department to investigate and determine whether there is a basis for a court action. Subsections (b) and (c) are substantively identical to subsections (a) and (b) of 9:6-34. Subsection (c) of 9:6-8.33 has been moved to the section allowing temporary removal of a child.

9:26-16. Jurisdiction of Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part.

a. The Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part shall have jurisdiction over all noncriminal proceedings involving alleged cases of child neglect or abuse. All noncriminal cases involving child abuse shall be commenced in this court or transferred to it from other courts as soon as they are known. Cases of child neglect or abuse shall be the first order of priority in the Family Part. The safety of the children shall be of paramount concern.

b. In determining the jurisdiction of the court under this act, the age of the child at the time the proceedings are initiated is controlling.

c. In determining the jurisdiction of the court under this act, the child need not be currently in the care or custody of his parent or guardian, as defined.

d. The Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part and the Department shall deal with cases involving imminent physical harm or actual physical harm on a priority basis.

e. If the matter in regard to the parent or guardian is referred to the county prosecutor by the Family Part or otherwise the Family Part may continue the proceeding under this act in regard to the child after such referral. If the proceeding in regard to the child is continued, the Family Part shall enter any preliminary order necessary to protect the interests of the child pending a final order from the criminal courts.

f. Any hearing held before the Family Part may serve as a permanency hearing to provide judicial review and approval of a permanency plan for the child if all the requirements of section 50 of P.L.1999, c.53 (C.30:4C-61.2) are met.

Source 9:6-8.22; 9:6-8.24, 9:6-8.34.

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.22 and subsection (a) of 9:6-8.24. Subsections (b) (c) (e) and (f) are substantively identical to the equivalent subsections of 9:6-8.24. Subsection (d) is derived from a portion of 9:6-8.34.

9:26-17. Preliminary order of court before preliminary hearing held.

a. The Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part may enter an order, whereby the safety of the child shall be of paramount concern, directing the temporary removal of a child before a preliminary hearing under this act, if (1) the parent or other person legally responsible for the child's care was informed of an intent to apply for any order under this section; and (2) the child appears so to suffer from neglect or abuse that immediate removal is necessary to avoid imminent danger to the child's life, safety or health; and (3) there is not enough time to hold a preliminary hearing.

b. The order shall specify the place to which the child is to be brought.

c. The Family Part may enter an order authorizing a physician or hospital to provide emergency medical or surgical procedures before a preliminary hearing is held under this act if (1) such procedures are necessary to safeguard the life or health of the child; and (2) there is not enough time to hold a preliminary hearing under section 11 hereof.

d. The Department shall make every reasonable effort to inform the parent or guardian of any application for immediate removal and make inquiries to aid the court in disposing of the application. Within 24 hours the Department shall report such application to the child abuse registry of the Department.

e. Any person acting under the authority of this act may request and shall receive appropriate assistance from local and State law enforcement officials.

Source: 9:6-8.28.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-18. Preliminary orders after filing of complaint.

a. In any case where the child has been removed without court order the court shall hold a hearing on the next court day, whereby the safety of the child shall be of paramount concern, to determine whether the child's interests require protection pending a final order of disposition. In any other case under this act, any party may apply for, or the court, on its own motion, may order a hearing at any time after the complaint is filed to determine, with the safety of the child of paramount concern, whether the child's interests require protection pending a final order of disposition.

b. If the court finds that the allegation of child neglect or abuse is likely to be substantiated and that continued removal is necessary to avoid an ongoing risk to the child's life, safety or health, it shall affirm the removal of the child to an appropriate place or place the child in the custody of a suitable person.

c. If the court determines that removal of the child was necessary due to imminent danger to the child's life, safety or health, the court shall find that the Department of Children and Families was not required to provide reasonable efforts to prevent placement of the child.

d. If the court finds that the allegation of child neglect or abuse is likely to be substantiated, the court may, for good cause shown:

(1) issue a preliminary order of protection which may contain any of the provisions authorized on the making of an order of protection ;

(2) release the child to the custody of a parent or to a guardian from whose custody or care the child was removed, pending a final order of disposition;

(3) authorize a physician or hospital to provide medical or surgical procedures if the procedures are necessary to safeguard the child's life or health.

e. If the court grants or denies a preliminary order requested pursuant to this section, it shall state the grounds for the decision.

f. In all cases involving neglect or abuse the court shall order an examination of the child by a physician appointed or designated for the purpose by the Department. As part of the examination, the physician shall arrange to have photographs taken as soon as practical of any areas of trauma visible on the child and may if indicated, arrange to have a radiological examination performed on the child. The physician shall forward the results of the examination with the photographs to the court.

Source: 9:6-8.31.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-19. Hearing to determine if child to be returned.

a. If there has not been a hearing on the removal of the child at which the parent or guardian was present or had an adequate opportunity to be present; or upon good cause shown, upon the application of the parent or guardian of a child temporarily removed under this act, the court shall hold a hearing, whereby the safety of the child shall be of paramount concern, to determine whether the child should be returned.

b. Except for good cause shown, the hearing shall be held within three court days of the application. The court shall grant the application, unless it finds that such return presents an imminent risk to the child's life, safety or health.

Source: 9:6-8.32.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-20. Law guardian; other counsel

a. Any minor who is the subject of a child neglect or abuse proceeding under this act must be represented by a law guardian to help protect the minor's interests and to help express the minor's wishes to the court.

b. At the time it determines to commence a case, the Department shall notify the Office of Law Guardian and provide that office with a copy of the complaint.

c. The parents or guardian of a minor who is the subject of a child neglect or abuse proceeding under this act have a right to be represented by counsel and, if indigent, to have counsel provided for them through the Office of the Public Defender.

d. Nothing in this act shall be construed to preclude any other interested person or agency from appearing by counsel.

Source: 9:6-8.23.

COMMENT

This section is largely similar to its source. However, in the interests of efficiency, subsection (b) has been changed so that the Department, rather than the court, notifies the Office of Law Guardian. In addition, subsection (c) has been added to provide specifically that a parent or guardian of a child has the right to counsel and, if indigent, the right to appointed counsel.

9:26-21. Issuance and service of summons

a. On the filing of a complaint involving neglect or abuse under this act, unless a warrant is issued, the court shall cause a copy of the complaint and a summons to be issued, requiring the parent or guardian with whom the child is residing to appear at the court within three court days regarding the complaint. The court shall also, unless dispensed with for good cause shown, require the person thus summoned to produce the child at the time and place named.

b. The complaint and summons shall be served within two court days after their issuance. If they cannot be served within that time, the reasons shall be reported to the court within three court days after their issuance and the court shall issue a warrant

c. Service of a summons and complaint shall be made by delivery of a copy to the person summoned at least 24 hours before the time stated therein for appearance.

d. If after reasonable effort, personal service is not made, the court may at any stage in the proceedings make an order providing for substituted service in the manner provided for substituted service in accordance with the Rules of Court.

Source: 9:6-8.37; 9:6-38.

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.37; subsections (b), (c) and (d) are substantively identical to 9:6-8.38.

9:26-22. Issuance of warrant and reports

a. The court may issue a warrant directing the parent or guardian with whom the child is residing to be brought before the court, when a complaint is filed with the court under this act and it appears that (1) the summons cannot be served; or (2) the summoned person has refused to obey the summons; or (3) the parent or guardian is likely to leave the jurisdiction; or (4) a summons, in the court's opinion, would be ineffectual; or (5) the safety of the child is endangered.

b. When issuing a warrant under this section, the court may also direct that the child be brought before the court.

c. If a warrant is not executed within two court days of its issuance that shall be reported to the court within three court days of its issuance.

Source: 9:6-8.39.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-23. Required findings concerning notice

No hearing may commence under this act unless the court enters a finding:

- a. that the parent or guardian is present at the hearing or has been served with a copy of the complaint; or
- b. if the parent or guardian is not present, that every reasonable effort has been made to effect service.

Source: 9:6-8.41.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-24. Effect of absence of parent or guardian

Whether or not the parent or guardian is present, the court may proceed to hear a complaint under this act only if the child is represented by a law guardian. If the parent or guardian is not present and thereafter makes a motion to the court that a resulting disposition be vacated and asks for a rehearing, the court shall grant the motion on an affidavit showing such relationship or responsibility unless the court finds that the parent or guardian willfully refused to appear at the hearing in which case the court may deny the motion.

Source: 9:6-8.42.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-25. Notice of rights.

a. The court shall advise the parent or guardian of his right to have an adjournment to retain counsel and consult with him. The court shall advise the respondent that if he is indigent, he may apply for an attorney through the Office of the Public Defender. In cases where the parent or guardian applies for an attorney through the Office of the Public Defender, the court may adjourn the case for a reasonable period of time for the parent or guardian to secure counsel; however, the adjournment shall not preclude the court from granting temporary relief as appropriate under the law.

b. The general public may be excluded from any hearing under this act, and only such persons and the representatives of authorized agencies may be admitted thereto as have an interest in the case.

Source: 9:6-8.43.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source. The reference to appointment of a law guardian has been deleted as that matter is dealt with above.

9:26-26. Evidence.

a. In any hearing under this chapter, including an administrative hearing held in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"

(1) proof of the neglect or abuse of one child shall be admissible evidence on the issue of the neglect or abuse of any other child of, or the responsibility of, the parent or guardian and

(2) proof of injuries sustained by a child or of the condition of a child of such a nature as would ordinarily not be sustained or exist except by reason of the acts or omissions of the parent or guardian shall be evidence that a child of, or who is the responsibility of such person is an abused or neglected child, and

(3) any writing, record or photograph, whether in the form of an entry in a book or otherwise, made as a memorandum or record of any condition, act, transaction, occurrence or event relating to a child in an neglect or abuse proceeding of any hospital or any other public or private institution or agency shall be admissible in evidence in proof of that condition, act, transaction, occurrence or event, if the judge finds that it was made in the regular course of the business of any hospital or any other public or private institution or agency, and that it was in the regular course of such business to make it, at the time of the condition, act, transaction, occurrence or event, or within a reasonable time thereafter, shall be evidence of the facts contained in the certification. A certification by someone other than the head of the hospital or agency shall be accompanied by a photocopy of a delegation of authority signed by both the head of the hospital or agency and by such other employees. All other circumstances of the making of the memorandum, record or photograph, including lack of personal knowledge of the making, may be proved to affect its weight, but they shall not affect its admissibility and

(4) previous statements made by the child relating to any allegations of neglect or abuse shall be admissible in evidence; provided, however, that no such statement, if uncorroborated, shall be sufficient to make a fact finding of neglect or abuse.

b. In a fact-finding hearing (1) any determination that the child is an abused or neglected child must be based on a preponderance of the evidence and (2) only competent, material and relevant evidence may be admitted.

c. In a dispositional hearing and during all other stages of a proceeding under this act, only material and relevant evidence may be admitted.

Source: 9:6-8.46.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source. There is a substantial amount of case law on this subject. Since the section is not changed, case law will continue in its effect.

9:26-27. Adjournments

a. The court may adjourn a fact-finding hearing or a dispositional hearing for good cause shown on its own motion or on the motion of the Department, the law guardian, or the respondent's attorney. If so requested, the court shall not proceed with a fact-finding hearing earlier than three days after service of summons and complaint, unless emergency medical or surgical procedures are necessary to safeguard the life and health of the child. Adjournment may not exceed 30 court days, without additional court appearance.

b. At the conclusion of a fact-finding hearing and after it has made findings required before a dispositional hearing may commence, the court may adjourn the proceedings to enable it to make inquiry into the surroundings, conditions, and capacities of the persons involved in the proceedings.

c. If a hearing is adjourned, the court shall determine whether to continue interim orders concerning such issues as placement, services and visitation.

Source: 9:6-8.48.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-28. Priority to proceedings under this chapter.

To ensure that the safety of children is of paramount concern, when scheduling hearings and investigations, the court shall give priority to proceedings under this act involving imminent or actual physical harm, or in which a child has been removed from home before a final order of disposition. Any adjournment granted in the course of such a proceeding should be for as short a time as possible.

Source: 9:6-8.49.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:26-29. Resource family parent notice, opportunity to be heard.

In any case in which the Department of Children and Families accepts a child in its care or custody, the child's resource family parent or relative providing care for the child, as applicable, shall receive written notice of and an opportunity to be heard at any review or hearing held with respect to the child, but the resource family parent or relative shall not be made a party to the review or hearing solely on the basis of the notice and opportunity to be heard.

Source 9:6-8.19a.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-30. Sustaining or dismissing complaint

a. The court shall conduct a fact-finding hearing to determine whether it has been proved that the child was neglected or abused. If facts sufficient to sustain the complaint are established, the court shall enter an order finding that the child is an abused or neglected child, shall state the grounds for said findings and shall schedule a dispositional hearing.

b. If the proof does not conform to the specific allegations of the complaint, the court may amend the allegations to conform to the proof; provided, however, that in such case the respondent shall be given reasonable time to prepare to answer the amended allegations.

c. If facts sufficient to sustain the complaint under this act are not established, or the court concludes that its assistance is not required on the record before it, the court shall dismiss the complaint and shall state the grounds for the dismissal.

d. If the court makes a finding of neglect or abuse, it shall determine, based upon the facts adduced during the fact-finding hearing, and upon any other facts presented to it, whether a preliminary order is required to protect the child's interests pending a final order of disposition. The court shall state the grounds for its determination. In addition, a child found to be abused or neglected may be removed and remanded to a place designated by the court or be placed in the custody of a suitable person, pending a final order of disposition, if the court finds that there is a substantial probability that the final order of disposition will be an order of placement.

e. If the court finds that the child is an abused or neglected child as defined in this act, it may enter a preliminary order on any aspect of the matter, including anything related to the child and the parent or guardian and order that the Department provide appropriate services to the ends

of protecting the child and rehabilitating and improving family life, wherever possible. In the event of such referral, the court may suspend any dispositional hearing indefinitely. The Department shall report the status of the case so referred to the court annually in writing, a copy to be served upon the parent or guardian and the law guardian. The Department shall also report its intent to terminate services in a case so referred to the court in writing.

f. If the court finds that the child is an abused or neglected child as defined in this act, the court shall determine whether to continue interim orders concerning such issues as placement and visitation.

Source: 9:6-8.36a; 9:6-8.50.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source. However, language has been added to subsection(a) making the distinction between the fact-finding hearing and the dispositional hearing. Subsection (e) has been clarified to reflect that the Department is already involved with the child.

9:26-31. Dispositional hearing

a. If the child has been found to have been neglected or abused, the court shall conduct a dispositional hearing within 30 days to receive evidence concerning the appropriate disposition of the matter.

b. On motion of the Department, of a parent or guardian or of the child, if the interests of a child require it, a court shall conduct subsequent dispositional hearings to reconsider the order of disposition.

c. At the conclusion of a dispositional hearing, the court shall enter an order of disposition:

(1) suspending judgment in accord with section 9:26-32;

(2) releasing the child to the custody of his parents or guardian;

(3) placing the child in accord with section 9:26-34;

(4) making an order of protection in accord with section 9:26-35;

(5) placing the respondent on probation in accord with section 9:26-36;

(6) requiring that an individual found to have abused or neglected a child accept therapeutic services, and this order may be carried out in conjunction with any other order of disposition.

d. The court shall state the grounds for any disposition made under this section.

Source: 9:6-8.51.

COMMENT

Subsections (b) and (c) are substantively identical to 9:6-8.51, but a reference to the child in subsection (b) recognizes the right of the child to request subsequent hearings. Subsection (a) is new. It states the purpose of a dispositional hearing and thereby emphasizes the distinction between the fact-finding hearing and the dispositional hearing.

9:26-32. Suspended judgment

a. The court shall define conditions of a suspended judgment which shall relate to the acts of commission or omission of the parent or guardian.

b. The maximum duration of any condition of a suspended judgment shall be one year, unless the court finds at the conclusion of that period, upon a hearing, that exceptional circumstances required an extension for one additional year.

Source: 9:6-8.52.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-33. Release to custody of parent or guardian

a. If the order of disposition releases the child to the custody of the parent or guardian responsible for the child's care at the time of the filing of the complaint, the court may place the child under supervision of the Department or may enter an order of protection.

b. The court shall define permissible and conditions of supervision under this section. The maximum duration of any condition shall not exceed a period of one year, unless the court finds at the conclusion of that period, upon a hearing, that exceptional circumstances require an extension thereof for one additional year.

Source: 9:6-8.53.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-34. Placement of child

a. The court may place the child in the custody of a parent who did not have custody at the time of filing of the complaint, a relative or other suitable person or the Department for the placement of a child after a finding that the Department has made reasonable efforts to prevent placement or that reasonable efforts to prevent placement were not required in accordance with this act.

b. (1) Placements under this section may be for an initial period of 12 months. At the conclusion of any period of placement, the court shall hold a hearing concerning the need for continuing the placement and may extend the placement for an additional period of up to one year, make a different placement or return the child to the custody of the parent or guardian who had custody at the time of filing of the complaint.

(2) The court shall conduct a permanency hearing for the child no later than 30 days after placement in cases in which the court has determined that reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the parent or guardian are not required pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1999, c.53 (C.30:4C-11.3), or no later than 12 months after placement in cases in which the court has determined that efforts to reunify the child with the parent or guardian are required. The hearing shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, consideration and evaluation of information provided by the Department and other interested parties regarding such matters as those listed in subsection c. of section 50 of P.L.1999, c.53 (C.30:4C-61.2).

(3) The court shall review the permanency plan for the child periodically, as deemed appropriate by the court, to ensure that the permanency plan is achieved.

c. No placement may be made or continued under this section beyond the child's eighteenth birthday without the child's consent.

d. If the parent or person legally responsible for the care of any such child or with whom such child resides receives public assistance, any portion of which is attributable to the child, a copy of the order of the court providing for the placement of the child shall be furnished to the appropriate county welfare board, which shall reduce the public assistance by the amount attributable to the child.

Source: 9:6-8.54.

COMMENT

This section is substantively similar to its source. However, the reference to a non-custodial parent in subsection (a) reflects the holding that such an order is a placement not a custodial decision. Division of Youth and Family Services v. G.M., 198 N.J. 382 (2009), and subsection (b)(1) has been changed to clarify the options open to the court at the termination of a period of placement.

9:26-35. Order of protection

a. The court may make an order of protection in assistance or as a condition of any other order made under this act. The order of protection may set forth reasonable conditions of behavior to be observed for a specified time by a person who is before the court and is a parent or guardian responsible for the child's care or the spouse of the parent or guardian, or both. An order may require the person:

- (1) To stay away from the home, the other spouse or the child;
- (2) To permit a parent to visit the child at stated periods;
- (3) To abstain from offensive conduct against the child or against the other parent or against any person to whom custody of the child is awarded;
- (4) To give proper attention to the care of the home; and
- (5) To refrain from acts of commission or omission that tend to make the home not a proper place for the child.

b. The court may also award custody of the child, during the term of the order of protection to either parent or to an appropriate relative; however, nothing in this section shall be construed to give the court power to place or commit a child to the custody of an institution or agency. In making orders of protection, the court shall so act as to insure that in the care, protection, discipline and guardianship of the child, the child's religious faith shall be preserved and protected.

Source: 9:6-8.55.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-37. Abandoned child

If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a child was abandoned by the child's parents or guardian, it may make an order so finding and may discharge the child to the custody of the Department which shall provide for the child as authorized by law.

Source: 9:6-8.57.

COMMENT

This section is substantively similar to its source. The added evidentiary standard reflects case law that that standard is required for termination of parental rights.

9:26-38. Provision for therapeutic services

In cases where, in the opinion of the court, an individual found to have abused or neglected a child appears to be in need of therapeutic services, the court may order the individual to accept services or evaluation for such services, including, but not limited to, homemaker services, functional education, group self-help programs, and professional therapy; provided, however, that the court may not commit any person to any residential mental health facility without the consent of that person or after a hearing held pursuant to the requirements of R.S. 30:4-23 et seq. The court shall determine the ability to pay and the method of payment for the care, as it orders.

Source: 9:6-8.58.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-39. Substance abuse assessment of parent of placed child

When a child is placed in the custody of a relative or other suitable person or the Department of Youth and Family Services, because of a finding of neglect or abuse, the court may order the parent from whose home the child was removed, and, when appropriate, any other adult domiciled in the home to undergo substance abuse assessment, when necessary. If the assessment reveals positive evidence of substance abuse, the court shall require the parent and other adult, when appropriate, to demonstrate that he is receiving treatment and complying with the treatment program for the substance abuse problem before the child is returned to the parental home.

Source: 9:6-8.58a.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-40. Staying, modifying, setting aside or vacating orders

For good cause shown and after due notice, the court on its own motion, or that of the law guardian, the parent or guardian, or the Department may stay execution of arrest, set aside, modify or vacate any order issued in the course of a proceeding under this act. The court must state the grounds for this action.

Source: 9:6-8.59.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-41. Petition to terminate placement

a. Any interested person acting on behalf of a child placed under section 9:26-34 or the child's parents or guardian may petition the court for any order terminating the placement. The petition must be verified and must show:

(1) That an application for the child's return to his home was made to an appropriate person after expiration of the Order of Placement provided for in section 34 hereof;

(2) That the application was denied or was not granted within 30 days from the day application was made; and

(3) The grounds for the petition.

b. A copy of the petition shall be served upon the Department, the individual having custody of the child and the law guardian promptly pursuant to the Rules of Court. The Department, the individual having custody and the law guardian shall file an answer to the petition within 5 days.

c. The court shall promptly examine the petition and answer. If the court concludes that a hearing should be held, it may proceed upon due notice to all concerned parties to hear the facts and determine whether continued placement serves the purposes of this act. If the court concludes that a hearing is not necessary, it shall enter an order granting or denying the petition.

d. If the court determines after hearing that continued placement serves the purposes of this act, it shall deny the petition. The court may, on its own motion, reduce the duration of the placement, change the agency or institution in which the child is placed, or direct the Department to make such other arrangements for the child's care and welfare as the facts of the case may require.

e. If the court determines, after hearing, that continued placement does not serve the purposes of this act, the court shall discharge the child from the custody of the Department or person given custody under section 34 hereof.

f. If a petition is denied, it may not again be filed with the court for a period of 90 days after the denial, unless the order of denial permits refiling at an earlier time.

Source: 9:6-8.60; 9:6-8.61; 9:6-8.62; 9:6-8.63; 9:6-8.64.

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.60. Subsection (b) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.61. Subsection (c) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.62. Subsections (d) and (e) are substantively identical to 9:6-8.63. Subsection (f) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.64.

9:26-42. Substitution for original placement

If the child is placed with a party other than the Department, and that party is no longer able to continue custody of the child, the court may authorize the Department to arrange for the child's care by another person or may order placement or custody of the child as provided in this act.

Source: 9:6-8.65.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-43. Failure to comply with terms and conditions of suspended judgment

If a parent or guardian responsible for a child's care is brought before the court for failing to comply with the conditions of a suspended judgment or of probation or of a protection order, and if, after hearing, the court is satisfied by competent proof that the parent or guardian did so willfully and without just cause, the court may revoke the suspension of judgment or order of probation or of protection and enter any order that might have been made at the time judgment was suspended or the order of probation or of protection was entered.

Source: 9:6-8.66 9:6-8.67.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its sources.

9:26-44. Effect of running away from place of placement

If a child placed runs away from the place of placement, the court may, after hearing, revoke the order of placement and may make any order, including an order of placement that might have been made at the time the order of placement was made. The court may require that the child be present at such hearing.

Source: 9:6-8.68.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-45. Release from responsibility under order of placement

A facility or a person where a child has been placed under this act may petition the court for leave to return the child to the court and, for good cause shown, to be released from responsibility under the order of placement. After hearing the court may grant the petition and make any order, including an order of placement that might have been made at the time the order of placement was made.

Source: 9:6-8.69.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-46. Appealable orders

a. An appeal may be taken as of right from an order of disposition, an order terminating parental rights and from any other final order made pursuant to this chapter. Pending the determination of the appeal, the order or decision may be stayed, if the Family Part or the Appellate Division before which the appeal is pending finds that a stay is necessary to avoid risk to the child's life or health.

b. If more than one dispositional order is entered in a case, the first dispositional order and any subsequent order that imposes new dispositions shall be final orders for purposes of an appeal, but no more than one appeal may be taken in any case challenging the finding of child neglect.

Source: 9:6-8.70.

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively similar to its source except that it specifically includes orders termination parental rights. Subsection (b) is new. It regulates the appealability of dispositional orders when a series of such orders are entered in a case.

9:26-47. Voluntary application for services.

The parent or parents, guardian, or person having custody of a child in this State may request assistance of the Department to ensure the health and safety of the child. Upon receipt of the request, the Department shall investigate the situation, and if the circumstances warrant, afford the parent, parents, guardian, or person having custody and control of the child an opportunity to file an application for care.

If, after investigation has been completed, it appears that the child requires care and supervision by the Department or other action to ensure the health and safety of the child, the

Department may apply to the Family Part of the Chancery Division of the Superior Court in the county where the child resides for an order placing the child under the care and supervision or custody of the Department.

The court, at a summary hearing held upon notice to the Department, and to the parent, parents, guardian, or person having custody and control of the child, if satisfied that the best interests of the child so require, may issue an order as requested. The order shall not be effective beyond a period of six months from the date of entry unless the court, upon new application by the Department, at a summary hearing held upon notice to the parent, parents, guardian, or person having custody of the child, extends the time of the order.

Source: 30:4C-12

COMMENT

While this section is based on 30:4C-12, it is more limited. The source provision allows an application by any person and action without agreement of the parents. The sections on child neglect and abuse actions now provided for coercive action by the Department in those cases where it is required. This section allows the Department to act where the parents have not neglected or abused the child but services are required to protect the child.

Permanency Planning

9:26-48. Health, safety of paramount concern in placement of child.

a. In accordance with the provisions of subsections b., c., and d. of this section, when determining the reasonable efforts to be made and when making the reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety shall be of paramount concern.

b. In any case in which the Department accepts a child in care or custody, the Department shall make reasonable efforts, prior to placement, to preserve the family in order to prevent the need for removing the child from his home. After placement, the Department shall make reasonable efforts to make it possible for the child to safely return to his home.

c. Reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a legal guardian or in an alternative permanent placement may be made concurrently with reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the child's family.

d. In any case in which family reunification is not the permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

Source: 30:4C-11.1.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:26-49. Exceptions to requirement to make reasonable efforts to prevent placement.

In any case in which the Department of Children and Families accepts a child in care or custody, including placement, the Department shall not be required to provide reasonable efforts to prevent placement of the child if a court has determined that both of the following criteria are met:

a. One of the following actions has occurred:

(1) the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances of abuse, neglect, cruelty or abandonment,

(2) the parent has been convicted of murder, aggravated manslaughter or manslaughter of another child of the parent; aiding or abetting, attempting, conspiring or soliciting to commit murder, aggravated manslaughter or manslaughter of the child or another child of the parent; committing or attempting to commit an assault that resulted, or could have resulted, in the significant bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent; or committing a similarly serious criminal act which resulted, or could have resulted, in the death or significant bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent,

(3) the rights of the parent to another of the parent's children have been involuntarily terminated or

(4) removal of the child was required due to imminent danger to the child's life, safety or health; and

b. Efforts to prevent placement were not reasonable due to risk of harm to the child's health or safety.

When determining whether reasonable efforts are required to prevent placement, the health and safety of the child shall be of paramount concern to the court.

Source: 30:4C-11.2; 30:4C-11.3

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its sources.

9:26-50. Permanency hearing.

Any hearing held before the Family Part of the Chancery Division of the Superior Court may serve as a permanency hearing to provide judicial review and approval of a permanency plan for the child if all the requirements of section 50 of P.L.1999, c.53 (C.30:4C-61.2) are met.

Source: 30:4C-11.4.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

Miscellaneous

9:26-51. Suspension; due process rights; remedial plan.

a. If there is reasonable cause for the administrator to believe that the life or health of the alleged victim or other children at the institution is in imminent danger due to continued contact between the alleged perpetrator and a child at the institution, a teacher, employee, volunteer or staff person of an institution as defined in section 9:6A-2 who is alleged to have committed an act of child neglect or abuse shall be temporarily suspended by the appointing authority from the position at the institution with pay, or reassigned to duties which would remove the risk of harm to a child under the person's custody or control.

b. A public employee suspended pursuant to this subsection shall be accorded due process rights, including notice of the proposed suspension and a presuspension opportunity to respond and any other due process rights provided by laws of this State governing public employment and under any applicable individual or group contractual agreement. A private employee suspended pursuant to this subsection shall be accorded due process rights provided

for under the laws of this State governing private employment and under any applicable individual or group employee contractual agreement.

c. If the child neglect or abuse is the result of a single act occurring in an institution, within 30 days of receipt of the report of child neglect or abuse, the Department of Children and Families may request that the chief administrator of the institution formulate a plan of remedial action. The plan may include, but shall not be limited to, action to be taken with respect to a teacher, employee, volunteer or staff person of the institution to assure the health and safety of the alleged victim and other children at the institution and to prevent future acts of neglect or abuse. Within 30 days of the date the department requested the remedial plan, the chief administrator shall notify the department in writing of the progress in preparing the plan. The chief administrator shall complete the plan within 90 days of the date the department requested the plan.

d. If the child neglect or abuse is the result of several incidents occurring in an institution, within 30 days of receipt of the report of child neglect or abuse, the department may request that the chief administrator of the institution make administrative, personnel or structural changes at the institution. Within 30 days of the date the department made its request, the chief administrator shall notify the department of the progress in complying with the terms of the department's request. The department and chief administrator shall determine a time frame for completion of the terms of the request.

d. If a chief administrator of an institution does not formulate or implement a remedial plan or make the changes requested by the department, the department may impose appropriate sanctions or actions if the department licenses, oversees, approves or authorizes the operation of the institution. If the department does not license, oversee, approve or authorize the operation of the institution, the department may recommend to the authority which licenses, oversees, approves or authorizes the operation of the institution that appropriate sanctions or actions be imposed against the institution.

Source: 9:6-3.1.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-52. Regulations on reporting of child abuse by schools.

The Commissioner of Education shall, in cooperation and consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families, adopt regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," concerning the relationship, rights and responsibilities of the Department of Children and Families and local school districts regarding the reporting and investigation of allegations of child abuse.

Source: 9:6-8.72a.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-53. Check of child abuse registry for guardians.

a. In accordance with the provisions of sections 6 and 7 of P.L.2005, c.370 (C.52:27G-37 and C.52:27G-38), the Department of Children and Families shall conduct a check of its child abuse registry for each person seeking registration as a professional guardian who is required to undergo such a check pursuant to P.L.2005, c.370 (C.52:27G-32 et al.). The department shall

immediately forward the information obtained as a result of the check to the Office of the Public Guardian for Elderly Adults.

b. Subsequent to the initial registration of an individual as a professional guardian, the public guardian may submit the name of a registered professional guardian for an additional child abuse registry check. Upon receipt of a response from the department, the public guardian shall make a determination regarding the continuation of the registration of the person as a professional guardian.

Source: 9:6-8.10e.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:26-54. Child abuse record information check on designated caretaker.

a. Upon receiving the presentencing investigation information from the court pursuant to N.J.S. 2C:44-6.2 concerning a sole caretaker of a child who will be incarcerated and the person who will assume care and custody of the child during the period of incarceration, the Department of Children and Families shall conduct a child abuse record information check of its child abuse records to determine if an incident of child neglect or abuse has been substantiated against the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody or any adult and juvenile over 12 years of age in the person's household.

b. If, based on the information provided by the court and the check of its child abuse records, the Department determines that the incarcerated person's minor child may be at risk for neglect or abuse or the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will not be met during the period of incarceration, the Department shall take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child.

Source: 9:6-8.10c

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:26-55. Notice to the prosecutor; notice to the Family Part.

a. Any criminal complaint charging facts amounting to neglect or abuse under this act may be transferred by the county prosecutor or the criminal court in which the complaint was made, to the Family Part. If any police officer, county prosecutor or criminal court receives a complaint which amounts to child neglect or abuse, the police officer, county prosecutor or criminal court shall report the complaint to the Department immediately. If the Family Part determines a complaint should be filed, proceedings under this act shall be commenced immediately.

b. Nothing in this act shall be interpreted to preclude the county prosecutor from bringing criminal action against the parent or guardian or any other person even though the child involved is initially or ultimately the subject of proceedings in the Family Part.

Source: 9:6-8.25.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to subsections (b) and (c) of its source. Subsection (a), requiring the Family Part to forward a copy of the complaint to the county prosecutor has been deleted as unnecessary since the Department is required to notify the prosecutor of all allegations of child abuse.

Chapter 27 Termination of Parental Rights

9: 27-1. Petition to terminate parental rights, conditions.

a. A petition to terminate the parental rights of the child's parents, setting forth the facts in the case, shall be filed by the Department with the Family Part of the Chancery Division of the Superior Court in the county where the child is at the time of filing, when:

(1) a complaint of child neglect or abuse has been sustained against the parent or parents, guardian, or person having custody and control of any child because of abuse, abandonment, neglect of or cruelty to such child; or

(2) it appears that the best interests of a child under the care or custody of the Department require that the be placed under guardianship; or

(3) it appears that a parent or guardian of a child, following the placement or commitment of the child in the care of an authorized agency, whether in an institution or in a resource family home, and notwithstanding the reasonable efforts of such agency to encourage and strengthen the parental relationship, has failed for a period of one year to remove the circumstances or conditions that led to the removal or placement of the child, although physically and financially able to do so, notwithstanding the Department's reasonable efforts to assist the parent or guardian in remedying the conditions; or

(4) the parent has abandoned the child; or

(5) the parent of a child has been found by a criminal court to have committed murder, aggravated manslaughter or manslaughter of another child of the parent; or to have committed, or attempted to commit, an assault that resulted, or could have resulted, in the significant bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent; or the parent has committed a similarly serious act which resulted, or could have resulted, in the death or significant bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent;

b. A petition shall be filed as soon as any one of the circumstances in subsections (a) through (f) of this section is established, but no later than when the child has been in placement for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless the Department establishes an exception to the requirement to seek termination of parental rights in accordance with the requirement for permanency planning.

c. When a petition is filed, the Department shall initiate or continue efforts to identify, recruit, process and approve a qualified family to adopt the child.

Source: 30:4C-15; 30:4C-16

COMMENT

This section is substantively similar to 30:4C-15, but subsection (c) is derived from 30:4C-16. Subsection (c) of 30:4C-15 which allowed private parties to file termination actions has been deleted.

9: 27-2. Termination of parental rights, standards.

a. The Department shall initiate a petition to terminate parental rights on the grounds of the "best interests of the child" pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of section if the following standards are met:

(1) The child's safety, health or development has been or will continue to be endangered by the parental relationship;

(2) The parent is unwilling or unable to eliminate the harm facing the child or is unable or unwilling to provide a safe and stable home for the child and the delay of permanent placement will add to the harm. Such harm may include evidence that separating the child from his resource family parents would cause serious and enduring emotional or psychological harm to the child;

(3) The Department has made reasonable efforts to provide services to help the parent correct the circumstances which led to the child's placement outside the home and the court has considered alternatives to termination of parental rights; and

(4) Termination of parental rights will not do more harm than good.

b. The Department shall initiate a petition to terminate parental rights on the ground that the "parent has abandoned the child" pursuant to subsection (e) of section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-15) if the following standards are met:

(1) a court finds that for a period of six or more months:

(A) the parent, although able to have contact, has had no contact with the child, the child's resource family parent or the Department; or

(B) the parent's whereabouts are unknown, notwithstanding the Department's reasonable efforts to locate the parent; or

(2) where the identities of the parents are unknown and the Department has exhausted all reasonable methods of attempting identification, the Department may immediately file for termination of parental rights upon the completion of the law enforcement investigation; or

(3) where the parent voluntarily delivered the child to and left the child at, or voluntarily arranged for another person to deliver the child to and leave the child at a State, county or municipal police station or at an emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State when the child is or appears to be no more than 30 days old, without expressing an intent to return for the child, as provided in section 4 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.7), the Department shall file for termination of parental rights no later than 21 days after the day the Department assumed care, custody and control of the child.

c. As used in this section and in section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-15) "reasonable efforts" mean attempts by an agency authorized by the Department to assist the parents in remedying the circumstances and conditions that led to the placement of the child and in reinforcing the family structure, including, but not limited to:

(1) consultation and cooperation with the parent in developing a plan for appropriate services;

(2) providing services that have been agreed upon, to the family, in order to further the goal of family reunification;

(3) informing the parent at appropriate intervals of the child's progress, development and health; and

(4) facilitating appropriate visitation.

Source: 30:4C-15.1

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source. The last subsection of 30:4C-15.1 which provided for an exception to permanency planning has been deleted as covered elsewhere.

9: 27-3. Exemptions from requirement of petition for termination of parental rights.

The Department of Children and Families shall not be required to file a petition seeking the termination of parental rights if:

- a. The child is being cared for by a relative and a permanent plan for the child can be achieved without termination of parental rights;
- b. The Department has documented in the case plan, available for court review, a compelling reason for determining that filing the petition would not be in the best interests of the child; or
- c. The Department is required to provide reasonable efforts to reunify the family but the Department has not provided to the family of the child, consistent with the time period in the case plan, such services as the Department deems necessary for the safe return of the child to his home.

Source: 30:4C-15.3

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9: 27-4. Notice to parent of right to counsel; public defender appointments; law guardian, selection

a. In any action concerning the termination of parental rights, the court shall provide the respondent parent with notice of the right to retain and consult with legal counsel. If the parent appears before the court, is indigent and requests counsel, the court shall appoint the Office of the Public Defender to represent the parent. The Office of the Public Defender shall appoint counsel to represent the parent in accordance with subsection c. of this section.

If the parent was previously represented by counsel from the Office of the Public Defender in a child neglect or abuse action on behalf of the same child, the same counsel, to the extent practicable, shall continue to represent the parent in the termination of parental rights action, unless that counsel seeks to be relieved by the court upon application for substitution of counsel or other just cause.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the parent from retaining private counsel.

b. A child who is the subject of an application for the termination of parental rights shall be represented by a law guardian. If the child was represented by a law guardian in a child abuse and neglect action, the same law guardian, to the extent practicable, shall continue to represent the child in the termination of parental rights action, unless that law guardian seeks to be relieved by the court upon application for substitution of counsel or other just cause.

c. The Office of the Public Defender is authorized to provide representation to children and indigent parents in termination of parental rights proceedings under Title 30 of the Revised Statutes pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(1) In selecting attorneys to serve as law guardians or counsel for indigent parents, the Office of the Public Defender shall take into consideration the nature, complexity and other characteristics of the cases, the services to be performed, the status of the matters, the attorney's pertinent trial and other legal experience and other relevant factors. The Office of the Public Defender also shall take into consideration an attorney's willingness to make a commitment to

represent a child or parent, as applicable, in any actions taken related to child abuse and neglect and termination of parental rights.

(2) The Office of the Public Defender shall ensure that an attorney selected pursuant to this section has received training in representing clients in child abuse and neglect and termination of parental rights actions from the Office of the Public Defender or will receive such equivalent training, as soon as practicable, from other sources.

(3) The Office of the Public Defender shall provide for an internal administrative unit with the responsibility to supervise, evaluate and select non-staff counsel who will represent indigent parents independently from the Law Guardian Program staff in the Office of the Public Defender. All decisions of the Office of the Public Defender concerning the representation of indigent parents in particular cases shall be made by staff who have no actual involvement with the day-to-day legal representation being provided by the Law Guardian Program in the Office of the Public Defender. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the powers of the Public Defender pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1967, c.43 (C.2A:158A-7).

Source: 30:4C-15.4

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9: 27-6. Adjournments; Final guardianship hearing

a. Adjournment of any hearing on a petition for termination of parental rights shall not exceed a total period of 45 days.

b. A final hearing for guardianship shall be held within three months from the date the petition is filed.

Source: 30:4C-15.2; 30:4C-18

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 30:4C-19; subsection (b) to 30:4C-15.2.

9: 27-7 Order terminating parental rights; committing child to guardianship.

a. The court shall terminate parental rights if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the best interests of the child require terminating parental rights in that:

(1) the child's health and development have been or will be seriously impaired by the parental relationship;

(2) the parents are unable or unwilling to eliminate the harm and delaying permanent placement will add to the harm;

(3) the court has considered alternatives to termination; and

(4) the termination of parental rights will not do more harm than good.

b. If the court terminates parental rights, it shall commit the child to the guardianship and control of the Department. The Department shall thereupon become the legal guardian of the child for all purposes, including the placement of such child for adoption.

c. If the court does not find that the best interests of the child require terminating parental rights:

(1) The Department of Children and Families shall return the child forthwith to the parent or parents, guardian or person who had custody of the child immediately prior to the filing of the petition, or

(2) If return of the child does not ensure the safety of the child or if the parent or parents, guardian or person who had custody cannot be found, the court, may place the child as provided in 9:26-34.

Source: 30:4C-20

COMMENT

This section is derived from 30:4C-20. Subsection (a) has been expanded to include the standard for termination of parental rights expressed in Division of Youth and Family Services v. A.W., 103 N.J. 591 (1986). Subsection (c) has been restructured to make it clear that the court has the option to place the child, subject to all of the provisions on placement found in the previous chapter.

9: 27-8. Guardianship order not to be restrictive

a. The order of the court committing a child to the guardianship of the Department shall not be restrictive of the duties, powers and authority of the Department in the care, custody, placement, welfare and exclusive guardianship of the child.

b. The care, custody or guardianship of the Department shall be full and complete for all purposes and shall vest in the Department the custody and control of both the person and property of children in its custody or care.

c. Care, custody or guardianship of the Department shall enable the Department to prosecute suits, claims and proceedings or actions on behalf of the children under its care, custody or guardianship when the children are in resource family homes; to demand and receive from all persons, including guardians previously appointed, any property of the children under its care, custody or guardianship when the children are in resource family homes; and to hold and administer the real and personal property of the children under its care, custody or guardianship when the children are in resource family homes; provided, however, that the Department may hold funds of the children under its care, custody or guardianship when the children are in resource family homes on deposit in banks, and to apply funds, other than earned income or the corpus of any trust, devise or intestate share, or the proceeds of an insurance contract or a personal injury award which a court specifically awards to a child to make the child whole as a result of an injury, of any child under its care, custody or guardianship when the child is in a resource family home against expenditures for the maintenance of such child under its care, custody or guardianship when the child is in a resource family home.

The Superior Court shall hear petitions by the Department, on behalf of the children under its care, custody or guardianship when the children are in resource family homes, for the transfer of assets being held by guardians previously appointed. The court shall have jurisdiction, in its discretion, to waive costs in any proceedings by the Department on behalf of the children under its care, custody or guardianship when the children are in resource family homes.

Source: 30:4C-21; 30:4C-22

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 30:4C-21; subsections (b) and (c) to 30:4C-22.

Chapter 28 Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

9: 28-1. "New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect"

There is established the "New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect."

a. The purpose of the task force is to study and develop recommendations regarding the most effective means of improving the quality and scope of child protective and preventative services provided or supported by State government, including a review of the practices and policies utilized by the Department in order to:

- (1) optimize coordination of child abuse-related services and investigations;
- (2) promote the safety of children at risk of neglect or abuse;
- (3) ensure a timely determination with regard to reports of alleged child abuse;
- (4) educate the public about the problems of, and coordinate activities relating to, child abuse and neglect;
- (5) develop a Statewide plan to prevent child abuse and neglect and mechanisms to facilitate child abuse and neglect prevention strategies in coordination with the Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships;
- (6) mobilize citizens and community agencies in a proactive effort to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect; and
- (7) foster cooperative working relationships between State and local agencies responsible for providing services to victims of child abuse and neglect and their families.

b. The task force shall receive, evaluate and approve applications of public and private agencies and organizations for grants from moneys annually appropriated from the "Children's Trust Fund" established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1985, c.197 (C.54A:9-25.4). Any portion of the moneys actually appropriated which are remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall lapse to the "Children's Trust Fund."

Grants shall be awarded to public and private agencies for the purposes of planning and establishing or improving programs and services for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, including activities which:

- (1) Provide Statewide educational and public informational seminars for the purpose of developing appropriate public awareness regarding the problems of child abuse and neglect;
- (2) Encourage professional persons and groups to recognize and deal with problems of child abuse and neglect;
- (3) Make information about the problems of child abuse and neglect available to the public and organizations and agencies which deal with problems of child abuse and neglect; and
- (4) Encourage the development of community prevention programs, including:
 - (a) community-based educational programs on parenting, prenatal care, prenatal bonding, child development, basic child care, care of children with special needs, coping with family stress, personal safety and sexual abuse prevention training for children, and self-care training for latchkey children; and

(b) community-based programs relating to crisis care, aid to parents, child abuse counseling, peer support groups for abusive or potentially abusive parents and their children, lay health visitors, respite of crisis child care, and early identification of families where the potential for child abuse and neglect exists.

c. The task force shall, in awarding grants, establish such priorities respecting the programs or services to be funded and the amounts of funding to be provided as it deems appropriate, except that the task force shall place particular emphasis on community-based programs and services which are designed to develop and demonstrate strategies for the early identification, intervention and assistance of families and children at risk in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.

d. The task force shall adopt such rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to govern the awarding of grants pursuant to this subsection as may be necessary to establish adequate reporting requirements on the use of grant funds by recipient agencies and organizations and to permit the task force to evaluate the programs and services for which grants are awarded.

e. The task force shall establish a Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee to review staffing levels of the Department of Children and Families in order to develop recommendations regarding staffing levels and the most effective methods of recruiting, hiring, and retaining staff within the Department. In addition, the subcommittee shall review the Department's performance in the achievement of management and client outcomes, and shall issue a preliminary report with its findings and recommendations no later than January 1, 2007, and subsequent reports annually thereafter with the first full report due no later than July 1, 2007. The subcommittee shall directly issue its reports to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

Source: 9:6-8.75

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9: 28-2 Task force membership.

a. The task force shall consist of 29 members as follows: the Commissioners of Human Services, Children and Families, Education, Community Affairs, Corrections, and Health and Senior Services, the Attorney General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Public Defender, and the Superintendent of State Police, or their designees, as ex officio members; two members of the Senate and the General Assembly, respectively, no more than one of whom in each case shall be of the same political party; and a county prosecutor appointed by the Attorney General. The 13 public members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: one member who is a director of a regional diagnostic and treatment center for child abuse and neglect; one member who represents the Association for Children of New Jersey; one member who represents Foster and Adoptive Family Services; one member who represents a faith-based organization; one member who is a director of a county department of human services; one member who is a youth 21 years of age or younger who is or has been placed under the care and custody of the Department of Children and Families because of an allegation of child neglect or abuse; two members who represent service providers under contract with the Department; and five members of the public who have an interest or expertise in issues concerning child welfare. The public members shall reflect the diversity of the residents of the State and the children and families served by the State's child welfare system.

b. The task force membership shall comply with the multidisciplinary requirements set forth in the "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act," Pub.L.93-247 (42 U.S.C. s.5101 et seq.).

c. The task force shall be co-chaired, one co-chair shall be the Commissioner of Children and Families and the other shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The second co-chair shall be selected from among the public members and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The public members shall serve for a term of three years.

d. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for the original appointments. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for traveling and other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform their duties, within the limits of funds made available to the task force for its purposes.

Source: 9:6-8.76; 9:6-8.77

COMMENT

Subsections (a), (b) and (c) are substantively identical to 9:6-8.76. Subsection (d) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.77.

9: 28-3 Staff; services; consultants.

a. The Department of Children and Families shall provide professional and clerical staff to the task force as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

b. The task force shall be entitled to call upon the services of any State, county or municipal department, board, commission or agency, as may be available to it for these purposes, and to incur such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary for the proper execution of its duties and as may be within the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for these purposes.

c. The task force shall consult with such organizations and associations as the Association for Children of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Children's Residential Facilities, the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc., the Child Placement Advisory Council, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Nurses Association, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey Foster Parent Association, and the Graduate School of Social Work of Rutgers, The State University.

Source: 9:6-8.78; 9:6-8.79

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.78. Subsections (b) and (c) are substantively identical to 9:6-8.79.

9: 28-4. Meetings; use of funds; report

a. The task force may meet and hold hearings at places and times it chooses.

b. The task force may solicit, receive, disburse and monitor grants and other funds made available from any governmental, public, private, not-for-profit or for-profit agency, including funds made available under any federal or State law, regulation or program.

The task force shall present a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year after the organization of the task force.

Source: 9:6-8.80; 9:6-8.81.

COMMENT

Subsection (a) is substantively identical to 9:6-8.80. Subsection (b) is identical to 9:6-8.81. . Section 9:6-8.82 required that a report be filed in 1995; it has been deleted as executed.

Chapter 29 -- Comprehensive Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment

9:29-1 Procedures for responding to reports of medical neglect.

The commissioner shall establish procedures for responding to the reporting of medical neglect, including instances of withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled children with life-threatening conditions, to provide for:

a. coordination and consultation with persons designated by and within appropriate health care facilities, and

b. prompt notification by these persons of cases of suspected medical neglect, including withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled children with life-threatening conditions.

Source: 9:6-8.85.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:29-2. Pursuit of legal remedies for medical care.

The Department may pursue any legal remedies, including the initiation of legal proceedings, necessary to:

a. prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled children with life-threatening conditions, or

b. provide medical care or treatment for a child when necessary to prevent or remedy serious harm to the child or to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled children with life-threatening conditions.

Source: 9:6-8.86.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

Chapter 30 -- Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Centers

9:30-1 Regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect established.

The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical teaching institutions in the State that meet the standards adopted by the commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. The regional centers shall be located in the northern, north central, south central and southern regions of the State. Each center shall have experience in addressing the medical and mental health diagnostic and treatment needs of abused and neglected children in the region in which it is located.

Source: 9:6-8.99.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:30-2 Function of center, staffing.

Each center shall demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect. The center staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused or neglected and their families. Each center shall establish a liaison with the district office of the Department of Children and Families and the prosecutor's office from the county in which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment resides. At least one member of the staff shall also have an appropriate professional credential or significant training and experience in the identification and treatment of substance abuse.

Each center shall develop an intake, referral and case tracking process which assists the Department and prosecutor's office in assuring that child victims receive appropriate and timely diagnostic and treatment services.

Source: 9:6-8.100.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:30-3. Purpose of center

The regional centers shall: evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect; be resources for the region and develop additional resources within the region; provide training and consultative services; and be available for emergency phone consultation 24 hours a day. The centers shall also be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

The regional center may charge a sliding scale fee for services provided under this act.

Source: 9:6-8.101.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:30-4. Services provided by staff of center.

Services provided by the center's staff shall include:

- a. Providing psychological and medical evaluation and treatment of the child, counseling for family members and substance abuse assessment and mental health and substance abuse counseling for the parents or guardians of the child;
- b. Providing referral for appropriate social services and medical care;
- c. Providing testimony regarding alleged child neglect or abuse at judicial proceedings;
- d. Providing treatment recommendations for the child and mental health and substance abuse treatment recommendations for his family, and providing mental health and substance abuse treatment recommendations for persons convicted of child neglect or abuse;

e. Receiving referrals from the Department of Children and Families and the county prosecutor's office and assisting them in any investigation of child neglect or abuse;

f. Providing educational material and seminars on child abuse and neglect and the services the center provides to children, parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, the judiciary, attorneys and other citizens.

Source: 9:6-8.102.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:30-5. Safety of child undergoing treatment assured

The regional center shall ensure the safety of a child undergoing treatment while the child is at the regional center to the extent permitted by law. The appropriate law enforcement officials and protective services providers shall continue to ensure the safety of the child to the extent permitted by law.

Source: 9:6-8.103.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:6E-6. Establishment, maintenance of county-based multidisciplinary teams.

Regional centers shall act as a resource in the establishment and maintenance of county-based multidisciplinary teams which work in conjunction with the county prosecutor and the Department of Children and Families in the investigation of child abuse and neglect in the county in which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment resides. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, shall establish standards for a county team. The county team shall consist of representatives of the following disciplines: law enforcement; child protective services; mental health; substance abuse identification and treatment; and medicine; and, in those counties where a child advocacy center has been established, shall include a staff representative of a child advocacy center, all of whom have been trained to recognize child abuse and neglect. The county team shall provide: facilitation of the investigation, management and disposition of cases of criminal child abuse and neglect; referral services to the regional diagnostic center; appropriate referrals to medical and social service agencies; information regarding the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and appropriate follow-up care for abused children and their families.

As used in this section, "child advocacy center" means a county-based center which meets the standards for a county team established by the commissioner pursuant to this section and demonstrates a multidisciplinary approach in providing comprehensive, culturally competent child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services to children who are victims of child neglect or abuse.

Source: 9:6-8.104.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

Chapter 31 -- New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act

9:31-1. Short title

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act."

Source: 30:4C-15.5.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:31-2. Findings, declarations relative to abandoned children

The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. New Jersey and the nation have experienced sorrow in the knowledge that newborn infants are sometimes abandoned in life-threatening situations and that some of these children have been harmed or have died as a consequence of their abandonment.

b. The parents of these newborn infants may be under severe emotional stress and may need a safe haven available to them and their child.

c. Anonymity, confidentiality and freedom from prosecution may encourage the parent to leave an infant safely and save the life of the infant.

d. Texas passed a law in 1999 concerning the emergency possession of certain abandoned children (Texas Family Code Section 262.301 et seq.) and measures similar to this Texas law have passed in Minnesota and Louisiana and are under consideration in more than 20 states, including California, Colorado, Kentucky and Indiana to name a few.

e. Infants at risk may be served by having this legislation in place and this legislation is worthwhile if it saves even one infant's life.

Source: 30:4C-15.6.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:31-3. Designated sites for voluntary relinquishment of child; assumption of care, custody, control by Department.

a. If a person voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears to be no more than 30 days old to, and leaves the child at a State, county or municipal police station and does not express an intent to return for the child, a State, county or municipal police officer shall take the child to the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State and the hospital shall proceed as specified in subsection b. of this section.

b. If a person voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears to be no more than 30 days old to, and leaves the child at an emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State and does not express an intent to return for the child, or, if a State, county or municipal police officer brings a child to a licensed general hospital under the circumstances set forth in subsection a. of this section, the hospital shall:

(1) take possession of the child without a court order;

(2) take any action or provide any treatment necessary to protect the child's physical health and safety; and

(3) no later than the first business day after taking possession of the child, notify the Department of Children and Families that the hospital has taken possession of the child.

c. The Department of Children and Families shall assume the care, custody and control of the child immediately upon receipt of notice from a licensed general hospital pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection b. of this section. The Department shall commence a thorough search of all listings of missing children to ensure that the relinquished child has not been reported missing.

d. A child for whom the Department of Children and Families assumes care, custody and control pursuant to subsection c. of this section shall be treated as a child taken into possession without a court order.

e. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution for abandonment of a child that the parent voluntarily delivered the child to and left the child at, or voluntarily arranged for another person to deliver the child to and leave the child at, a State, county or municipal police station as provided in subsection a. of this section or the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State as provided in subsection b. of this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create a defense to any prosecution arising from any conduct other than the act of delivering the child as described herein, and this subsection specifically shall not constitute a defense to any prosecution arising from an act of neglect or abuse committed prior to the delivery of the child to a State, county or municipal police station as provided in subsection a. of this section or the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State as provided in subsection b. of this section.

f. A State, county or municipal police officer and the governmental jurisdiction employing that officer or an employee of an emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State and the hospital employing that person shall incur no civil or criminal liability for any good faith acts or omissions performed pursuant to this section.

g. Any person who voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears to be no more than 30 days old to a licensed general hospital or a police station in accordance with this section shall not be required to disclose that person's name or other identifying information or that of the child or the child's parent, if different from the person who delivers the child to the hospital or police station, or provide background or medical information about the child, but may voluntarily do so.

Source: 30:4C-15.7.

COMMENT

This section is identical to its source.

9:31-4. Responsibilities of Department, placement of child

The Department, after assuming the care, custody and control of a child from a licensed general hospital pursuant to this chapter, shall not be required to attempt to reunify the child with the child's parents. Additionally, the Department shall not be required to search for relatives of the child as a placement or permanency option, or to implement other placement requirements that give preference to relatives if the Department does not have information as to the identity of the child, the child's mother or the child's father. The Department shall place the child with potential adoptive parents as soon as possible.

Source: 30:4C-15.8.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:31-5. Educational and public information program, toll free hotline.

a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall establish an educational and public information program to promote safe placement alternatives for newborn infants, the confidentiality offered to birth parents and information regarding adoption procedures. This campaign shall include the establishment of a 24-hour, toll free hotline to assist in making information about the safe haven procedures established by this chapter as widely available as possible.

b. The Department of Children and Families shall provide to licensed general hospitals in this State and State, county or municipal police stations information about relevant social service agencies which may be made available to any person voluntarily delivering a child as provided in this chapter.

Source: 30:4C-15.9.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

9:31-6. Distribution of information about "New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act" to certain public school students.

a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall develop a plan to distribute to all public school districts in the State with students in grades 7 through 12, pamphlets, posters and other educational materials that provide information to these students on the provisions of the "New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act.

b. The Department of Children and Families shall distribute the pamphlets, posters and other educational materials, at no charge, to the school districts. The department shall update the pamphlets, posters and other educational materials as necessary, and shall make additional copies available to educators and other individuals working with public school students in grades 7 through 12.

Source: 30:4C-15.11.

COMMENT

This section is substantively identical to its source.

CHILD ABUSE TABLE OF DISPOSITIONS

Section	Disposition	Comment
9:6-1	9:26-1	substantively similar
9:6-1.1	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-2	9:26-2	substantively unchanged
9:6-3	deleted	see 2C:24-4
9:6-3.1	9:26-51	substantively unchanged
9:6-4	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-5	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-6	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-7	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.8	9:26-3	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.9	9:26-1	clarified and expanded
9:6-8.10	9:26-5	substantively similar
9:6-8.10a	9:26-6	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.10b	9:26-6	substantively similar
9:6-8.10c	9:26-54	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.10d	9:26-4	consolidated
9:6-8.10e	9:26-53	unchanged
9:6-8.11	9:26-8	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.12	9:26-7	unchanged
9:6-8.13	9:26-5	substantively similar
9:6-8.14	9:26-5	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.15	9:26-4	consolidated
9:6-8.16	9:26-12	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.17	9:26-12	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.18	9:26-12	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.19	9:26-13	generalized
9:6-8.19a	9:26-29	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.20	9:26-12	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.21	9:26-1; 9:26-2	clarified and expanded
9:6-8.22	9:26-16	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.23	9:26-20	similar; expanded
9:6-8.24	9:26-16	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.25	9:26-55	substantively unchanged in part; see also 9:26-10
9:6-8.26	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.27	9:26-13	generalized
9:6-8.28	9:26-17	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.29	9:26-13	generalized
9:6-8.30	9:26-14	substantively unchanged; added provision from 9:6-8.19
9:6-8.31	9:26-18	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.32	9:26-19	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.33	9:26-15	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.34	9:26-15; 9:26-16	limited in part
9:6-8.35	deleted	not in accord with current practice
9:6-8.36	9:26-14	subsumed in general provision

9:6-8.36a	9:26-10; 9:26-30	substantively unchanged; clarified
9:6-8.37	9:26-21	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.38	9:26-21	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.39	9:26-22	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.40	9:26-9	unchanged
9:6-8.40a	9:26-11	unchanged
9:6-8.41	9:26-23	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.42	9:26-24	unchanged
9:6-8.43	9:26-25	substantively unchanged; see also 9:26-20
9:6-8.44	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.45	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.46	9:26-26	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.47	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.48	9:26-27	unchanged
9:6-8.49	9:26-28	unchanged
9:6-8.50	9:26-30	substantively unchanged; clarified
9:6-8.51	9:26-31	substantively unchanged; clarified
9:6-8.52	9:26-32	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.53	9:26-33	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.54	9:26-34	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.55	9:26-35	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.56	deleted	constitutionally questionable and not practiced
9:6-8.57	9:26-37	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.58	9:26-38	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.58a	9:26-39	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.58b	9:26-4	consolidated
9:6-8.59	9:26-40	unchanged
9:6-8.60	9:26-41	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.61	9:26-41	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.62	9:26-41	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.63	9:26-41	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.64	9:26-41	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.65	9:26-42	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.66	9:26-43	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.67	9:26-43	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.68	9:26-44	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.69	9:26-45	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.70	9:26-46	substantively similar
9:6-8.71	deleted	executed
9:6-8.72	9:26-4	consolidated
9:6-8.72a	9:26-52	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.73	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.74	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.75	9:28-1	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.76	9: 28-2	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.77	9: 28-2	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.78	9: 28-3	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.79	9: 28-3	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.80	9: 28-4	substantively unchanged

9:6-8.81	9: 28-4	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.82	deleted	executed
9:6-8.83	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.84	9:26-2	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.85	9:29-1	unchanged
9:6-8.86	9:29-2	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.87	deleted	unnecessary
9:6-8.88	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.89	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.90	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.91	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.92	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.93	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.94	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.95	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.96	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.97	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.98	to be preserved	not to be repealed
9:6-8.99	9:30-1	unchanged
9:6-8.100	9:30-2	unchanged
9:6-8.101	9:26-4; 9:30-3	unchanged
9:6-8.102	9:30-4	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.103	9:30-5	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.104	9:30-6	substantively unchanged
9:6-8.106	deleted	unnecessary
30:4C-11	deleted	see 9:26-37 and 9:26-47
30:4C-11.1	9:26-48	unchanged
30:4C-11.2	9:26-49	substantively unchanged
30:4C-11.3	9:26-49	substantively unchanged
30:4C-11.4	9:26-50	substantively unchanged
30:4C-11.5	deleted	executed
30:4C-11.6	deleted	unnecessary see 26-4
30:4C-12	9:26-47	limited
30:4C-12.1	?	
30:4C-12.2	?	
30:4C-13	deleted	unnecessary
30:4C-14	deleted	unnecessary
30:4C-15	9:27-1	substantively similar
30:4C-15.1	9:27-2	substantively unchanged, last sentence deleted
30:4C-15.2	9:27-6	substantively unchanged
30:4C-15.3	9:27-3	substantively unchanged
30:4C-15.4	9:27-4	substantively unchanged
30:4C-15.5	9:31-1	substantively unchanged
30:4C-15.6	9:31-2	unchanged
30:4C-15.7	9:31-3	unchanged
30:4C-15.8	9:31-4	substantively unchanged
30:4C-15.9	9:31-5	substantively unchanged
30:4C-15.11	9:31-6	substantively unchanged

30:4C-16	9: 27-1	substantively unchanged
30:4C-17	deleted	anachronistic
30:4C-18	9: 27-6	substantively unchanged
30:4C-20	9: 27-7	substantively unchanged
30:4C-21	9: 27-8	substantively unchanged
30:4C-22	9: 27-8	substantively unchanged
30:4C-23	deleted	see 9:26-37 and 9:26-47
30:4C-24	deleted	see 9:26-37 and 9:26-47